

December 2023 Volume 52 issue 9

Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477

Of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

# Antler Antics



*51 years of service to our community*

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**Exalted Ruler John Betancourt – Soaring to New Heights with Elkdom!**

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December 3rd is the Elks Memorial Service 10:AM  
December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day



NATIONAL  
**PEARL HARBOR**

*Remembrance Day*



DECEMBER 7



George and Melinda Pekow PER



Bob and Donna Hardy PER



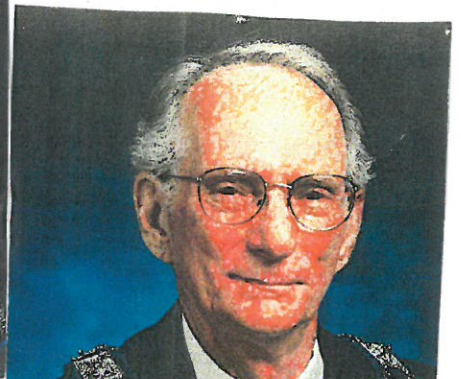
Gilbert and Phylis Riding PER  
Conejo Lock and Key



Bernard and Delores Swanson



Bill Sternberg PER



Jay Block PER



Jim and Grace Wallace PER



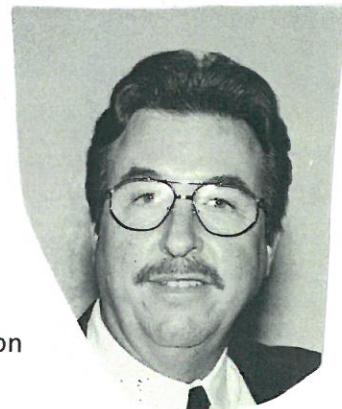
Jack Loughran PER next to the God Father  
PER Frank Rindone



Robert and Eula McKee PER



Chuck Busch



David Dennison



Pete Jackson cutting a rug



Having Fun



Bill Lloyd, DL, Gil Riding, DDGER, 3rd Place Team and Richard Owen, DL



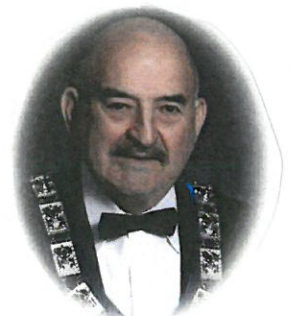
Don Ansell, PER Com. Chair. announced the winners of the Easter Eggs that said Exalted Ruler and First Lady for special prizes



