

April 2024 Volume 53 issue 1

Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477

Of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

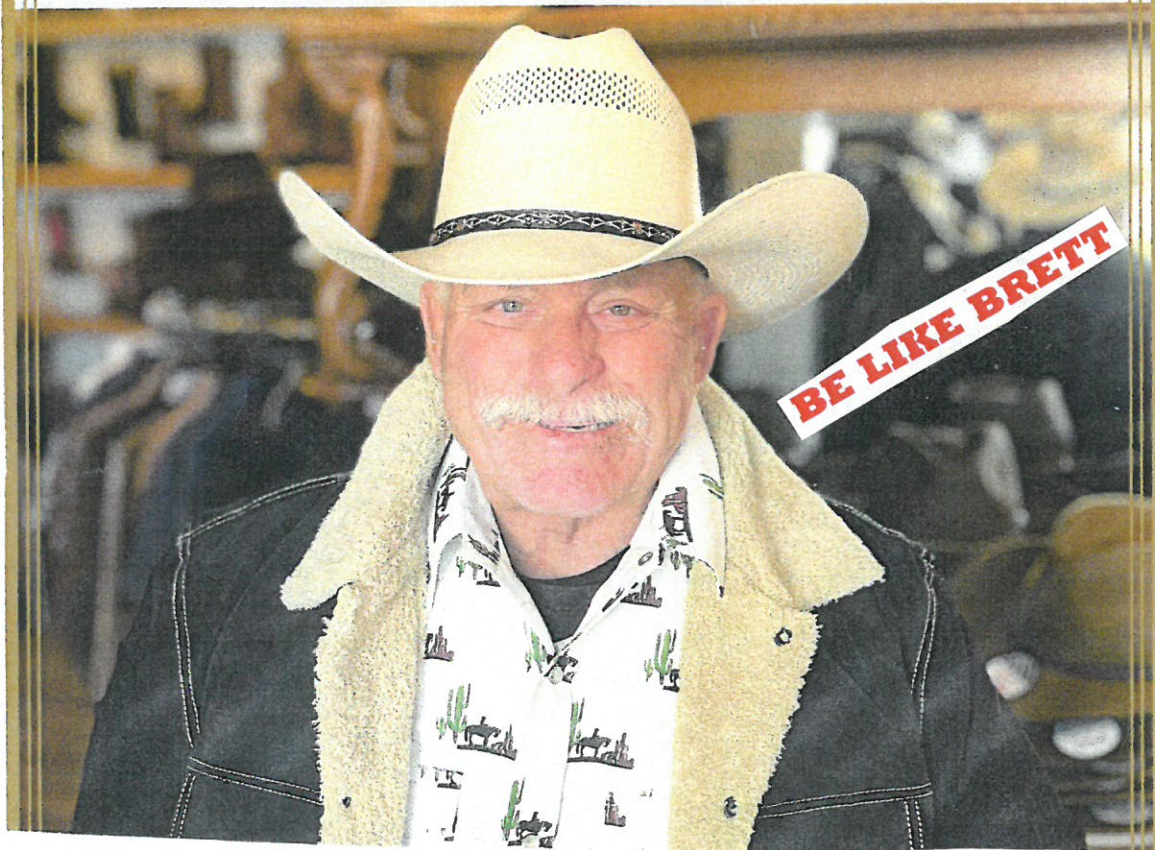
# Antler Antics



*53 years of service to our community*

**Exalted Ruler - Ron Watkins — Making Elks Great again**

**“BUCKAROO BRETT” TAYLOR**  
Conejo Valley “Good Old  
Days” Parade  
**GRAND MARSHAL 2024**



*In memory of Brett Taylor Assistant Tiler 12/2/1957-3/18/2024*

# Brett Taylor

Brett was a force to be reckoned with. I had no idea of the area he covered. Of course I had seen him around town and at the mall where he worked security. Watching the screens in the surveillance room and occasionally taking a walk around the two levels of the Thousand Oaks Mall. I first met him at the lodge where he wanted to help with the Saturday BBQ. He was given some small tasks but wanted more. For Liability concerns Carlos Muzquiz sponsored Brett into the Elks and again he wanted more. Brett became our Assistant Tiler and was to move up to Inner Guard this next fraternal year. Brett helped out on Initiation nights keeping the new candidates entertained while they waited for their time to be initiated. I soon find out he is an honorary Sheriff Deputy and a Honorary Firefighter.

