

March 2024 Volume 52 issue 12

Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477

Of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

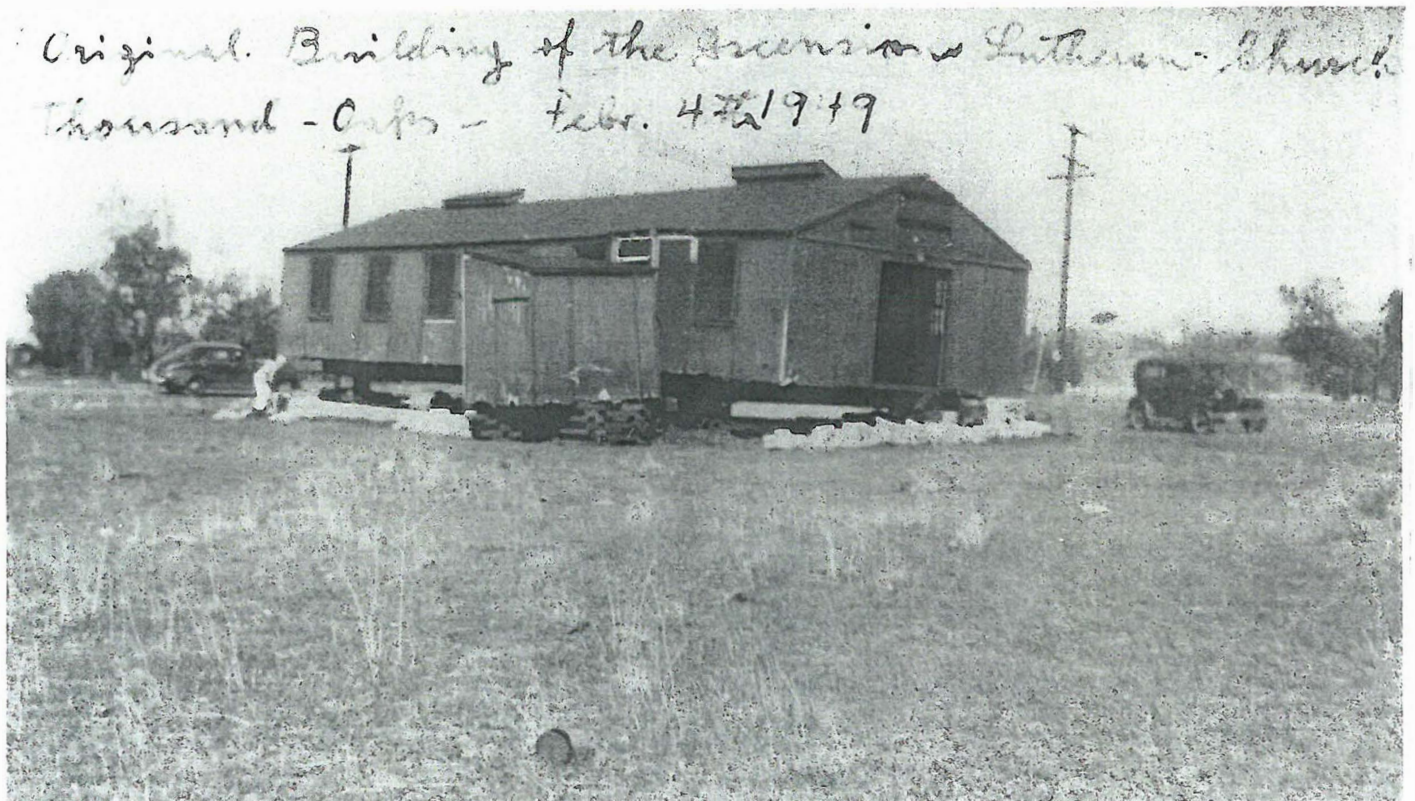
Antler Antics



52 years of service to our community

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

Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477: chartered February 1972 and instituted March 25, 1972. Sponsorship of the lodge provided by Oxnard Lodge and the Installation of Officers was held in the Thousand Oaks High School Gym with the first inaugural ball being held immediately after at the Oxnard Lodge. Both events were well attended by the Charter members and their Ladies. July 1973 we moved to our current location. With several remodels and updates we now have the facility that you know as the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge.