Kenneth Krabel



Norman Panczak



Jerry Serota



Rich Lucariello



Ann and Walter Ogden



Ed Bianchi



**Sharon Baker**

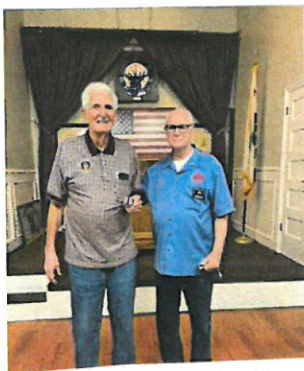


**Max Maxwell**

**THE ELKS LADIES**  
**Lynn Rodriguez**



**Lynn Rodriguez**



**Johnny D. Ambrojio**



**Sherwood McDonald**  
Built our officer stations



**Larry Morris, Ed Rice, Tommy Claunch**



**George Meehan**



**Jack Malone and Johnny D'Ambrogio posing with ER, David Naccarato after receiving 25 year membership pins**



**Sally Claunch, PER**



Kirk Keeler  
Grand Marshall

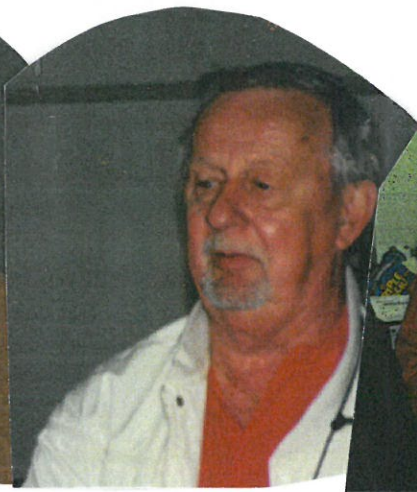
Bill and Flo Lloyd PER



Tommy and Sally Claunch PER



Joel Erickson with Chet Kozlowski PER



Coleen Morris



Jack Henry PER



Herbert R. Jellander



PER's Don Ansell, Vern Ogden, Gary Sleigh,  
Jack Henry, Dan Snyder with member Derrill

### Applications to be investigated

Ryan Filek of Honolulu Lodge #616 proposes Jack Imprellizzeri– an Actor

Lyssa Wright is proposing Kathleen and Daniel Guiney– Plumber.

Debbi Reed is proposing John Schreiber– medical equipment and Ann Schreiber– division manager

John Puckett proposes Mark Poulin– retired and Michael Lopata– masonry contractor.

Jerry Cain of Atascadero lodge #2733 proposes Timothy O’Callaghan– Sales and

son Matt Cain Police Commander, Ventura Police Department

Daran G. Vanden Bossche– retired fire dept.– sponsored by Dennis Sannow.

Mike Throne sponsored by Lyssa Wright

Carla Tello sponsored by Lyssa Wright

### Sickness, Distress and Recovery.

K.C. Radomski pain pump is leaking and will need it replaced, prayer’s needed.

Betty McFarlin recovering from infection, prayers needed.

Barbara Metzgas fell at home but is up and at convention .

Mother of Loyal Knight Carolyn Shipley dealing with Dementia.

Jim Lovato underwent open heart surgery on 10/30 and has recovered enough to bring his recyclables for the funding of our scholarship program to the lodge, put up his flag, pose for a picture with the installer who wanted to show he helps Veterans. Jim is a Marine.

Myrna Block spent a overnight stay in the hospital. All recovered.

*Reports of sickness and distress are always in order*

### Recurring donors

Reem Agel

Dave Anderson PEOTY

Tom Baldridge

John Betancourt ER

Ed & Rita DaCorsi

Carol Fredericks

Art Garcia

Terry Gicking PDDGER

Gerry Gillies PEOTY

Peter Gordon

Brenda Hagen

Rick Herrera PEOTY

Dan Hoffman PER

Sheryl Holloway

Diane Jones

Ed Lees

Greg Metzgas DL

Kathy Moyer PEOTY

Jim Moyer PER

David Naccarato PER

Richard Platt PER

Alexandra Rogers

Carol Spinner

Paul Stein

Greg Sweet

Dolores “Dee” Thomas

Jill Williams PEOTY

Lyssa (is) Wright



### Purple Pig Honor Roll

Bobby Williams

Ben Rieger

Gerry Gillies

Lyssa Wright

Ron Watkins (I am the egg man)

John Martin

Thursday Night Football

Bunco Crew

Steven Brodie

## Crying Towel

October 11th capsule draw \$125 Mary Woodlief not present.

Lucky 13 \$165 John Betancourt, winner!!

October 25th Capsule drawing \$150 Mati Cohen not present

Lucky 13 \$15, Sandro Cano. Winner!!! Donated to Christmas baskets



## Lodge Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 4:00PM-9:30PM

Wednesday meeting nights *may* be open later according to traffic. Up to the Bar Steward.

Saturday-Sunday 12PM to 6PM Saturday BBQ 10am-2pm Sunday breakfasts start at 10 AM

Office Hours Mon-Thurs 10AM – 3PM office Phone 805-496-2477

Lounge Phone 805-496-4550 Happy hour prices, "\$1 off well drinks" 4-6 Monday thru Thursday.