Brett had also volunteered with Sgt. Rob Brady who coached the Thousand Oaks High school football team.

The Ventura County Star made mention that Brett did not have an agenda. He wanted to help with anything and anyone.

He will still be the Grand Marshall for the "Conejo Valley Good ol Days Parade" on May 5th, just before the chili cook-off.

Brett was found by his caregiver Monday morning March 18th. Reports speculate heart attack but the Star states that Brett's doctor would certify his death but did not give anymore detail.

## Membership Stats

Membership as of April 1st 2023	425
Total new members to date	55
Total membership loss	45
Average age	68.20
Gain/ Loss	10
Life Members	44 10.35%
Total Membership as of 2/19/2024	435



## April Birthday's

Andrew Lanto-02  
Greg Metzgus DL-02  
Dennis Shepherd-02  
Rosemary Prince-03  
Leo Rodriguez PER-03  
Brenda Hagen-05  
Rita DaCorsi-06  
Marl Poulin-06  
Henry Vega-06  
William Kaszycki-07  
Carolyn Shipley-07  
John Adams-08  
Allan Gottlieb-08  
Richard Ibarra-09  
Ted Barnes-10  
James Hamilton-13  
Richard Cornelison-14  
Matt McGe-14  
Isabella Goldberg-15  
Michael Wharton-15  
David Chesson-16  
Carol Stewart-16  
Ted Meyer-17  
Claudia Frappier-18  
David Hobert-18  
Zhipi McDougald-18  
Brook Taylor-21  
Marvin Gregory-23  
Nathan Aurich-24  
Steve Chiszer-24  
Roger Meyer-24  
Angela Porter-24  
Phillip Maness-26  
Adelaide Wavra-27  
Jerry Case-28  
Lynette Micheli-29  
Mark Sandstrom-30

# Welcome our new members



Jeff Hennessy with sponsor  
David Naccarato



Jason Maruhn  
Sponsored by Lyssa Wright



Brian Stocker and James Masten  
posing with DDGER Terry Gicking



Eric Nehring with Sponsor  
Richard Herrera



John Tallion Sponsored by Jim Moyo  
Kathy Moyo standing in.

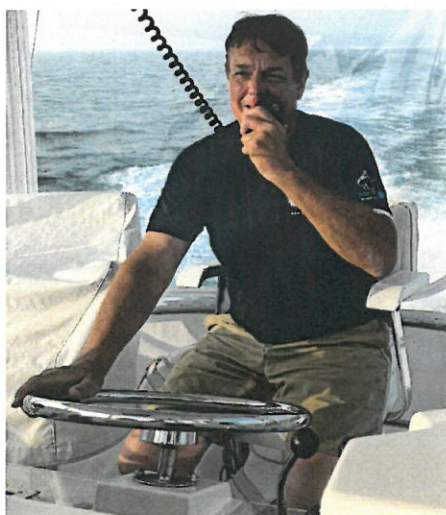


On left Tracey Hampton from Garden  
Grove lodge with new member  
Allison Geller

Not Pictured George Reming  
Sponsored  
by PER Sonia Solis from Pasadena

# Ron Watkins Exalted Ruler

Antler Antics-Auditing and Accounting- BBQ-Membership-Facilities-PER Asso.



Greetings fellow, Elks

It is a great honor to greet you as your newly elected, Exalted Ruler. It is a great privilege to take the helm.

First, I'd like to commend the work of our leaders that guided us out of the Covid challenges in pretty good shape. So, with blue skies ahead of us let's make Elk's Great Again!

We have committees that are working hard to bring fun events for everyone. We will have the traditional events that you know and love along with bringing new ideas for future events. Please come to your lodge meeting and participate. Let's create fun.

Next, I'm asking you to invite the best people you know of your friends, neighbors, and family as your guests to the lodge to share in the fun. Let's make them feel welcome so they will want to become members as well. My goal is for us to be known as. "Thousand Elks, Lodge 2477" The best people on earth!

My story?

