

February 2024 Volume 52 issue 11

Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477

Of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

# Antler Antics



*52 years of service to our community*

---

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

---

*Happy  
Birthday*



**Friday February 16th, 1868**



**LVIII**

**SUPER BOWL**

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**

**Breakfast 10am –12pm,**

**Pot luck 2pm, Game 3:17– 8pm**

# Welcome our new members



At a special Saturday Initiation, Ryan Dennison home on leave from the Army and who is stationed at Fort Irwin was initiated December 23rd. Pictured with him is his Father, member William Dennison and Ryan's wife Belindy Dennison. Ryan was great to watch him as he marched around the room and stand at attention at each and every station. His uniform was tightly pressed and lint free.



Pictured is Lyssa Wright with her candidate and new member Debra Ann Reed. Debra was initiated in November but wasn't around for the picture due to anxiety. Debra volunteered before becoming a member. Debra will become our new lodge Auditor come April 1st while Lyssa moves on in her Elk Career. Lyssa Has raised over \$1,000 this past year with her purple Jeep nicknamed the Purple Pig which is inline with our Major Project.



## Applications to be investigated and balloted on February 14th

James Masten– contractor– Sponsored by Ed Shuttleworth of Jerome Az. Lodge #1361

Cyrus Skidmore-Firefighter-Sponsored by CJ Schebler of Simi Lodge #2492

Jason Maruhn-Manager– sponsored by Lyssa Wright

John Tallion– retired-sponsored by Jim Moye.

Brian Stocker– retired sponsored by Terry Gicking

Eric Nehring– Retired– sponsored by Rick Herrera

## Sickness, Distress and Recovery.

K.C. Radomski

Barbara Metzgun

Greg Metzgun

Gregg Miraglia's sister very ill.

Alexandra Rogers in for Knee replacement.

Reem Agel in recovery after major surgery

Boyd Lindquist undergoing specialty cancer treatment in Arizona.

Dorothy Hardie in an convalescent home.

PER Harold Constantine nursing a dislocated shoulder.

Leo Rodriguez spent time in the hospital. Needed B12. All good now.

## 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 Metzgun DL

Kathy Moye PEOTY

Jim Moye PER

David Naccarato PER

Richard Platt PER

Alexandra Rogers

Carol Spinner

Paul Stein

Greg Sweet

Dolores "Dee" Thomas

Jill Williams PEOTY

Lyssa (is) Wright

*Thousand Oaks Lodge  
2477 is #1 in the dis-  
trict for recurring do-  
nors. Thank You mem-  
bers.*



## Purple Pig Honor Roll

Bobby Williams

Ben Rieger

Bunco Crew

Darryl Kopacz

Douglas Brown (Century Club)

Dave Anderson ( All silver )

Brenda Otte (52 Club)

Lyssa (is) Wright (Century Club x 5)

David Naccarato

Greg Metzgun

Diana Jones

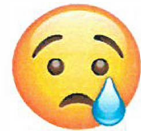
## Crying Towel

December 6th capsule draw \$225 Betty Vega not present.

Lucky 13 \$45 Lyssa Wright no winner.

December 13 Capsule drawing \$250 John Adams not present

Lucky 13 \$45, Cory Goodwin SLO no winner



## Lodge Hours

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

Wednesday meeting nights may be open later according to traffic.

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

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

Lounge Phone 805-496-4550

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: Follow: toelks2477

## Lodge Committee Chairpersons.

Antler Antics editor: David Naccarato PER  
Americanism; Lyssa Wright.

Audit & Accounting: Debbi Reed

Bequest & Living Trust: **Needed**

BBQ: Jill Williams.

Business Practices; Steve Kerman.

