

April 2023 Volume 51 issue 1

Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477

Of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

# Antler Antics



*51 years of service to our community*

---

**Exalted Ruler John Betancourt – soaring to new heights with Elkdom!**

---

## John Betancourt Exalted Ruler 2023-2024

John Betancourt will be our Exalted Ruler for 2023-2024. John has many qualifications that will help him with his year as Exalted Ruler. After high school John worked as a bank teller.

65-67 for Citi Bank. So he knows a bit about banking.

67-74 he worked at Eastern Airlines. He was responsible for 75 ticket agents so knows how to work with people.

74-86 worked for Western Airlines as a baggage handler so hard work is not a stranger to him. Even with a bum knee he still handles table set up and worked the BBQ.

86-88 became a Baker and owned the Muffin Shoppe in Newbury Park. Involved with food operation, accounting and employee supervision.

88-2008 became a real estate broker with Century 21. Handled fund raising efforts by way of golf tournaments for scholarships, Easter Seals, and Make a Wish Foundation. He saw first hand how he touched the lives of many people.

2009-2016 managed 14 investment properties as a property manager.

2016-2018 John took two years off to take care of his ailing Mother, Father and Brother.



March 2018 John joined the Elks and in 2019 became Tiler for Dan Hoffman 2019-2020. As a member he rose through the ranks all the while a member of the JV BBQ crew, Investigation committee, Lodge room set-up crew. Voted as Elk of the month December 2019.

Father of three grown children and proud Grandfather to 3 girls and 4 boys. He is heavily involved with their baseball careers.



## Exalted Ruler's Page John Betancourt

### Committee chairs reporting to Exalted Ruler

Antler Antics: David Naccarato , Mike Mathews

Website: Kira Wagner

Grants Coordinator: David Naccarato

BBQ: Jill Williams

Tree Lot: Carlos Muzquiz

Audit & Accounting: Lyssa Wright

Investigations: Alex Rogers, Jasmine Sylvestre, Rita DaCorsi

Orientation: Terry Gicking

PER Association Richard Platt

Membership: David Naccarato

Grounds: Jose Arellano

Mediator Richard Rogers

Thank you for allowing myself to be your Exalted Ruler for the 2023-2024 Elk year. We have just come off a good year with Terry Gicking and I'm looking to keep the momentum going.

The Exalted Ruler is like the CEO or President. My duties are as follows: Preside over all meetings, Appoint all committee's, chose an officer at large to take the place of an officer who maybe incapacitated. Attend all District Deputy Clinic's, enforce the laws of the order, perform duties spelled out in the by-laws of the lodge. I am a non voting member of the board of Trustee's.

I must complete my term as Exalted ruler and attend the Grand Lodge convention to be eligible to be a Past Exalted Ruler and a Grand Lodge member.

I must say our first Taco Tuesday was a huge success. I want to thank the PER association for moving their monthly meeting to the lodge to show support for Taco Tuesday. Speaking of the PER association, they donated \$2,000 towards the new hot water heater in the ladies room and the new heater in the office. They keep up the Frank Rindon scholarship fund that augments money that we give to Senior's on their way to college. We have years of experience to draw from in the PER's. My goal is to give you, the members a good year. John



Major Project donor appreciation. Shown are Adam Smith with his century Club certificate. Alex Rogers with her Millennium certificate. Darryl Kopacz with 4 century Club certificates. Jean and Gregg Miraglia with a millennium and Century Club certificate. Dan Hoffman Major Project Chairman and Newest PER X2 Terry Gicking.