Phase One-Purchasing the building from the Ascension Lutheran Church which was first here 1949

How it all came about by PDDGER Tomas Ryder

Part I

The Beginning –

The year was 1971 Richard Nixon was president of the United States, Ronald Regan was the Governor of California and Ernest Olivieri from Sonora was the California Elks State President. The West Central Coast District as we now know it was established in the 1967/68 lodge year and by 1971 consisted of seven lodges with William "Bill" Vickery the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler that year.

There were approximately 27,000 people living in Thousand Oaks and two high schools, Thousand Oaks High and Newbury Park High, in the local area. Westlake was being developed and their high school was just a twinkle in some ones eye. Some of our current members were not born yet.

Thousand Oaks Elks lodge's formation was the result of an innocent conversation during an afternoon get together of two men, Dick Flake and Vern McNaboe, at the Holiday Inn bar in Newbury Park. As Dick had been a member of the Garden Grove Elks lodge prior to relocating to Newbury Park and Vern a Charter Trustee of the San Fernando Lodge their conversation eventually got around to the Order of Elks.

As their conversation continued another man at the bar introduced himself and asked if there was an Elks lodge in Thousand Oaks. Dick and Vern told him no, but they wished there were one. This man then asked Dick for his name and phone number which Dick wrote down on an available cocktail napkin and gave to him. After leaving both Dick and Vern promptly forgot about the meeting.

About two weeks later after Dick got home from work his wife informed him that someone had called about starting a Lodge in the Thousand Oaks area and if he, Dick, was serious to give him a call back. It seems the person that Dick and Vern had talked to at the Holiday Inn was John Armstrong a Past Exalted Ruler (PER) of the Ventura Lodge and the West Central Coast District's New Lodge Chairman. As a result of Dick's call back to John, a dinner meeting was arranged to discuss formation of a new lodge. In attendance at this dinner was Ralph Sussmark a PER from the Canoga Park lodge and at that time the California-Hawaii Elks Association's New Lodge Chairman. Ralph and John, two dedicated Elks, outlined the problems that could and would be encountered in the start up of a new

lodge. They offered to help when needed and without their help there would have been no Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge. John and Ralph at this time stated it would be necessary to name an Organizational Chairman for the undertaking and that Dick was the logical choice.

Dick met with five of his co-workers who he knew to have been Elks before and asked for their help. Bob Sauter, George Vivamore, Frank Rindone, Jon Sycott, and Robert Jennings agreed to help and the process for establishing a new lodge was underway. Vern McNaboe was part this team.

One of the first orders of business was to obtain some working capital necessary to fund the work to be done. As Grand Lodge provides no financial help in the starting of a new lodge each of the original organizers contributed fifty dollars to an expense fund.

A start up committee was formed and furnished with a listing of "Stray Elks" in the Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park and Camarillo areas. A letter was sent to each man asking if they would be interested in establishing an Elks lodge in the area. Response to this letter was anything but overwhelming! Unfazed the committee decided to try one more time. A meeting was set for Los Robles Inn and a second letter was sent.

The time is now February 1971 and if you guessed that this was the night of the big earthquake, February 16th you were right! But who among the organizers would say the Elks lodge effort was off to a shaky beginning?

Attendance at the Los Robles meeting was not what was hoped for! But in view of the earthquake it was assumed that those that did not attend were to be dedicated Elks where family comes first and these were the kind of Elks needed to form the new lodge.

As with all lodges finances are always in question and always a constant thought. Where to get funding to continue was the question. To offset early expenses a bottle of spirits was raffled off and to show you the kind of Elks who attended were and to their resolve, this first bottle was donated back and raffled off six more times.

With this kind of support it was evident that these men could not continue meeting at Los Robles Inn.

How it all came about by PDDGER Tomas Ryder

Part 2

It also became evident that someone who was better known in the community and who had resided in the community longer than most of the men doing the organizing the new lodge was needed.

Enter Erle "Doc" Pittman, a well known businessman in Thousand Oaks, agreed to become Dick Flakes co-chairman.