I was born in Southern California from wonderful parents who raised me in the north end of the San Fernando Valley. I went to Ridgewood Military Academy in Woodland Hills then to Granada Hills high school, where I had the privilege to play football with John Elway. During that time, I took a part-time job for the Firestone Tire Rubber Company as a helper.

That summer I got promoted to a mechanic and became a master technician. I kept that job through high school and started college and then I was promoted to service manager and then to assistant manager of the store.

At 22 I became the general manager of a location in Reseda. I then became a managing partner of that location. The company then offered me a chance to take over the location in Thousand Oaks in Sept of 89, The day my son was born. I have one son, Travis, a US Marine. He is married with two boys.

It was there somewhere around the 90s that I met David Naccarato who introduced me to the Elks. I was initiated under Sally Claunch in 2005. I retired in 2017 after 42 years of service with Bridgestone / Firestone.

I had always been involved in Boating so in 2017 I went to school and got my US Coast Guard Master Captain's license and started a charter fishing business at the same time as my retirement. It's been an adventure! Last year we raffled off a fishing trip and took a group of Elks out for a wonderful trip, and we did it again this year for the Leading Knight Challenge.

I'm looking forward to doing more trips where we can raise money for our Major Project.

I wish you all Fairwinds and following seas,  
Your friend and Exalted Ruler  
Captain Ron.



# Loyal Knight Lyssa Wright

Lodge Activities, Kitchen, Veterans

Photo's by Jill Williams, Cooking by Jill Williams and crew, Clean up by Jill Williams and crew.



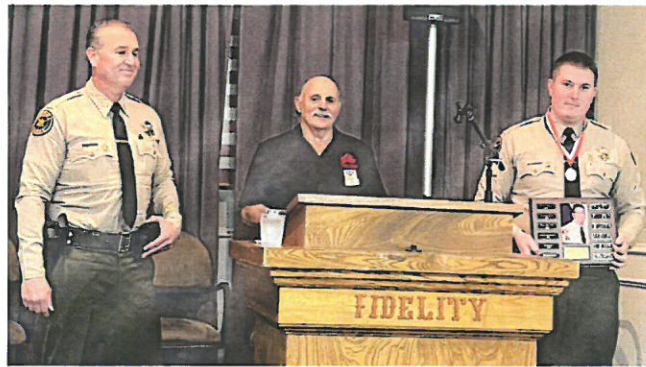
Thousand Oaks Mayor Al Adams presents City awards to Ventura County Fire Captain Mark Seastrom, L.A County Fire, Division 7, Captain Richard Pfeiffer, Ventura County Deputy Nolan Richmond and L.A. Sherriff Deputy Christian Fitzpatrick

MC, Paul Stein has been a member of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge Elks lodge for 14 years. He is involved with many Elk events including BBQ's, Tree lot, Christmas Baskets and of course the law Enforcement and Fire Fighters appreciation night which he took over from member Scott Dool who hosted the event for many, many years. Scott was waiting for the right member to come along before relinquishing the chairmanship.

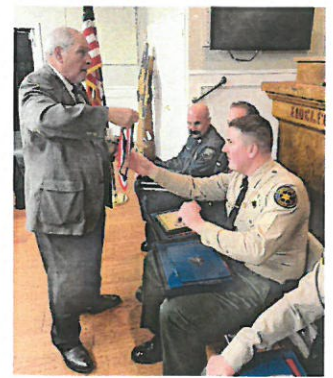
Paul Stein is a retired Fire Chief. (warning never call him a Captain) Paul had a 31 year career with Santa Monica Fire as Battalion Chief, Fire Marshall, Division Training Chief . He served as a Fire Technology Coordinator. Paul has worked as a consultant and leadership training coordinator. Paul served 25 years as Fire Chief for the Lakeside Fire Department in San Diego. Paul has a BA degree in business management and is a Master instructor for the state of California . Paul has received Fire instructor of the year award from the State of California, National Distinguished Service Award and was named the California State Firefighter of the year. Paul is married to Cheryl, his high school sweetheart for 56 years and has 6 Grand Children and 8 Great Grand Children.



Full House.



Deputy Nolan Richmond being awarded the Ron Helus perpetual plaque. Ron Helus was killed in action at the Borderline incident. The Deputy of the year has his/her name added to the plaque.