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

Web address://2477elks.com/ Password– 1972

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/79599886093> (Elk members only access)

<https://www.facebook.com/ThousandOaksElks2477/>(Public page)

Twitter: Follow: @1Koaks2477 Instagram: Fol-

low: toelks2477

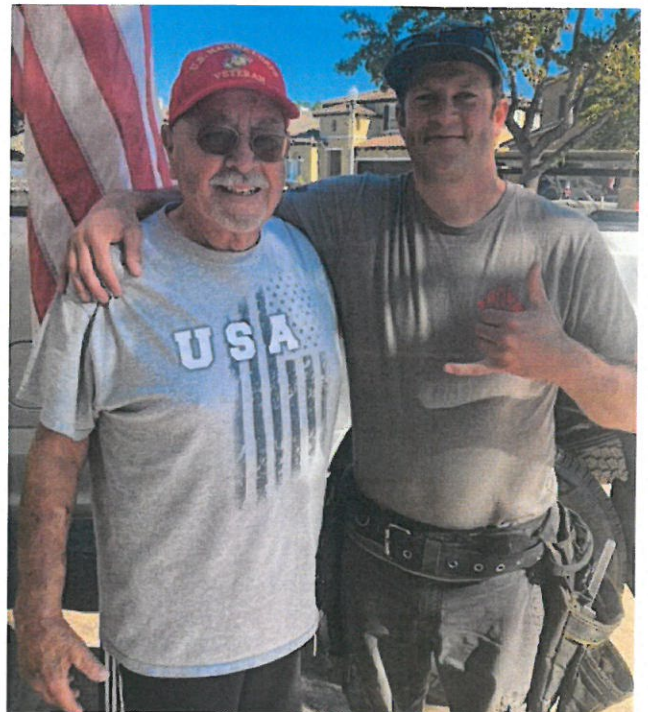


### From the Club Coordinator

Willian Brown

Learning everyday, I encourage you to attend the Elks Memorial Service on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. An Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken. I hear conversations at the bar about a member I never met. Its like He/ she is still here and not passed away, very powerful. Its voluntary among members to attend but mandatory for lodges to hold. The provisions is the first Sunday in December is designated Elks Memorial Day. A definite ritual has been prescribed for this annual event to commemorate departed members on that day. Candle lighting program will start at 10 am. Brunch to follow \$12.00. Eggs, pancakes, fruit, bacon, sausage, coffee and juice.

Light a candle for a loved one. Does not have to be an Elk.



Jim Lovato, just days home from the hospital needed to get his flag back in the air after those high winds. He accepted the help from a contract worker from across the street to help him remount Jim's flag, took a picture to add to his web page.

Veteran Jim Lovato is a Harley Riding Marine who hates accepting help. Sometimes its safer.

# Exalted Ruler John Betancourt's Page

Antler Antic's, Auditing & accounting, BBQ, membership, facilities, PER Association.

Hope all had a Happy Thanksgiving and now we get ready for Jolly old St. Nick. December is a wonderful time of the year in that we now get to bring out the Christmas lights to light up our homes inside and out. It can also be a stressful time, just thinking what am I going to give this year to put under the tree? Whatever you get for your love ones it will bring them love knowing that you thought of them at Christmas.

At the lodge we will be putting out our decorations to bring that Christmas spirit that we all have in us. The great thing about Elks is that we think of others at this time of year. We will be decorating our Christmas tree and setting out the barrel and asking that everyone bring a unwrapped toy for a child that we will bring to a local church to be given on behalf of the lodge. We will have our Christmas tree with stars on it with the ages of a boy or girl with a wish this Christmas. I will be going to Food Share in Oxnard to present a check on behalf of the lodge and the Leading Knight, Ron Watkins, will also do the same at the Manna Food Bank of Conejo Valley. On Friday December 15th it will be the ER Christmas party and I will be asking that you also bring either a toy or as we did earlier in the year items for infants, diapers, clothes for newborns all the way up to 24 months. I am sure this will bring back the memories of being a new mom and dad.