In an effort to lower meeting costs it was decided the new meeting place would be DuPar's Restaurant and Pub. In a short time it was decided that due to DuPar's restrictions on fund raising efforts at the meetings, a new place was needed.

John Farhat, a member of the Culver City Elks Lodge, to the rescue! He lived in the Lynn Ranch area of Thousand Oaks and as this was a horse area John had a tack room on the property. He offered this room for their use at no cost. Great! While meeting a John's, Erle and Dick continued to search for something bigger, affordable and able to be used as a full time lodge.

Dispensation was received from the Grand Lodge allowing the group to continue efforts to form a lodge in the Thousand Oaks Area. All they needed were 300 members. 300. Impossible! They finally did it with 252 men, some past/present Elks living in the area, some new members.

Meanwhile one evening Erle called Dick and stated that he had found a place that could be used and was affordable. By cigarette lighter they inspected a warehouse in the industrial area off of Skyline Drive behind what was then the Thousand Oaks Moose Lodge. The owner of the building and later to become a charter member of the lodge made an offer they couldn't refuse. They had a new home!

Phone committees were formed, lists of stray Elks were distributed and events were planned and put in motion at the new quarters. Anything to attract prospective new candidates.

The list of potential members promising to join continued to grow as did the enthusiasm of all involved.

Somewhere about now the group started a newsletter to pass information on to interested persons. This newsletter was first edited and published by Bob McGregor of Conejo Graphics

and then edited by Tommy "The Author" Thompson. This newsletter became the Antler Antics as it is know to this day.

It was a most happy day when it was announced in our newsletter, edited by Tommy "The Author" Thompson, that it was necessary for all involved to come to the lodge and sign the request for a Charter to be given to their group. 297 men signed the request and current Elks and future Elks were assured of establishment of a lodge in the Conejo Valley area.

In February 1972 the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge was chartered and then instituted on March 25th 1972.

Sponsorship of the Thousand Oaks lodge was provided by the Oxnard lodge. Tad DeBoni of the Oxnard Lodge was the officiating officer at the institution. Tad at this time was the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler representing the West Central Coast District of Elkdom.

The Institution of the Lodge, initiation of new members and installation of Officers was held in the Thousand Oaks High School gym with the first Inaugural Ball being held after immediately after installation at the Oxnard Elks Lodge. Both events well attended by our new Elks and their ladies.

The Thousand Oaks lodge was on its way and starting to grow!

In July 1973 the lodge was moved to it's current building and with several remodels and updates we now have the facility that you know as the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge.

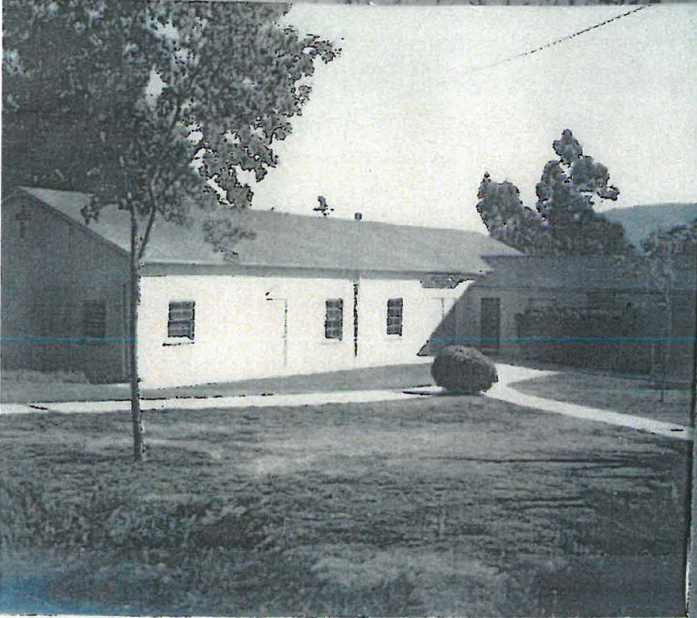
So here we are 52 years later with 425 Members, give or take a few. We own our building and working to increase membership. Remodeled our facility to attract members. Elkdom has changed a little with one of the biggest changes being that ladies are now allowed to be members (1995) and we do not refer to each other as My Brother(s)! but Sister.