John Betancourt presenting Grand Lodge awards

## Report 2023 **Police** and **Firefighter** Recognition Event.

On March 1st 2024 our lodge conducted our 48th Law Enforcement and Firefighter Recognition event.

The overflow attendance required us to bring in additional tables and chairs. Many thanks to all the lodge volunteers who helped to make the event a success that it was. If I were to list all the helpers it would take up the entire page. We and you know who you are. Our lodge is fortunate to have Elk brothers and sisters who spend their own time for the benefit of our lodge and our entire community.

The opening ceremony conducted by Exalter Ruler John Bettencourt included a opening prayer and an extremely amazing and proficient flag Ceremony Conducted by the Ventura County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard.

The opening ceremony was a great start to the success of the program. The food served was delicious and plentiful. Thank you to our amazing cooks.

In attendance were representatives of the following: The Thousand Oaks City Council, Including Mayor Al Adam, Senator Henry Stern, Supervisor Steve Corell, State Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin, US Senate Member Julia Brownley

The recipients from our police and fire departments were: Captain Mark Seastrom, Ventura County Fire Battalion 3, Captain Richard Pfeiffer, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Sheriff Department Deputy Nolan Richmond Ventura County, Deputy Christian Fitzpatrick, Los Angeles County North Patrol Sheriff's Department.

A special perpetual plaque was presented to Deputy Nolan Richmond for Sgt. Ron Helus who was killed at the 2018 Borderline Bar Massacre. Once again thanks to all our wonderful volunteers.

Paul Stein Event Coordinator.



# Police and Firefighter Appreciation Night



John Betancourt sitting with Don Halvorson and a county official. Evie Bystrom smiling for the camera. Direct center is Councilman Bob Engler. Back Rt is Kathy Moye signaling were ready to go. Robert Harmon looking on.



Ventura County Sheriff Department Honor Guard posted the Colors in Fine Fashion

## Crying Towel

February 14 capsule draw \$325 Robert Koeritz not present.

Lucky 13 \$105 Don Halvorson no winner.

February 28 Capsule drawing \$350 Katy Philipson not present.

Lucky 13 \$120, Sonia Solis PER from Pasadena 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](mailto: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](https://twitter.com/1Koaks2477) Instagram: Follow: [toelks2477](https://www.instagram.com/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; Jeff Hennessy's "Angles"

Community Activities; John Puckett

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; Karen Abbitt, Diana Jones, Diane Letulier

Mailing Antler Antic's; Steve & Mary Woodlief

Major Project; Lyssa Wright

Membership; David Naccarato

Maintenance: Jeff Conyers, Terry Gicking, Gerry Gillies

Membership: David Naccarato PER

Memorial: Kelly Jo Reed

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: Robert Domingez

Scholarship: Reem Agel

Scouting: Greg Metzgus DL

Sickness, distress and recovery: Alexandra Rogers

Soccer Shoot, Youth Activities: **Needed**

Train Engineer: Robert Harmon

Tree Lot: John Betancourt ER, Carlos Musquiz

Veterans Bingo: Marshal Knowlton

Wood Lot: Greg Sweet



## Applications to be investigated and balloted on April 10th

John Herrera-Anacapa Foods-sponsored by Lyssa Wright  
Reinstatement for Hazen Arnold– sponsored by Rick Herrera  
Jamie Gilbert-Registered Nurse-sponsored by Ron Watkins  
Michael Harris-Carpenter-Sponsored by Lyssa Wright  
Lori Luck-CVUSD teacher-sponsored by Lyssa Wright  
Stacy Gerlich-retired battalion Chief-sponsored by Don Halvorson  
Douglas Miller-Retired-sponsored by John Gentzvein  
James Hubbs-contractor-sponsored by Jill Williams  
Richard Velasquez-retired-sponsored by Tom Lucas  
Jackie Fiori– Hair Stylist– sponsored by Rick Herrera

## Sickness, Distress and Recovery.

K.C. Radomski

Ralph Sherwood is fighting multiple myeloma. Been in and out of the hospital. Now bedridden at home. Prayers most welcome.