By now you have heard that this year we will not be having our ELKS Christmas Tree lot. The suppliers who we have been getting our trees from in Washington State notified us that they could not provide trees this year. We were unable to find another supplier that could give us trees. It is a very big disappointment not only for the lodge but that we will not be at Carlson's this year to provide you and other family's with a Christmas Tree from the Elks. This will not be the case for next year and be assured we will be back next year.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!

Exalted Ruler  
John Betancourt

## Lodge Committee Chairpersons.

Antler Antics editor: David Naccarato  
Americanism; Lyssa Wright.  
Audit & Accounting: Lyssa Wright.  
Bequest & Living Trust: **Needed**  
BBQ: Jill Williams.  
Business Practices; Steve Kerman.  
Chili Cook-off: Terry Gicking  
Conejo Valley Days: Terry Gicking,  
Dictionary program; Steve and Mary Woodlief  
Drug Awareness; Richard Platt  
Community Activities; Ron Watkins  
El Conejo Kampers; Shirste Gessler  
ENF; Jean Miraglia  
Grants Coordinator: David Naccarato  
Grounds Maintenance; Dan Hoffman  
Hoop Shoot; Craig Acerboni  
Insurance consultant : Darryl Kopacz  
Investigations: Alex Rogers., Jasmine Silvestre,  
Lodge Activities; **Needed**  
Mailing Antler Antic's; Steve & Mary Woodlief  
Maintenance; Jeff Conyers, Terry Gicking, Gerry Gillies  
Major Project; Dan Hoffman  
Membership; David Naccarato  
Memorial; Rita DaCorsi  
Mediator; Richard Rogers  
National Veterans Service; **Needed**  
Presiding Justice; **Needed**  
Orientation; Terry Gicking  
PER association; Richard Platt  
Photography: Jill Williams  
Proof Reader: Diane Letulier  
Public Relations: David Naccarato  
Ritual Training: Terry Gicking, David Naccarato  
Safety: Kathy Moye  
Scholarship: Reem Agel  
Scouting; Greg Metzger  
Sickness, distress and recovery; Alexandra Rogers  
Soccer Shoot: **Needed**  
Train Engineer: Robert Harmon  
Veterans Bingo; Marshal Knowlton  
Wood Lot; Greg Sweet  
Youth Activities; **Needed**



## *Elk and Officer of the month*

### *November*

#### **Elk of the month; Jill Williams;**

This honor goes to Jill Williams, and it is well deserved. Everyone knows who Jill Williams, knows what she does and means to this lodge. Most likely why she was voted Elk of the Year for 2017-2018.

Jill is the spark plug of this lodge and she is much appreciated for all she does. Thank you Jill for all you do.

Congratulations the parking spot is yours.

#### **Officer of the month;**

Lyssa Wright is my Officer of the month. Lyssa is my Inner Guard and Auditor for the lodge and she takes her duties very seriously. She is also the Americanism chair person. What Lyssa is best known for is raising money for the Purple Pig using her Purple Jeep (Nic named the Purple Pig) throughout our district. Wherever she travels she raises money charging people for a picture the Purple Pig in the back ground. Coming back from the CHEA State Convention in Fresno 2022 we stopped at the Visalia Lodge and Lyssa Raised \$150 just for having members take a picture with the Jeep.

This year to date Lyssa has raised \$448.00 for the Purple Pig. Congrats Lyssa you're a true Elk!

### **Membership Stats**

Membership as of April 1st 2023	425
Total new members to date	23
Total membership loss	11
Delinquency as of 11/13/2023 7%	29
Average age	67
Gain/ Loss	16
Total Membership as of 11/13/2023	441



### **December Birthday's**

Vincent Ciullini-01  
Richard Shaw-01  
John Betancourt-02  
Jasmine Silvestre-02  
Brett Taylor-02  
Bruce Cameron-03  
Chuck Kudra-03  
Paul Stein-04  
Richard Johnson-05  
Eugene A. Letourneau-06  
David Mueller-07  
Donna Leary-11  
Aaron Lewis-11  
Mary Catherine McBride-12  
Catherine Koeritz-14  
Brad Bryan-15  
Daniel Picard-15  
Joe Iglesias-16  
Jodi Mannino-16  
Scott D. Dool-17  
Sandro Cano-18  
John Carmelo-20  
Brett Fuchs-21  
Jeffrey Weiherer-21  
Nelson Cabello-22  
Adam Hendershot-27  
Jeff Gambino-28  
Stephen Finnerty-29  
Robert Jones-29  
Lawrence R. Kraszewski-30  
Diane Letulier-30

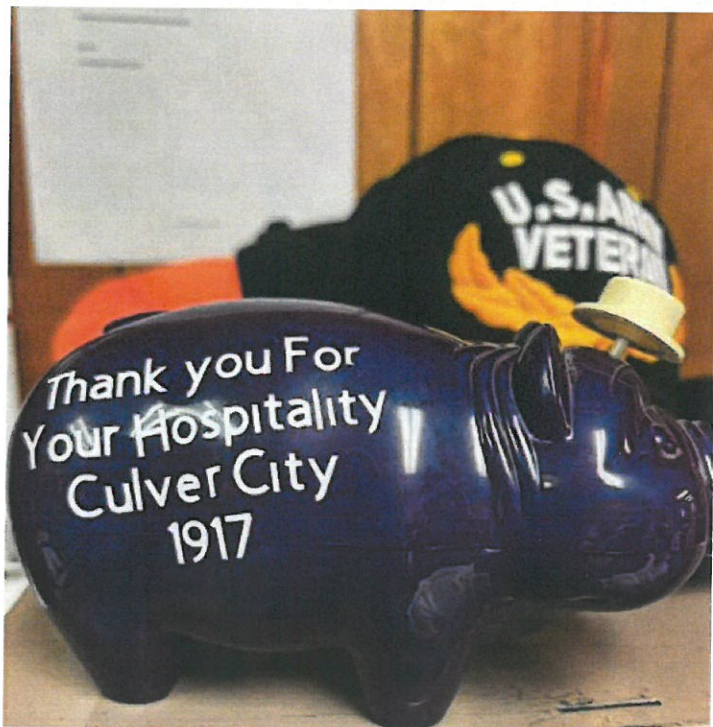
## Ron Watkins Leading Knight- Charity

Greetings fellow, Elks,

I just came back from midterm convention in Riverside California. And I have to tell you I'm so proud of the work that's been done from the Elks in our lodge as well as all of the others. It's truly impressive to see the good work that's being done. Being an Elk is much more than being a member of social club, we all took the obligation, and in that obligation we chose a life of service to help our fellow man. So the in the words of a great American, ask not what your Lodge can do for you, ask what you can do for your lodge. With that being said, I would like to thank all of those who are already a committee chair person or on a committee providing service, for all others, I charge you to look through the list of committees, and find something that you can start with no matter how small or how big it is helping someone in our community. If you have any questions or anything that I can do to assist you, please call me. I am proud to be your leading Knight.  
Ron Watkins



Greg Sweet Receiving his millennium certificate for being a recurring donor for the Major Project



A huge shout out and finger snaps to Culver City Lodge #1917 for including us in their mystery bus tour. They stopped at Ventura Lodge #1430 for a tour of their facility, then made their way to Thousand Oaks 2477 to enjoy some of our hospitality and famous BBQ that they heard about (social media, what a concept) We figured sandwiches would be their go to fare, but no, They stood in line with the in crowd and ordered their Ribs and Chicken. And loved the whole experience. Then to top it off left a full Purple Pig as a tip to our State Major Project. Thank You Culver City, come again. Thank you to Casey Boggiano as host. Reem probably was in there too. Their joined at the hip.

# Loyal Knight Carolyn Shipley

Lodge Activities, Kitchen. Veterans

Big doing's over Veterans Day weekend. First at the BBQ on Saturday, Navy Man Robert Domingez gave me a bank to buy Lunch for any Veterans in line. Second on Sunday Brenda Hagen, Trustee Steve Kerman and wife Sherri, Kathy two EE Wilson and camera shy Lonnie Hagen spent the day filling 15,000 boxes to be shipped overseas to our deployed military men and women, (box in the lounge) Sunday we held a flag retirement after breakfast. Blue Star Moms president Karen Abbitt helped with breakfast and answered questions about their box in the lounge for 39 Marines heading to Israel after serving in Norway for another conflict. We presented Americans Serving Americans President Rick McHenry with a check for \$2590 from the poker Tournament. I don't want to hear "we don't do anything."

Did you see our picture in the Elks Magazine? The Elks didn't want us to "toot our own horn", but now it's gloves off.

I want us to be the "All American Lodge". Last Time was during Greg Metzgus year. Any volunteering you do I need to Know about it. Points add up quickly.

Editor



# December 7th 1941

## A Day that will live in Infamy.



I've ran this before but it must be told again. True this was an act only madmen could Dream up. While our resources were over In Europe the Japanese high command used this opportunity to brutally attack the Hawaiian Islands. It could have been much worse.

The Japanese were looking for our carriers. Not finding any they set their sights on our Battleships all in a row two by two.

What's bad about the Arizona, it and its crew were supposed to be in sunny San Diego.

for a refit. While out on maneuvers

The Arizona collided with the Oklahoma and stayed in port for repairs.

The attack killed 1,177 of our men on board. The Arizona Sits at the bottom of the harbor. A memorial has been erected on that sight. How do I figure worse. It was Sunday morning, many sailors were on shore leave and not berthing in their bunks.

The Japanese in all their wisdom did not touch our dry docks, all ships that could be brought up were repaired at Pearl and not towed to San Diego which would have set us way back.

Our Submarine pens were not touched. It allowed us to go to guns on the Japanese Merchant shipping. Our Submarines sunk 75% of all merchant shipping.

We had four and one half million barrels of fuel oil. All the fuel oil for the US Pacific fleet were in above ground storage tanks. One correctly placed bomb, even 50 Caliber machine gun fire would have done it and have crippled us for sure. Underground bunkers were being constructed at the time but were not complete yet. Admiral Nimitz was sweating blood till the bomb proof underground storage tanks were complete.

Lastly the Japanese attacked while we were in port. Had we been in deep water it would have been even worse. Our ships had a top speed of 18 knots while the Japanese Task Force had a top speed of 22 knots. We could have lost 20,000 Men had our fleet been in deep water. President Roosevelt appointed Chester Nimitz to take over the Pacific Fleet. He arrived Christmas 1941. Those on duty on that Christmas day, hardly noted the passage of the day as such. A harbor covered in grimy oil and sunken ships and knowing thousands of dead men still lay beneath those waters was enough to demand our full attention to the tragedy that had befallen our country. They awoke and I quote "a sleeping giant". The U.S. Military.

# John Puckett Lecturing Knight

## Americanism

Flag retirement was held November 12th. This is an annual event at all Elks Lodge.

The crowd was lite but mighty.

Pictures courtesy of Reem Agel who is upwind due to allergy's



**Terry Gicking**  
Retiring a flag  
In honor of his Father  
Who raised 10 children  
6 of whom were military



**Richard Platt-Army**



**District Leader  
and Submariner  
Greg Metzgu**



**Leo Rodriguez- Army**



**Bar Steward  
Jeanette Provencio- Navy  
Retiring a Flag in  
Honor of her Father and  
Brother**



**New member  
Victor Pesce- Navy  
Retiring a Flag**



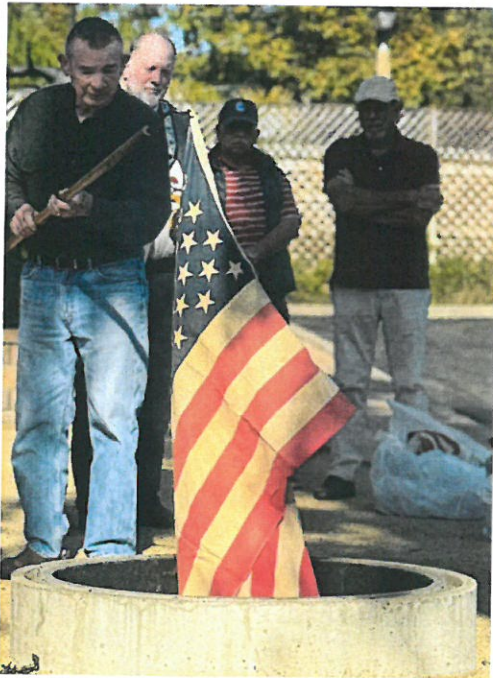
**Esquire Terry Gicking receiving service worn flags from Lecturing Knight John Puckett**



**Receiving Service worn flags From Loyal Knight Lyssa Wright**



**From Leading Knight Ron Watkins**



**Dave Anderson—SeaBee**



**ER John Betancourt**



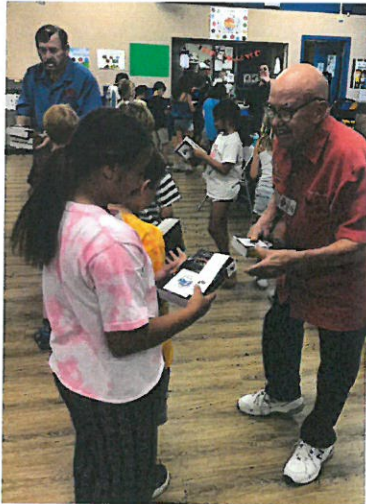
**John Puckett**



**Lyssa Wright Retires Flag In memory of her Father Grandfather and Great Grandfather**

## John Puckett Lecturing Knight Youth Activities

Dictionary Distribution at T. O. Weathersfield Elementary 3rd graders.  
Steve and Mary Woodlief co-Chairpersons of Dictionary Program.  
Bobby Williams does the heavy lifting.



Receiving her dictionary from Steve.



Bobby's line to receive a dictionary

The Elks have a dictionary program where we put a dictionary into the hands of every 3<sup>rd</sup> grader whose school will allow us to visit. (Hippa). The program was met with division at first "kids don't read books anymore". Let me share some thank you letters from the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

A teacher from Glenwood writes WOW!! What a great gift you gave our students. They absolutely Love the dictionaries. My students love the pages at the end with the facts. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Miller Glenwood.

Jacob writes Dear Elks, thank you for the dictionary. I love it! I really like the American Sign Language and Braille pages. I will use it a lot. Thank you so much.

Kayden writes same as above. (pattern?)

Ariana writes; thank you for giving me a free dictionary.

I really like the 50 states and sign language.

Susana, same as above.

David writes same but added I like the planet page.

It is great to be taught new things and new words. They all drew a picture of the cover of the Dictionary.

From Weathersfield Elementary a thank you card was sent and signed by all the students.

Jean writes, Thank you for the dictionary. I looked up the word inspired which means when you inspire another person, you encourage them to do something good.

Also from Glenwood Alan writes Dear Elks thank you for the dictionary. I like the longest word in the English language. I will use it every day.

Sylvia writes Thank you for the book. I love it. I've been practicing sign language. This book is fun and cool. It gives me knowledge and helps me learn a lot. I will always have it. Thank you Steve and Bobby. Stanley writes same but adds; I like the 46 Presidents page and the map of the World. I'll use it a lot in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and on..

Breana says the same but added OXOX must be for Bobby and Steve.

Very successful program. Could be the only book in the house. \$85 for a case of dictionary's

# THOUSAND OAKS ELKS LODGE #2477

Office: 805-496-2477 \* Lounge: 805-496-4550

Web: 2477elks.com  
Email: toeiks2477@gmail.com

# DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Lounge Hours</b></p> <p>Sunday: Noon - 6pm                      Sunday (If Breakfast): 10am - 6pm                      Mon - Fri: 4pm - 9:30pm                      Saturday: Noon - 6pm</p>						
<p>Elk Memorial Service                      Ceremony 10am                      Breakfast                      after ceremony</p>	<p>Mon Night Football 4</p> <p><b>Streaker Dogs</b>                      Beans &amp; Potato salad                      \$6 5:30-7pm</p> <p><b>New Member Orientation 7pm</b></p>	5	<p>Duty Officer: Lyssa Wright 818-404-2123</p>	<p>6</p> <p><b>New Member Initiation 7pm</b>                      Jill's Famous Burger &amp; Fries                      5:30 pm \$8</p> <p><b>LINE DANCING 7PM</b></p>	<p>7</p> <p>Thurs. Nite Football                      \$3 CHILI DOGS 5:30                      \$5 BURGERS</p> <p><b>Diane's</b>                      Honey Mustard Ham &amp; Cheese Sliders                      salad, beans, dessert                      5:30 pm \$12</p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>Friday Night Dinner</b></p> <p><b>Jill &amp; Kathy's</b>                      Meatball Sandwich and fixings                      5:30 pm \$12</p> <p><b>Blood Drive 9am - 1pm</b></p>
<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>DD Visit SLO</p>	<p>DD Visit Simi</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p><b>DD Visit TO</b>                      Dodger Dogs and other fixings</p> <p>Thurs. Nite Football                      \$3 CHILI DOGS 5:30                      \$5 BURGERS</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>ER DINNER</b>                      Chili, Cornbread, Salad &amp; Dessert                      ** TOY DRIVE **</p> <p>Elks BBQ Open to the Public Saturday 10am-2pm</p>
<p>10</p> <p><b>Kampers Christmas Brunch</b>                      10am - 2pm</p> <p><small>HEAVY LITTLE CHRISTMAS BRUNCH</small></p>	<p>11</p> <p>Mon Night Football</p> <p><b>Streaker Dogs</b>                      Beans &amp; Potato salad                      \$6 5:30-7pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Mon Night Football</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>Streaker Dogs</b>                      Beans &amp; Potato salad                      \$6 5:30-7pm</p> <p><b>Trustees Mtg 11am</b></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p><b>Lodge Meeting 7pm</b>                      Duty Officer: John Betancourt 805-551-4450</p> <p>Calendar Mtg 6pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Thurs. Nite Football                      \$3 CHILI DOGS 5:30                      \$5 BURGERS</p> <p>Abate 7pm Lodge Rm</p> <p><b>KITCHEN</b>                      is  <b>CLOSED TODAY</b></p> <p>Elks BRQ Open to the Public Saturday 10am-2pm</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Vets Breakfast 10am - noon \$10                      Vets Comp'd</p> <p><b>Lounge Open 10-4</b></p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>LODGE CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b></p> <p>New Years Eve Lounge Open 10-4  <b>Kampers Breakfast 10-noon</b></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Duty Officer: Ron Watkins 805-231-1194</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Thurs. Nite Football                      \$3 CHILI DOGS 5:30                      \$5 BURGERS</p> <p><b>KITCHEN</b>                      is  <b>CLOSED TODAY</b></p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>BBQ Team PERS</b></p> <p>Elks BRQ Open to the Public Saturday 10am-2pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p><b>BBQ Team Jill</b></p> <p>Elks BRQ Open to the Public Saturday 10am-2pm</p>

Lodge Address: 158 N. Conejo School Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91362      Office Mailing Address: 2330 Los Feliz Dr., Thousand Oaks, CA 91362