To Be Continued

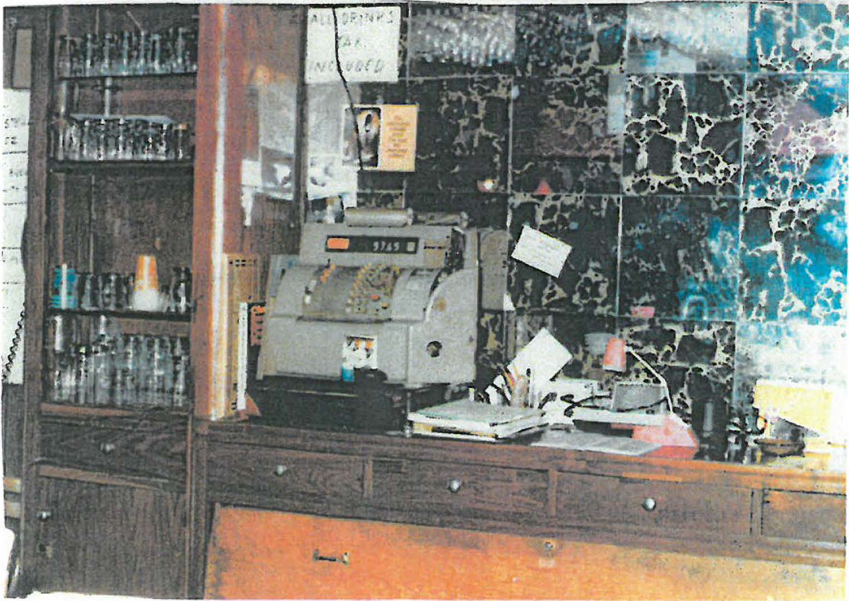
The Mission Lutheran Church
of Thousand Oaks
May - 1953



June 1951



1953



Welcome our new members



Daran Vanden Bossche with sponsor
Dennis Sannow



Mike and Carla Tello sponsor Carol
Holden from Simi Lodge #2492



Curtis & Susan Bywater with
Craig Acerboni, Sponsor



Daniel & Kathleen Guiney Spon-
sor Lyssa Wright not pictured.



John Schreiber with sponsor
Debbi Ann Reed

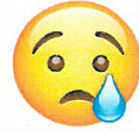
Crying Towel

January 10 capsule draw \$275 William Kaszycki not present.

Lucky 13 \$75 Lyssa Wright no winner.

January 24 Capsule drawing \$300 Jeff Vargo not present.

Lucky 13 \$90, Jill Williams no winner.



Lodge Hours and Communications.

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

Wednesday meeting nights *may* be open later according to attendance.

Saturday 12PM to 6PM Saturday BBQ 10am-2pm

Sunday breakfasts Twice a month start at 10 AM– 12pm. Check Your Calendar

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

Lounge / Room Rental Phone 805-496-4550

Email- toelks2477@gmail.com

Web address://2477elks.com/ Password– 1972. Order dinner tickets online.

<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 Metzger 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**

Applications to be investigated and balloted on March 13th

Sharon Barbusa– retired– sponsored by Craig Acerboni
Dan Bamonte– Chef/ Bartender-sponsored by Craig Acerboni
Elizabeth Deluca-Real Estate– Sponsored by Craig Acerboni
Steven Domanski –Firefighter-Sponsored by Matt Cain
Johnathon McReynolds– plumber– sponsored by Billy O’Shea
Charles P. and Christina Norris– retired-sponsored by Kelly Jo Reed.
Charles (Chuck) Norris– Health Care-sponsored by Kelly Jo Reed
Michael Ortiz– Senior Director-sponsored by Lyssa Wright
Scott Schilling– Security– Sponsored by Debbi Reed
Jeffrey Mortlock– Department of Defense– sponsored by David Naccarato

Sickness, Distress and Recovery.