Alexandra Rogers continuing rehab for knee replacement

Greg Sweet Losses thumb nail while splitting wood. Gerry Gillies takes full responsibility

Ronald Watkins skin cancer

Rick Herrera skin cancer

Barbara Metzgun being treated for cancer on her leg

Darryl Kopacz grandson to under go treatment for tumor behind the right eye. Will be treated at the Mayo Clinic

Adam Smith's Father in law passed away

No distress, Good news, Greg sweet welcomes another Grandchild into the fold

Social Butterfly Sandy Hoffman going in for shoulder surgery. ( need to fix her wing, visitations coming up)

*Reports of sickness and distress are always in order*

### Recurring donors

Reem Agel  
Dave Anderson PEO-  
TY  
Tom Baldrige  
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  
Victor Pesce  
Richard Platt PER  
Alexandra Rogers  
Carol Spinner  
Paul Stein  
Greg Sweet  
Dolores "Dee" Thomas  
Jill Williams PEOTY  
Lyssa Wright

Jack Paulson	Allan Gotlieb
Lyssa Wright	David MacFarland
Carl Alaniz	Douglas Beven
Ken Krabel	Arron Lewis
Reem Agel	Richard Rogers
Phillip Maness	Paul Stein
Timothy Lane	Doug Morrison
Len Cardoni	Art Garcia
Brenda Hagen	David Gates
Travis Huffman	Steve Brodie
Lauryn Cooper	Leslie Smith
Kenneth Kolde	Peter Gordon (Century)
Joeseh Cardona	More next month



### Purple Pig Honor Roll

Bobby Williams	Dave Anderson
Ben Rieger	Michael Casey
Jean and Gregg Miraglia	Jeanette Grasso
Bunco Crew	Steve Finnerty
Dart Participants	Michael Badner
Bunco players	Jeff Vargo
Brenda Hagen	Doug Ryan
Tom Lucas	Carol Spinner
Mary Woodlief	Victor Pesce
Sandra Ragan	Ted Montoya
Jim Ryland	Gary Harmon
Stephen Buczynski	Mitchell King
Adelaide Wavra	Edward Ratzlaff
Roger Markel	Terry Baker
Toni Hartin	Robert Phillips
Richard Shaw	Steven Allan
Juanita Feamster	Dennis Shankel
Tommy Tyler	Daniel Kozlowski
	Steve Grindley

# El Konejo Kampers at Lake Lopez 3/7/24– 3/10/24

## I am your host Betty Vega

Hello All, Betty Vega here. The El Konejo Kampers destination was Lake Lopez we left Thursday March 7, 2024.

Jim Moyer was the first to catch a good size trout early Friday morning. While the other eight campers that showed up enjoyed the lake and relaxed in the nice warm sun.

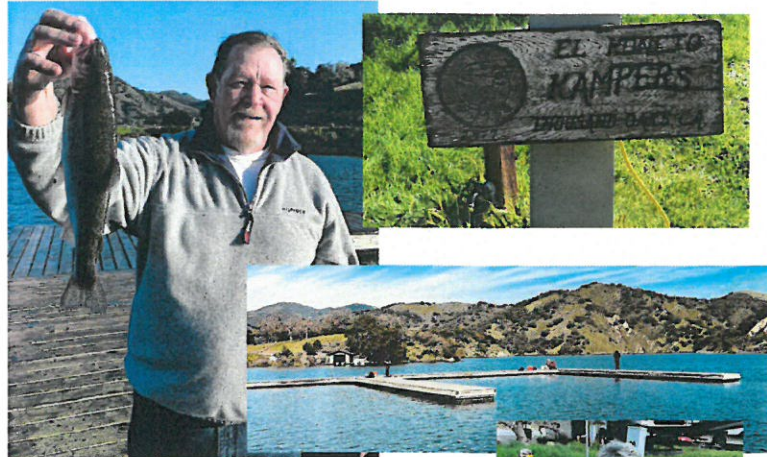
I was in my little olé camper, preparing a delicious Friday Night Italian Penne dinner. It was quite a challenge, but the compliments were worth the work.

Our El Konejo Kampers who attended were Greg and Barbara Metzger, Rick and Shirste Gessler, the lovely Kathy and Jim Moyer, Jim Nuciforo, Mr. John Puckett and his lovely friend Coleen, Jane Watson, Jimmy and Patty Miloler, Lyssa Wright and yours truly, Betty and Henry Vega. To our surprise we were visited by Jan and Jim Ryland who came to visit from another camp ground they were staying at. Everyone is welcome even if you hotel camp or even tent camp come and visit us.

Debbi Reed had an emergency and couldn't make it. Diane Lovato came down with the flu at the last minute, and so Jim and Diane couldn't make it as well. We sure did miss you three.

Saturday late afternoon, the games began. Lisa brought her BASEBALL CORN HOLE game, and we all had a blast. With everyone bringing an appetizer, we continued the afternoon with What Else! Ship, Captain, Crew. Then it was time for our honorable Sheriff, Jimmy Miller to start announcing the fines on the whole group! We had such a laugh listing to Jimmy carry out his decisions on all of us. Great Job Jimmy!

Till Next time, Betty Vega



**YOU ARE INVITED TO:**

**THOUSAND OAKS ELKS  
LODGE #2477  
OFFICER INSTALLATION &  
DINNER**

**Friday  
APRIL 5, 2024**

**Ceremony: 4:00pm  
Dinner : 5:30pm**

**\$25**

can be  
purchased  
online or at bar.

**Dinner: Salmon, Broccoli,  
Rice, Salad & Dessert**

**Chicken option if requested in advance  
Tickets must be purchased by March 29.**

**<https://2477elks.square.site/>**



# Elk of the year 2023-2024 announced at Fish Fry



Dave Anderson announcing the Elk of the Year for 2023-2024 James Moye.



2022-2023 Elk of the Year Gregg Miraglia presenting 2023-2024 Elk of the Year Jim Moye with his jacket. Jim received two endorsements from both Biden and Trump. You should have been there.



Past Elks of the year walk the red carpet.



Officer of the year  
Terry Gicking



Citizen of the year  
Carlos Muzquiz



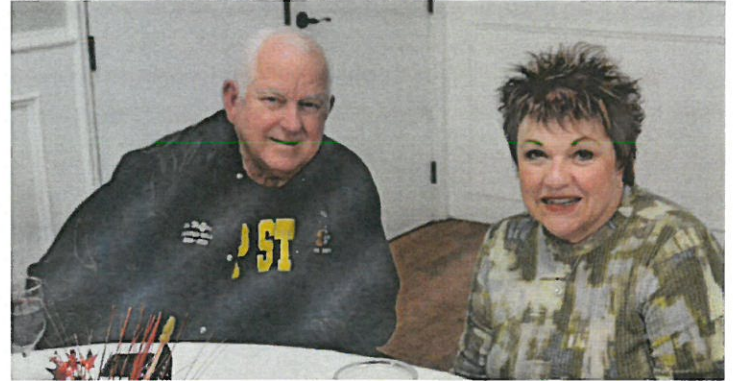
# Saint Patrick's Day Dinner by Jim Moye



Jasmin, Dee and Ronald Sr. ready for Corned Beef



Reem Agel Outstanding member



Association Vice President Elect 2024-2025  
PER Dan Hoffman with  
Past First Lady Sandy Hoffman



Lyssa Wright receiving  
extra recognition.  
For raising Thousands of Dollars  
For the Major Project



Grand Exalted Ruler's  
Outstanding member award  
Ed Lees  
Also Reem Agel



The Poker Trio  
recognized for a great tournament.  
Sandro, Dennis and Miguel  
A.K.A Mike to his friends

# Around the lodge



Victor Pesce receiving a certificate for properly flying the flag 24 /7. Victor always wanted a 25 ft flag pole in his yard. After moving to Thousand Oaks he had his flag pole and now is recognized for it..



Victor Pesce  
Receiving recurring  
Donar Pin as the lasts to sigh up.

Want to know how tough our wood splitters are. Greg Sweet had 3000 pounds of pressure applied to his thumb. Still has his thumb, we need a new splitter.

Missed identified.  
last month in red



Daniel & Kathleen Guiney sponsor  
Lyssa Wright not pictured



Mike and Carla Tello sponsor  
Carol Holden from Simi Lodge



## PAST EXALTED RULERS

### 2024-2025 OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler-Ron Watkins  
 Leading Knight-John Puckett  
 Loyal Knight-Lyssa Wright  
 Lecturing Knight- Rick Rogers  
 Secretary-David Naccarato  
 Treasurer-Richard Platt  
 Esquire-Terry Gicking  
 Chaplain- Kelly Jo Reed

### 2024-2025 TRUSTEES

One year-Steve Kerman  
 Two Year -Ed Lees  
 Three Year- Kathy Moye  
 Four Year-Dan Hoffman  
 Five Year-Robert Dominguez



**Elk of the year-**  
**Jim Moye PER**  
**Officer of the year-**  
**Terry Gicking PPDDGER**  
**Citizen of the year-**  
**Carlos Muzquiz**  
**Grand Exalted Ruler**  
**Outstanding Members-**  
**Ed Lees**  
**Reem Agel**

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 Sleigh\*  
 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  
 23-24 John Betancourt

**\*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**



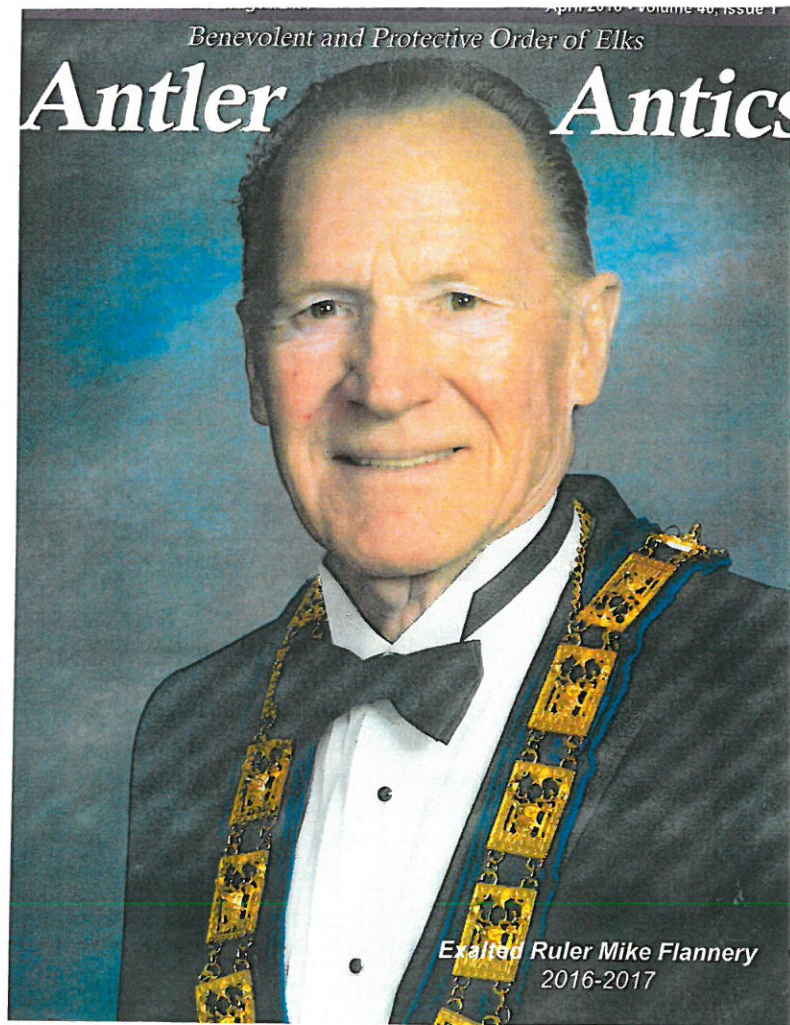
# **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**EASTER EGG HUNT •  
PHOTO WITH THE EASTER BUNNY  
• SNACKS • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**EASTER SUNDAY,  
March 31, 2024  
12-2PM  
EGG HUNT - 1PM  
SHARP  
KIDS, BRING YOUR  
BASKET!**

**THOUSAND OAKS  
ELKS LODGE  
#2477  
158 N. Conejo  
School Road**





**Funeral Service for Michael Flannery  
will be held at**

**Pierce Brother's on Lindero Canyon  
on April 5th @ 2 PM**

**A celebration of life will be held at  
the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge on  
April 7th at 1 PM**

**Social gathering to follow**