Chili Cook-off: Terry Gicking PDDGER

Conejo Valley Days: Terry Gicking, PDDGER

Dictionary program; Steve and Mary Woodlief

Drug Awareness; Richard Platt PER

Community Activities; Ron Watkins

El Konejo Kampers; Jane Watson

ENF; Jean Miraglia PER

Grants Coordinator: David Naccarato PER

Grounds Maintenance; Dan Hoffman PER

Hoop Shoot; Craig Acerboni

Insurance consultant : Darryl Kopacz

Investigations: Alex Rogers., Jasmine Silvestre,

Lodge Activities; **Needed**

Mailing Antler Antic's; Steve & Mary Woodlief

Major Project; Dan Hoffman PER

Maintenance: Jeff Conyers, Terry Gicking, Gerry Gillies

Membership: David Naccarato PER

Memorial: Rita DaCorsi

Mediator: Richard Rogers

National Veterans Service: **Needed**

Presiding Justice: **Needed**

Orientation: Terry Gicking PDDGER

PER association: Richard Platt PER

Photography: Jill Williams

Proof Reader: Diane Letulier

Public Relations: David Naccarato PER

Recycling: Rick Herrera, John Mutolo, Steve Allen

Ritual: Training: Terry Gicking, PDDGER

Safety: Kathy Moye

Scholarship: Reem Agel

Scouting: Greg Metzgas DL

Sickness, distress and recovery: Alexandra Rogers

Soccer Shoot: **Needed**

Train Engineer: Robert Harmon

Tree Lot: Carlos Musquiz, John Betancourt ER

Veterans Bingo: Marshal Knowlton

Wood Lot: Greg Sweet

Youth Activities: **Needed**



## Exalted Ruler John Betancourt's Page

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

As I start the month of February, I am thinking about what is going to take place this month. First, we will have 29 days this month making it a Leap Year and that I have another month as the Exalted Ruler, and it has been an honor to have served as your Exalted Ruler.

Now to the fun things that will be going on at the lodge this month.

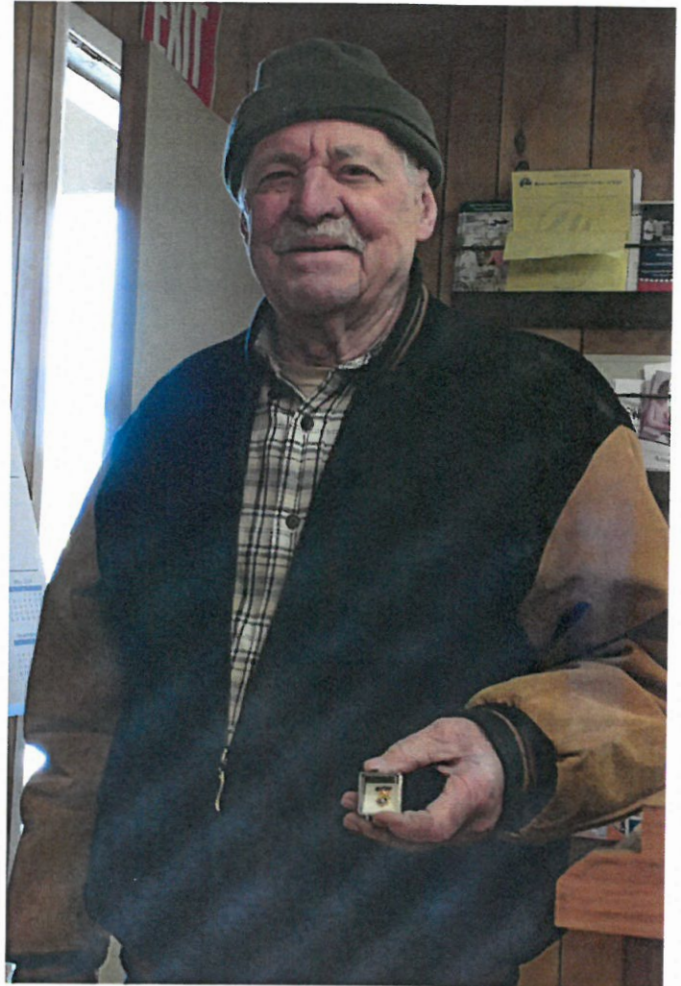
Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have our appreciation dinner for all of the volunteers from the 4 BBQ teams to thank them for all they do in making the Saturday BBQ such a Huge success. The food will be brought in by Amici's Italian Ristorante \$10 to our members. complimentary to our BBQ crews and their better halves.

Feb.11<sup>th</sup> is Super Bowl Sunday. The game starts at 3pm and we will have a Potluck at 2pm and of course we will have a 50/50 raffle and other fun things. The lodge will open at 10 for breakfast, 12 for Superbowl, 2pm for potluck. Game is at 3 PM

Another great thing is our Sunday breakfasts that we have for our members for \$10 and always our Veterans are complimentary and the last Sunday of the month is the El Konejo Kampers breakfast, \$10 and Vets are free, also look to the calendar for the Friday night dinners. Support is always needed to show how much we appreciate our members who take the time to prepare dinners and breakfasts for the lodge members .

February 14th, besides being Valentines Day it is also a lodge meeting where we nominate the officers for 2024-2025. Nominations and voting will take place February 28th if we have more than one member going for the same position. If not then the nominee will be elected to office by acclamation. Remember the Past exalted Rulers in their white jackets will be performing the initiation ritual so our new officers will not be confused as they learn their new parts.

Exalted Ruler, John Betancourt



Above is Richard Johnson a 41 year life member who stopped by to get his 40 year pin. He missed last years pin night, but never to late. Richard volunteers at Los Robles hospital, and takes care of our members who may need to spend a day or two at Los Robles. One stay I had he brought coffee and a paper everyday.

Editor



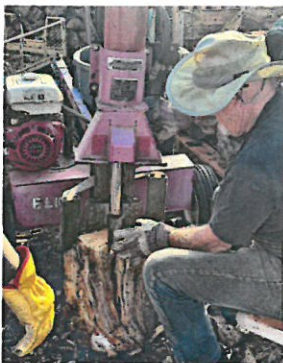
## Elk and Officer of the month January 2024

*Elk of the Month* goes to the El Konejo Kampers. The Kampers have been an outstanding group of Elks and have been a caring group not only with their serving of their breakfast on the last Sunday of each month to our lodge members and Veterans but also to the AA group that they serve from 7am to 9am. They also were generous in the funding of the 2 additional POS system's one for the bar and one for our BBQ. To close out the year they funded the money so we could purchase a top of the line Hobart Slicer for the BBQ. My sincere thanks goes to each and everyone of the El Konejo Kampers.

*Officer of the Month* goes to our Trustees. This group is responsible for making sure that our lodge is in a good financial position for the year. This is not an easy position to be in and the members owe each and everyone of the Trustees a Thank You for keeping the lodge in good standing.. As the Exalted Ruler I have a deep respect for the Trustees. Thanks for a great job.

### Membership Stats

Membership as of April 1st 2023	425
Total new members to date	33
Total membership loss	14
Delinquency as of 12/6/2023 6.59 %	27
Average age	67.59
Gain/ Loss	25
Total Membership as of 12/06/2023	450



Wood lot crew hard at work. Dave Anderson on the right back at it after a tree took him to the mat. Can't keep a good man down. Gerry Gillies and Greg Sweet on the splitter. If I missed someone I apologize. The sun was in my eye's. On the right is the wood in waiting to meet solid steel with our wood splitter. The splitter needs some TLC, t's been quitting on us. Gerry Gillies coming back later to clean it up and give it a tune up. An engine that can actually be worked on. Old School. Our Tree Lot crews goes out and picks up all that wood to use at our BBQ's. Thanks guys. Anyone want to get down and dirty contact the office and I'll put you in touch.



## February Birthday's

- Jennifer Hassell- 01
- Alan Azoff-03
- David Biedebach-03
- Terry Gicking-04
- Suzanne Osgood-04
- Nick Schiele-04
- William Fulton-05
- Craig Burns-07
- Allen Zarkin-07
- Rick Herrera-08
- Robert Scudder-09
- Pattie Queen-11
- Joseph Smith-11
- Charles Pederson-16
- Dean Reichle-16
- Jan Robles-17
- Robert Phillips-18
- Steven Ondrak-19
- Christine Harrison-20
- Antonia Hartin-20
- Robert Huffman-20
- Bill O'Shea-20
- Terry Baker-21
- James Anderson-23
- Kevin Gullick-23
- James Abbit-24
- Chase Newton-25
- Tina Paul-25
- Edward DaCorsi-27





# Ron Watkins Leading Knight Charity- Community Activities-ENF-Purple Pig

## Greetings To The Best People On Earth. (BPOE)

I would like to invite you to please attend our lodge meetings. Twice a month 2nd and fourth Wednesday's at 7 PM. We are at a critical time. We will be having nominations for lodge Officers. We need the best from our membership. It is with deep regret to tell you that membership is stagnant, participation is declining and therefore it may be necessary to reduce the days and hours that the lodge is open.

Please come and get involved to help change this direction. There is something for everyone and at any ability to do.

We are looking for members to join committee's to help in; Lodge and Youth activities, Marketing, Membership, Drug Awareness and phone tree. We have other committee's as well. Feel free to give me a call at Ron Watkins 805-231-1194 Leading Knight 2023-2024 and next year Exalted Ruler.



*Bunco Night*  
*Thousand Oaks Elk Lodge*  
*Thursday February 7th, 2024*

**WE WILL START ON TIME AT 6:00 PM**

*Please arrive in enough time to eat, get check in, grab a drink and find your seat!*

*Come down to the Lodge for an evening of fun!*

*It's Bunco Time - Let's Roll!*

*Come join us for a fun filled evening and help us raise money for the Lodges various charities!*

*Don't know how to play Bunco? Don't worry, we'll show you how!  
Bunco is played on the first Thursday of each month!*

*Everyone is welcome, bring your family & friends to play!*

*Now on Thursday's*

*Food available, Raffles, 50/50,  
great people & good fun!*

*\$10 Buy In*

Food available.

Please R.S.V.P. to Lyssa Wright so she knows how many tables to set up. Contact Information is 818-404-2123 lyssa@iswright.net



## From the lodge members;

At Christmas time we were asked to help out 22 high school students that live in their cars and attend school at the Conejo Valley Unified School District headquarters on Janss Rd. The lodge delivered Groceries cards and target cards so they could pick up what they need. One lodge member donated groceries cards and the lodge picked up the rest.

With grant money we were able to donate \$3,000 to Manna food bank and \$3,000 to Food Share in Ventura.

Played Bingo with the Vets at the VA, Took them out to Black Angus for a steak lunch.

We donated \$6,313.00 for Veterans services.

We have two members who donates 6 hours every Saturday morning to hand out food at food banks in the area. Casey Boggiano and Diana Jones. Casey works the BBQ every Saturday. Diana pitched in at Thanksgiving along with Casey. Their miles driven and time spent at the food pantry the Grand Lodge put a dollar amount of \$11,320 WOW!! Adds up quick.

The poker tournament allowed us to donate to Senior Concerns, Americans Serving Americans and the Elk National Foundation to a tune of \$10,363.00

Donated \$1900.00 in school supplies, \$500 in blankets for a senior retirement home.

Held two diaper dashes and donated \$170.00 from a 50/50 to the James Storehouse in Newbury Park. Google James Store House, they have a lot going on this year. They help with foster children and safe parental visitations.

Helped the Thousand Oaks High school baseball boosters with 2 spaghetti fund raisers to raise funds for a pitching machine and rubber padding for the backstops.

4 lodge members spent time at "for the troops" Filling boxes to ship off overseas.

Blue Star Mom's filled boxes from donations from the lodge to send to a son's platoon.

# Loyal Knight Carolyn Shipley

Lodge Activities, Kitchen, Veterans

## Bingo with the Veterans

Friday December 8th Marshall Knowlton a 59 year member and other lodge volunteers, drove out to the Sepulveda VA Building 99 to play Bingo with the veterans.