K.C. Radomski
P.E.R. Harold Constantine wearing a heart monitor.
Alexandra Rogers in for Knee replacement. Yeah, heard that one before.
Reem Agel in recovery after major surgery. Taking it slow but has been seen at the lodge.
Dorothy Hardie in an convalescent home. Covid finally hit her, COPD, pneumonia, sepsis flu, but she's a trooper
be home soon.
Ed DaCorsi recovering from a fall.
Kelly Jo Reed’s Mother hospitalized with blood infection.
Reem Agel has no residual cancer.
Granddaughter of Greg and Barbara Metz Gus twisted an ankle and broke the other leg.

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 Metz Gus DL
Kathy Moyer PEOTY
Jim Moyer PER

David Naccarato PER
Richard Platt PER
Victor Pesce **Latest**
Alexandra Rogers
Carol Spinner
Paul Stein
Greg Sweet
Dolores “Dee” Thomas
Jill Williams PEOTY
Lyssa Wright

**Thousand Oaks Lodge
2477 is #1 in the district
for recurring donors. #2
in Per Capita Thank You
members.**



Purple Pig Honor Roll

Bobby Williams
Ben Rieger
Jean and Gregg Miaglia
Bunco Crew
Darryl Kopacz
Douglas Brown (Century Club)
Dave Anderson (All silver)
Lyssa Wright (Century Club x 5)
David Naccarato
Greg Metz Gus
Diana Jones
Football opportunity participants
Bunco players
Mike Nolan Challenge
Paul Stein
Reem Agel

Exalted Ruler John Betancourt's Page

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

As we enter the month of March we find ourselves getting ready for Day Light Savings March 10th, St. Patrick Day February 17th, Easter Sunday March 31st, and my term as your Exalted Ruler coming to an end.

It has been an honor to be your Exalted Ruler for the 2023-2024 term. It is an eye opener when you become the Exalted Ruler. It is one I am very proud to have been a part of and checked off my bucket list. To list all of what was done during my year as Exalted Ruler would be great, but I feel the members know what was accomplished during the year. A couple of things that I will mention is that one, thanks to Ed Lees, the lodge has moved forward in that we have a better system of accounting with the POS system that Ed installed not only for the bar but with our BBQ. Another great event was the poker tournament that raised \$10,000 for charitable organizations in our community.

Another great addition to the lodge's biggest income stream is the BBQ. The lodge purchased a new Hobart slicer for the BBQ. Why is this special? With this new slicer the BBQ teams can cut down on waste when slicing a tri-tip roast, it gives us more sandwiches to sell. A win, win for the lodge. A huge thankyou to the El Konejo Kampers. We were able to purchase these items due to their generosity, Thanks to Ed Lees for making the lodge better with the POS system and the El Konejo Kampers for making this happen.



To the members of the lodge, I appreciate you all for the support and encouragement you have given me during this past year. We had to make one or two choices that were not always received well by the members but in the end we all knew that it was for the good of the lodge, so thank you.

To the Officers, Trustees, and Past Exalted Rulers. I thank you very much for all your support during this past year. At times we did not see eye to eye but in the end we both knew it was always about the good of the lodge.

In closing my only hope moving forward is that our members show the same support that you gave me to the new Exalted Ruler and the incoming Officers and Trustees for the coming Elk year 2024-2025 and that we all do our very best in making our lodge, #2477, bigger and better, I know that I will.

John Betancourt 2023-2024

Down to the wire;

Thank You to Dave Anderson for installing the soap dispenser in the Lodge office the correct way.

David tells me how the dues are coming in. Not too much problem with the new system, its just different. I know how valuable that early bird sticker is.

Thank you to the members who dug deep and added donations to their dues. The assessment is charged to all Elk members. With that being said our dues at \$128 are not the highest or lowest in the district. Were right in the meat of the curve.

We held a memorial for a 27 year member and past Trustee of our lodge Boyd Linquist.

Boyd Ernest Linquist was born September 24th 1954 in Maywood California. Boyd was married to Gayla Linquist. Tom Corrigan was his sponsor and proposed him for membership in early June. On July 23rd 1997 Boyd took the oath of membership. John Kelly was the Exalted Ruler and Bill Lloyd was the lodge Secretary, Boyd served as Trustee during the administration of Catherine Koeritz and George Meehan. Being in construction, Boyd was very involved during the new lodge rebuild during the 2005-2007. Sadly Boyd Lindquist passed away January 24th 2024 after a strong fight with cancer.