Editor





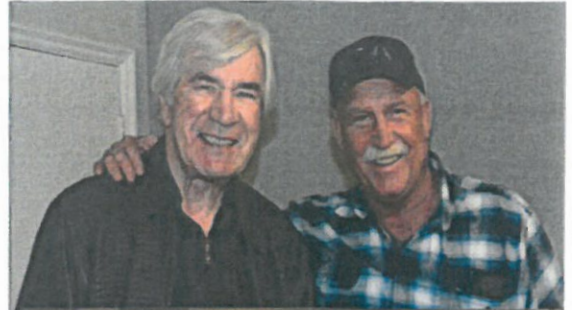
**Elk of the year 2022-2023**

**Gregg Miraglia**



**Family joined in the festivities**

**Supporting cast.**



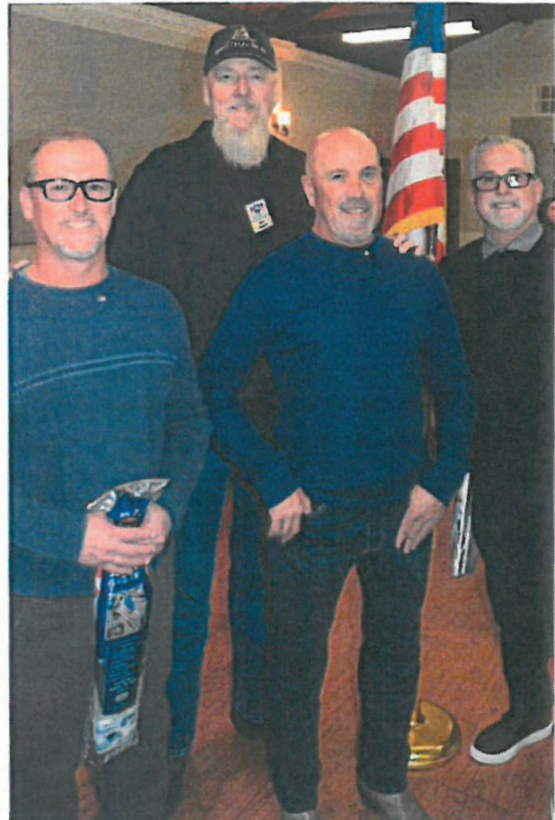
**Jr. EOY Bobby Williams loaned his jacket for the photo. Also Louis Reis , Kathy Moyer and Dave Anderson are past EOY's. Jill Williams past EOY is taking the picture.**



# Welcome our new members



**Sponsor John Puckett with new member  
Maria Guiliano**



**Boyd Linsquist towering over new mem-  
bers Jeff Abaek, Liam Hinde and Aaron  
Lewis**

Applications for membership to be voted on April 12th

Dan Dankburg-operations manager- sponsored by Reem Agel

Carl Cornils-retired-sponsored by Rick Herrera

James Igel-sponsored by Jim Moyer

Louie Hernandez-construction-sponsor Larry Nelson

Carolyn Shipley-transfer request from Riverside Lodge #643

Chase Newton-Service writer-sponsored by Casey Boggiano

**Sickness and Distress and Recovery**

Millie Escalante, Mother of Kathy Riechle passed away our thoughts are with them.

Roberta Kopacz suffered a stroke and is in therapy remember her in your daily prayer.

Son of Don and Dee Ansell, Don Jr. passed away remember Dee in your prayer's.

Kacy Radomski in severe back pain remember Kacy in your prayers.

Richard Newkirk homebound, wife Lisa Serota caring for him at home.

**Bill Joseph**

**Born 1/13/1943**

**Initiated 7/27/2016**

**Died 2/27/2023**



**Michael Murray**

**Born 5/27/1955**

**Initiated 11/9/1996**

**Died 2/12/2023**

**Bill brought our fund raising to a new level. He served as Treasurer and taught us exercise. Michael was a wood Splitting machine**

Recurring donors

Reem Agel

Dave Anderson

John Betancourt

Ed & Rita DaCorsi

Art Garcia

Terry Gicking

Gerry Gillies

Peter Gordon

Brenda Hagen

Dan Hoffman

Sheryl Holloway

Ed Lees

Jim Moyer

Kathy Moyer

Greg Metzgus

David Naccarato

Richard Platt

Alexandra Rogers

Paul Stein (latest)

Greg Sweet

Lyssa Wright



Purple Pig Honor Roll

Carl Alaniz

Bobby Williams

Paul Stein

Kathy Moyer

Rose Bowl opportunity draw

Craig Acerboni

Doug Brown

Dennis Sannow

Steve Kammerer

Corey Rose

David Gates



### Crying Towel

2/8 1st capsule drawing \$500 Delores Thomas present and a winner!!!!

2nd capsule draw \$100 Barbara Metzgun no winner.

Lucky 13 \$30 Mason Nauenberg no winner.

2/22 Capsule drawing \$125.00 Carmine Prizzi not present

Lucky 13 \$45 Alex Rogers no winner



#### **Lodge Hours**

Tuesday', Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 3PM-8PM

Closed Monday's

Saturday-Sunday 12PM to 6PM Saturday BBQ

10am-2pm Sunday breakfasts start at 10 AM

Office Hours Mon-Thurs 10AM – 3PM

Lounge Phone 805-496-4550

Office Phone 805-496-2477

Email- [toelks2477@gmail.com](mailto:toelks2477@gmail.com)

**Elk of the year– Gregg Miraglia**

**Officer of the year– John Betancourt**

**Citizen of the year– Vinny Culini of Ameci's Italian Restaurant.**

**Grand Exalted Ruler Outstanding Members– Bryan Gicking, Kathy Moye**

**Chili Cookoff May 7th Help needed**

## Ronald Watkins Leading Knight

Committees Reporting to Leading Knight

Major Project: Dan Hoffman- ENF: Grace Vega -Kampers :Shirste Gessler

Community Activities-Charity Baskets- BLT

Sickness and distress-: Alexandra Rogers



The emblem of this station is the flag of our country and it's motto is **Charity**.

The cornerstone of every Elks structure the highest virtue of every Elks Creed.

Like it or not we are here to have a lot of fun, raising money just to give it away.

We are first in the district for recurring donors for the Purple Pig. We are always double the asking amount for ENF donations.

We gave \$4,000 and clothing to the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation .

We collect CRV bottles and cans to support our scholarship program.

We funded two food banks with \$1,750 each. Grocery gift cards at Christmas for deployed military families at Point Mugu.

We allow Veterans groups to use the facility for their meetings.

The diaper dash for the James Store House.

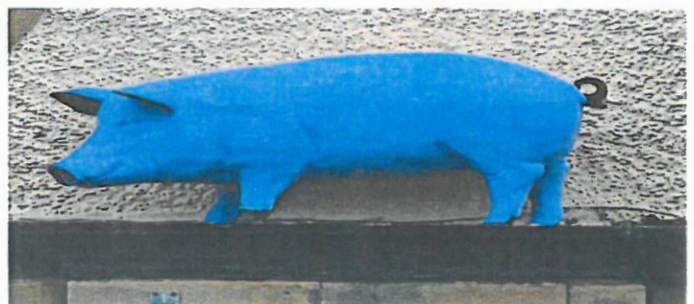
Police and Firefighters appreciation night.

Thousand Oaks Highschool baseball booster spaghetti fundraiser.

All these programs take dollars and it's the members that is where these funds come from.

Some in the form of a check or bringing in bottles and cans.

I've been told we always have our hand out but these are important programs to fund. We don't expect you to cover them all, but pick one. The easiest is the recurring donor for the Major Project/ Purple Pig. The form to become a recurring donor is in this Antler Antic's. Every State Association has their own major Project. It may be Boy's and Girls club or a food bank. Something along those lines. In 1950 the California/ Hawaii Elks Association started to take care of Children with disabilities. It was first cerebral palsy but soon changed to cover all forms of handicapped conditions. Kids from 6 months to 18 years of age are allowed to apply for this service. The Major Project even awards scholarships to the disabled. One child who has been on a vent her whole life graduated collage as a therapist. She was so taken by what the Elks did for her, she wanted to give back. You can find her story at [chea-elks.org](http://chea-elks.org).





## MASON NAUENBERG LECTURING KNIGHT

Committees reporting to the Lecturing Knight

Scholarship:: Reem Agel, Hoop Shoot: Craig Acerboni & Darryl Kopacz

Scouting :Greg Metzgus, Dictionary Program: Steve and Mary Woodlief

Americanism Lyssa Wright, Youth Appreciation: Reem Agel

Drug Awareness: :Richard Platt Lodge Activities:



Luke Patton our 12-13 age group free throw shooter sunk 23-25 at the state competition and moved on to area 7 Hoop-Shoot competition in Henderson NV where he came in 4th place out of 168 12-13 yr old shooters. Not bad. Our lodge is responsible for family expenses to district and state shoot-offs. ENF takes over from state to area and then to the finals in Chicago.