From the lodge were Marshall Knowlton, Rick Beal, and Steve Kerman and played with 13 Veterans and 3 assistants . Everyone's a winner. May seem like a small gesture but we are appreciated. The Veterans win quarters so they can use them in the vending machines and we brought fruits and dessert.

The Month of January, February and maybe longer the facility will be down for renovation.

We will be contacted when we can return. Thankyou guys for volunteering and making their day a bit brighter.

We are looking for a Veterans Chair person contact Ron Watkins if interested.

## Line Dancing at the lodge Thursday February 22nd 7PM



## From the House Committee

To 2477 Lodge Members.  
Why are we starting to require the use of online ticketing for Lodge dinners and Events?

Our past planning practices for events and dinners sometimes result in laborious RSVP methods and either insufficient or excessive food waste. To address this, we needed to equip our event planners and dinner preparers with improved planning tools.

What we have done to address the issues above:

We replaced the outdated manual cash register in the Lodge Lounge with Square, an automated point-of-sale system that allows us to now track bar inventory and sales data.

Streamlining operations with Square has been a game-changer for the Lodge. It's online ticketing capability provides a more precise count of attendees than traditional RSVP methods of maintaining paper lists of potential attendees. The new system allows Lodge event/dinner cooks to prepare the appropriate amount of food, reducing waste and ensuring everyone gets enough.

Many of our Lodge Members have embraced the ease of online ticket purchases. All of this translates to greater operational efficiency, reduced waste, and ultimately, a more streamlined member experience.

Thank You

9 Member House Committee

---



# Leo Rodriguez happy retirement



MC DUO David Naccarato and Adam (Smitty) Smith with Leo in the middle.



Lodge friends Rick Herrera and Evie  
With Rick and Suzanne Beal and guest



Enjoying Amici's Italian flair

78 years in the making. Leo Rodriguez Exalted Ruler 2012-2013

Retired from California Lutheran University. After 28 years.

Leo is a 22 year member of the Elks.

Thank You to all who came out to celebrate with Leo, He had a good time with all his friends from CLU David Grannis was in the house

David is a member who Leo sponsored.



# Quotes from the great Wapiti That's Elk in Native American



The Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge is here to inculcate the principles of our order- Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and fidelity. To recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members.

With that being said, we are a business also. The lodge has membership dues, while this is a good source of net-net dollars the dues must cover costs of statements, membership cards, key cards, postage, the cost of the Ritual team, State, Mid-Term and Grand lodge conventions, cost of printing and mailing of the lodge newsletter, plus the cost of the lodge office and staff. There is little chance that any surplus funds will be available from the membership dues.

(one question that is asked at the end of every Lodge year is: )

Did the membership dues actually cover the costs of these budgeted items? Dues are not used to pay costs of other lodge functions. They must earn income to cover the costs or by other methods.

All dinners and food programs should have a food cost of 30 -35 %.

Unfortunately, it's been much higher. That's when the house committee that includes the 4 chair officers and the trustee's may implement a procedure to make sure we are in the black and not treading water. A \$12 dollar Friday night dinner with food costs of 35%, still needs to figure in Bar staffing, Edison, Gas Co., janitorial, Spectrum. Same bills you all have at home.

The actual lodge dues have not been raised but many lodges have raised theirs's. You know prices are higher and the lodge is in the same boat. Coming down for a dinner, a taco, burger or even a drink with friends it all helps.

All members are invited to a House Committee meeting. Your idea's are warranted. We need to hear from you.

Lodge dues \$128.00 + Elks liability ins. \$40= \$168.00

Editor



# Police and Firefighters Appreciation Night Friday March 1st 2024 5:30

Come and pay Tribute to the men and women of our local First Responders.  
Enjoy a dinner of Tri-Tip, Ribs and Chicken, beans, garlic bread and coleslaw.

Friday March 1st 5:30 \$20

Prepared by Jill Williams, Carlos Musquiz (retired Fire Fighter) and crew

Come and meet our local officials

Awards given to Ventura County Sheriff and Fire

L.A County Sheriff and Fire

**A Must not miss event! Sign up sheet on bulletin board.**



## PAST EXALTED RULERS

### 2023-2024 OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler-John Betancourt  
Leading Knight-Ron Watkins  
Loyal Knight-Carolyn Shipley  
Lecturing Knight-John Puckett  
Secretary-David Naccarato  
Treasurer-Richard Platt  
Esquire-Terry Gicking  
Chaplain-Rita DaCorsi

### 2023-2024 TRUSTEES

One year-Reem Agel  
Two Year -Steve Kerman  
Three Year-Ed Lees  
Four Year-Kathy Moye



**Elk of the year-**

**Gregg Miraglia**

**Officer of the year-**

**John Betancourt**

**Citizen of the year-**

**Vinny Ciullini**

**Grand Exalted Ruler**

**Outstanding Members-**

**Kathy Moye**

**Bryan Gicking**

72-72 Marvin D Smith\*  
73-74 Erle Pitman PDD  
74-75 Richard Flake\*  
75-76 Bill Wagner\*  
76-77 John Henry\*  
77-78 Robert McKee PDD\*  
78-79 Frank Rindone PDD\*  
79-80 Ed Stogsdell\*  
80-81 Frank Hastie\*  
81-82 Robert Hardy\*  
82-83 John Nichols\*  
83-84 John Nau  
84-85 Vern Ogden\*  
85-86 Dan Snyder\*  
86-87 Bill Lloyd PDD, DL\*  
87-88 Jack Henry\*  
88-89 Ted Lipka\*  
89-90 Don Skinner  
91-92 Don Ansell\*  
91-92 Gary Sleight\*  
92-93 Tom Ryder PDD  
93-94 Jim Wallace\*  
94-95 George Pekow\*  
95-96 Gil Riding PDD\*  
96-97 Jack Loughran\*  
97-98 John Kelly\*  
98-99 Chet Kozlowski\*  
99-20 Richard Goldner PDD  
20-01 Jacob Panzcak  
01-02 John D. Ambrogio\*  
02-03 Don Booker  
03-04 Greg Metzgus PDD,DL  
04-05 Jay Block\*

05-06 Sally Claunch\*  
06-07 David Naccarato  
07-08 Catherine Koeritz  
08-09 George Meehan\*  
09-10 Terry Gicking PDD  
10-11 Harry Brockwell\*  
11-12 Steve Smith  
12-13 Leo Rodriguez  
13-14 Terry Baker  
14-15 Dan Martyn  
15-16 Jim Moye  
16-17 Mike Flannery  
17-18 Jean Miraglia  
18-19 Karen Martyn  
19-20 Dan Hoffman  
20-21 Dan Martyn  
21-22 Richard Platt  
22-23 Terry Gicking PDD

**\*Deceased**

### BY AFFILIATION

81-82 Robert Thornton\*  
01-03 Bill Sternberg\*  
09-10, 13-14, 18-19 Grace Vega  
99-00 Ralph Vester\*  
83-84, 02-03 Harold Constantine

**\*DECEASED**



## From the House Committee

To 2477 Lodge Members.

**Why are we starting to require the use of online ticketing for Lodge dinners and Events?**

Our past planning practices for events and dinners sometimes result in laborious RSVP methods and either insufficient or excessive food waste. To address this, we needed to equip our event planners and dinner preparers with improved planning tools.

**What we have done to address the issues above:**

We replaced the outdated manual cash register in the Lodge Lounge with Square, an automated point-of-sale system that allows us to now track bar inventory and sales data.

Streamlining operations with Square has been a game-changer for the Lodge. Its online ticketing capability provides a more precise count of attendees than traditional RSVP methods of maintaining paper lists of potential attendees. The new system allows Lodge event/dinner cooks to prepare the appropriate amount of food, reducing waste and ensuring everyone gets enough.

Many of our Lodge Members have embraced the ease of online ticket purchases. All of this translates to greater operational efficiency, reduced waste, and ultimately, a more streamlined member experience.

Thank You, House Committee.