Elk and Officer of the month March 2024

Elk of the Month Carlos Musquiz, My choice for this month is Carlos Musquiz. Carlos is one Elk that when you ask him if he is available to help out he jumps right in. Crew chief for Team 1 of the BBQ, Tree lot coordinator, of which I will be joining him this year and head master of the grill on New Members Initiation night. He knows how to cook one heck of a cheeseburger. In my time as an Elk and getting to know Carlos I can say that he is a great person to be around and I appreciated all of the support he has given me this year as the ER. Congratulations Carlos and enjoy the parking space as Elk of the Month.

Officer of the Month 2023-2024 Lodge Officer Team

My choice will be the Officers who have served with me. Leading Knight, Ron Watkins, Loyal Knight, Carolyn Shipley, Lecturing Knight, John Puckett, Secretary, David Naccarato, Treasurer, Richard Platt, Esquire, Terry Gicking, Chaplain, Rita DaCorsi, Inner Guard, Lyssa Wright, and Tiler, Gregg Miraglia and Brett Taylor. It takes a team, and it has been my pleasure to be part of this team. I wish

Membership Stats

Membership as of April 1st 2023	425
Total new members to date	47
Total membership loss	22
Delinquency as of 2/19/2024 4.94 %	21
Average age	67.66
Gain/ Loss	26
Life Members	44 10.35%
Total Membership as of 2/19/2024	451

Leading Knight Challenge Activities Winners!

Fishing excursion Winners



- John Schreiber (member)
- Steven Mejia
- Lyssa Wright (member)

Whale watching excursion



- Jim Vigdor (associate member)
- Lola Barrera
- Mike Lopata (member)

Thank you to all who participated. Saturday morning May 18th, during the Exalted Rulers March at the State Convention in Fresno our Exalted Ruler, Ron Watkins will walk across the stage and present a check of the Monies our lodge has donated to the Major Project, (Purple Pig) and this is part of it. Thank You all again.



March Birthday's

- Harvey Flam- 01
- Leslie Smith-01
- Craig Acerboni-03
- Alan Van Cleave-03
- Lyssa Wright-03
- Timi Vaughn-03
- James Coon-05
- Dee Ansell-06
- Katherine Phillipson-06
- Milton Price-06
- David Cundy-07
- Tom Hartin-08
- Mark Rediger-08
- Michael Lee Callahan-09
- James Lovato-11
- Lennard Benson-12
- Carmine Prizzi-12
- Kathleen Guiney-14
- Kevin Metzgas-16
- Carlos Muzquiz-16
- Casey Boggiano-17
- Ed Lees-17
- Mike Throne-17
- Phillip Johnson-19
- Richard Platt-19
- Jill Williams-20
- Jeff Albaeck-21
- Douglas Beven-21
- Jay Schmidt-21
- Gary Erland-22
- Douglas Ryan-22
- Kim Baumann-23
- Richard Goldner PDDGER-24
- Paul Nash-24
- Karen Hefty-26
- David Guerra-31



March 25th 1972

Ron Watkins Leading Knight

Charity- Community Activities-ENF-Purple Pig

It's a great honor to be nominated and elected to be your Exalted Ruler for the Elk year of 2024-2025. Our previous leaders have done a terrific job in helping us through the challenges of the past few years.

Now it's time to MAKE ELKS GREAT AGAIN!

Do you remember why you joined the Elks Lodge?

During many years of new member orientation, almost everyone agrees that they want to give back to the community, and what a great thing that is! I really don't think there is a more rounded organization that does more for the communities across the United States than the B.P.O.E.

BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH! It's true, members volunteer countless hours, to help their communities in which they live in. We are a volunteer organization.

So I'm asking you, my fellow members to renew your commitment to volunteer, no matter how small or how big but to help make Thousand Oaks Elks lodge 2477 from good to great! Lets put some real fun back into the lodge. There is literally something that any member can help with, from the simplest of making phone calls, helping in the kitchen, helping with events, barbecue teams, breakfast teams, working with our youth, drug awareness, the list is endless. So I'm asking every member to join at least one committee. There is a list of committee's in the Antler Antic's.