On our scholarship program we had 3 state winners who will now be judge at the Grand Lodge level and could be awarded up to \$50,000 in scholarship monies plus what they had won at local, district and State scholarship judging.

Our Exalted Ruler sponsored an Eagle Scout to dinner at the Ronald Reagan Library. These are Scouts that earned the rank of Eagle Scout and to be honored in a ceremony under the wings of Air Force One. It's a big deal for these kids. We have many members who were Eagle Scouts and then moved on to be given the honor of the Marvin M. Lewis award.

The Marvin M. Lewis award is a prestigious Elk and Scouting award and shall be awarded to Elks in good standing who have shown a great degree of participation in supporting Scouting. William Miller is a recipient, Greg Metzgus, Richard Goldner and Bill Sternberg are all recipients of the award.

### A little about William "Bill" Joseph

Bill was born January 13th 1943 in Mount Carmel Pennsylvania.

Bill served in the United States Navy

As a member of the VFW post that met in our conference room Bill met fellow member Jack Carter and proposed Bill for membership June 14th 2016. Bill took the oath July 27th ,2016 given by Mike Flannery.

Bill took classes in Chi Kung and held classes in the lodge room every Monday. He had a dozen or so come to exercise with him.

Bill was asked to be Treasurer because he was so meticulous with numbers. Bill became the treasurer in 2018. Bills real passion was pools, no not swimming pool's but football, baseball, final four, the track or anyway to raise money for this lodge. Many times he would ask how much money was needed for a particular charity and he made it happen. Bill broke his hip twice and went back East for rehabilitation and vowed to be back. Bill took the train back east and went from the station to the hospital where he passed away on the day he chose February 27th ,2023.

**An Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken**



## T.O. High School Baseball Boosters



### **A note from the Kitchen Management**

**Jill Williams**

**Thousand Oaks High School asked our Lodge to help them out with a fundraiser for a new pitching machine. On March 9th the lodge all the food and cooked a spaghetti and meatball dinner with salad and garlic bread, and provided our lodge room to hold the event. We served 200 dinners and the school let us know that had raised \$2,400 towards their new machine.**

**I would like to thank Casey Boggiano for coming to the lodge at 8:AM to put the sauce together and start it simmering for the day, Kathy Moye along with Jane Watson arrived at 3 PM and set up the lodge room then came in to the kitchen and with Trustee Ed Lees plated 200 meals.. The Baseball Team served the plates from the window to the tables. Finally, I thank all the members of our lodge who came out in support of this event.**

**On March's fish fry, I asked those in attendance for a \$1 donation to the Easter Egg Hunt , open to the community which will be used to stuff dollars bills in plastic eggs for the Easter Bunny to give out to the kids in attendance. I also want to give out a huge, thank you to Carlos Muzquiz, for donating \$100 towards the eggs and to purchase additional eggs to hide for the kids to locate on the egg hunt.**

**For those who don't know me, if you have a favorite meal you might like to cook for the members one night, feel free to contact me, it's a nice way to meet your fellow members and new dishes are always fun.**

**Jill Williams**



## From the desk of the Secretary

I appreciate the early dues. We are a bit behind for we were waiting for the new key cards. They have been received and cards have gone out. To receive the coveted early bird sticker the dues need to be in by April 1st. The Grand Lodge assessment of \$35 is charged to every lodge for every member they have on the books weather the member pays they're dues or not.

I'd like to report on the BBQ. The BBQ is the one staple of this lodge that keeps us in the black. The BBQ covers things that the dues are not to cover. It takes the membership to give us a day for the BBQ. In May Conejo valley day's is 10 day's now. That's a big nut to crack. Waiting on more information to share with all of you. Either way that Saturday we'll have two BBQ's and we can't be in two places at once so it's all hands on deck.

Our average BBQ runs about \$5,500 to \$6,500 every week. We have had a couple of \$7,000 + Saturday's. The Trustee's allowed 5 rain outs for the budget they create every year, well we have blown past those so having CVD should put us back on track. Of course the working budget ends March 31st. The average BBQ sells 288 Tri-Tip sandwiches, 44 racks of baby back ribs, 24 half rack's , 35 single beef ribs and 20 racks of full beef,. 33 chicken half's, drinks, chips and sauce.

The 2023-2024 budget will be started so if you are a committee chairman you will need to submit how much money you will require the coming year and how you plan on raising that money. Get it in soon.

## Elk history cont. from last month

Our ritual reads to strive diligently that The name of Elk as borne by you may be worthy of an American citizen— one who loves his fellow man.

Changing the name from the Jolly Corks to the Elk's did not happen overnight. Our founder Charles Vivian wanted the Buffalo's which is the organization he belonged to in England. The other Jolly corks wanted a fresh idea so they went to P.T Barnum's American Museum. There they found many stuffed animals and started to chose what they wanted to be called. Buffalo's was out, the beaver was to destructive, the fox to cunning but soon they came upon an Elk with it's rack of Antlers pointing to the sky. They learned that the Elk is strong of limb, fleet of foot. It's perception is quick and Keen and the animal is quick to protect it's own.

The vote was 14-1 for the Elk.

Now a bit about P.T. Barnum, The museum was located at Broadway and Ann Street. It burned down in 1865. It was quickly rebuilt further up Broadway but it to burned down in 1868. Instead of rebuilding, Barnum took his show on the road and joined up with Baily and were forever known as the Barnum and Baily circus. Fortunately, the Jolly Corks were able to view an Elk on display in 1867.





# April Birthdays

**Greg Metzgus-02**  
**Dennis Shepard-02**  
**Rosemary Prince-03**  
**Leo Rodriguez-03**  
**Brenda Hagen-05**  
**Rita DaCorsi-06**  
**Henry Vega-06**  
**William Kaszycki-07**  
**Allan Gottlieb-08**  
**Richard Ibarra-09**  
**Ted Barnes-10**  
**James Hamilton-13**  
**Richard Cornelison-14**  
**Isabella Goldberg-15**  
**Michael Wharton-15**  
**Carol Stewart-16**  
**Ted Meyer-17**  
**Claudia Frappier-18**  
**David Hobert-18**  
**Zhipi McDougald-18**  
**Brook Taylor-21**  
**Marvin Gregory-23**  
**Steve Chiszar-24**  
**Angela Porter-24**  
**Lisa Casarotti-27**  
**Dan Martyn-27**  
**Adelaide Wavra-27**  
**Jerry Case-28**  
**Lynette Micheli-29**

Enjoy a free drink on  
your birthday  
Compliments of  
Exalted Ruler  
John Betancourt

## Note from the kitchen

Please, please, do not throw away pots or pans that you feel are trashed. Every item, dish, bowl, pot and pan even the forks, knives and spoons are inventoried. Bring a used pot or frying pan to the attention of the kitchen liaison. Many teams bring their own pans and take them home again. We appreciate the Sunday breakfast crews. We did have breakfast every Sunday and the goal of the Exalted Ruler is to get back to that. If you have a urge to donate an om-lete pan to the lodge, it would be accepted graciously. Thank You

Kitchen Liaison Ron Watkins





**Now is the time to be an involved member.**

**The lodge runs on volunteer help**

**Here's what we need .**

- 1, Lodge table set up and take down, my Dad always said many hands make lite work.**
- 2, Get on a BBQ crew, no reason for members to work more than one a month.**
- 3, Driver needed for the train in 4 parades this year, entails loading of the train on the trailer and tow to parade. Santa Maria is a overnighiter . Use our vehicle, hotel included. More information call the office.**
- 4, Help with the wood lot. Splitting, stacking and pickup when a tree comes available**

**If you can spare a few hours a week, see an officer or call the office for more information 805-496-2477 or my cell 805-300-3264**

**Thank you David Naccarato Secretary**