Please call me if you have any questions or idea's. My number is 808-231-1194.

I am also asking you to invite the best people you know to the events you most enjoy. You can bring as many people as you like. Show them how proud you are of your Elks Lodge.

We are going to pack this place with fun activities. With your help!

You can count on me, can I count on you?

P.S. As of today February 20th, officer positions remain unfilled, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Chaplain, Inner Guard as well as several committee chairs. Without these positions filled the lodge will not be able to provide events and activities that we have been accustomed to over the years.

Ron Watkins Leading Knight.

Exalted Ruler Elect.

I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper, Two by three inches in size. It is of no intrinsic worth, not a bond, check, or receipt for values, yet it is my most prized possession.

It is my membership card in the Benevolent and Protective order of Elks of the United States of America. It tells me that I am an American citizen- the proudest in all the world that can be conferred upon a man or woman. It tells me that I am the peer of emperors and kings, the ruler of my own destiny, the maker of my own fortune. It tells me that I am a citizen of a land where democracy rules, where brotherhood prevails, where tolerance holds away, and where justice is enthroned.

It tells me that I have joined with 800,000 other Americans in pledging allegiance to our country and its laws; in placing the American flag first in our hearts as Loyal Americans and first upon our alter as loyal Elks.

It tells me that I have entered a spiritual and material kindship with my fellow Elks to practice Charity in thought word and deed; to forgive and forget the faults of my brothers and sisters, to hush the tongue of scandal and innuendo; to care for the crippled, the hungry and the sick; and to be just to all mankind.

It tells me that in 2200 cities under good fellowship, prevails a home among brothers, sisters and friends; a borne dedication not only to the high principles for which this order of Elks stands, but to the need of play, which is inherent in the heart of every member.

It tells me that my loved ones, my home, my fireside, and my household, are under the protection of every member of this great order, who has sworn to protect and defend mine, as I have sworn to protect theirs.

It tells me that should I ever be overtaken by adversity, the hand of every Elk in all the world will be stretched forth to assist me in my necessities.

And finally, it tells me, brothers and sisters, that when my final exit from the stage of life has been made, there will be gathered in my lodge room, friends and brothers, who, when the eleventh hour has struck, will recall to mind my virtues, though they may be few, and will write faults, though they may be many, upon the sands. Reprinted from Elks Magazine 1932

Loyal Knight Carolyn Shipley

Kitchen, Lodge Activities, Veterans



Now is the time to be an involved member.

The lodge runs on volunteer help no one is paid here.

Here's what we need

- 1, Lodge table set up and take down, my Dad always said "many hands make light work".**
- 2, Get on a BBQ crew, no reason for members to work more than one a month. Except it's fun!**
- 3, Help with the wood lot. Splitting, stacking and pickup when a tree comes available.**
- 4, Breakfast crews needed. This is your lodge, it is a volunteer system. Get on board, make us proud. All supervised by an experienced trainer, me**
- 5, Thursday Night Burgers and Hotdogs. Can't get any easier than that. Lodge picks up the costs. Just need your time and labor.**

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**

John Puckett Lecturing Knight- Youth Activities

District Hoop-Shoot held in Paso Robles Left to Right
 Ally Merilos 1st place 10-11 yrs, Pierce Jacobson, Joseph Drake,
 John Betancourt, Noah Guigui, 1st place 8-9 Boys,
 Emma Cassar 3rd place 8-9 Girls, Kendal Sullivan



Tom Triugham chairman with Ally Merilos won state and is going to Boulder City NV for the 10-11 yr. old area Shoot.



Noah Guigui 1st place in district shoot. Missed State by 1 basket. He will try again next year



Emma Cassar 3rd place 8-9 girls

This Just In!



11 year old Ally Merilos from Thousand Oaks lodge #2477 won first place, Area 7 in the Elks, Hoop-Shoot contest held in Boulder City, NV. February 24th and is moving on to Chicago finals. Area 7 is Calif, Hawaii, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona.