

ANTLER



Jay Block
EXALTED RULER



ANTICS

VOLUME 33, NO. 5

Editor, Jerry Serota

August 2004

"Catch the Spirit of Elkdom"

**Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks
WCCD, California - Hawaii Elks Association
District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler
2004 - 2005
Richard J. Goldner**



Richard's entry into Elkdom was due to his fondness for Scouting programs. As part of Elks Partners in Scouting activities, he was responsible for sponsoring many new Scout Troops. Richard went on to become District Scouting Chairman winning three consecutive CHEA President's Recognition Awards. Richard was the first CHEA recipient of the cherished Marvin Lewis Award and a three time winner of the Lord Baden-Powell Scouting Award. He is also a Life Member of the National Eagle Scout Association

Richard has been active in Ritual as a winning performer, coach, and judge. As an Exalted Ruler, his Lodge was one of

the most publicized in Elkdom; receiving CHEA & Grand Lodge All-American Lodge recognition.

Public awareness of Elk activities and community service became a national Emphasis Program. Richard accepted the assignment of Public Relations Chairman in the West Central Coast District and then State Association Chairman. In recognition of his committee leaderships, Richard received Outstanding District Public Relations Chairman Awards, "Golden Mike" CHEA Awards, and consecutive Grand Lodge Outstanding Achievement Awards.

He graduated from Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey, was an Air Force Officer, received the Air Force Commendation Medal, worked at the Apollo Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston and received NASA Excellence Awards for Apollo 8 and 11. Richard then focused on civilian endeavors at Sperry Univac as Director of Marketing, General Electric Software International as Regional Vice President, and currently Xerox Corporation as Vice President X SIS Sales and Customer Operations.

Richard is a Past Lieutenant Governor and Life Member of Optimist International, a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a member of the American Legion. He has been married to his wife, Elaine, for 38-years and has two children; both Elks. Daughter Denise recently graduated with a Juris Doctorate degree. Son, Rick, has a Masters of Business Administration Degree and is employed by Ventura County Superior Courts.

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



EXALTED RULER

Jay Block

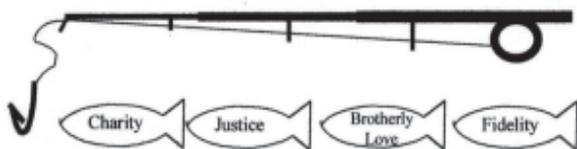
2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ANTLER ANTICS: Jerry Serota, Editor
NEW FACILITIES: Greg Metzgas, PER
HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK: Jerry Serota
GREETERS: Jack Loughran, PER
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jerry Serota
BUILDING MAINT. : Wayne Flittner



PARLIAMENTARIAN: Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL
LODGE VISITATIONS: Jack Loughran, PER
BBQ WAGON: Eddie Rice
AUDITING: Tom Ryder, PDDGER
ELKS TRAINING: John D'Ambrogio, PER
BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS:
 Chet Kozlowski, PER

"CATCHING THE SPIRIT OF ELKDOM"



and

???HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR BONDS YET???

Hope all of you are keeping cool and still having a relaxing time. Last month the Lodge had a special evening with many loyal members who were interested in the details of the New Lodge and the Bonds. Loads of questions were asked and answered. Everyone seemed to be satisfied with the information provided as well as the delicious chicken dinner, which was **FREE**. The most important point that was brought out was that it would be more expensive to re-model the present Lodge, since the existing structure would have to be brought up to minimum standards of safety as defined by the T.O. Building and Safety Department. If we started to do any significant changes, I'm afraid the termites might stop holding hands, resulting in the whole structure falling down. Every aspect of the present Lodge structure is at risk. The electrical wiring is a joke, the kitchen and restroom facilities are far from adequate, and since there is NO thermal insulation in the walls or ceiling, our utility bills are atrocious. Therefore, the collective wisdom is to start anew. Based on the success of the last meeting, we will have a repeat get together next month. Look for the flyers around the Lodge. The success of the evening was due to Jr. PER Greg Metzgas leading the discussions and Len Cardoni providing backup answers and detailed plans.

How about the new patio cover? I want to thank Tom Ryder, Bob Hardy, Tom Hartin, Bill Miller, Rusty Kennedy, Rick Herrera and his crew, for all the efforts they put forth.

The Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis, was all I hoped it to be. The WCCD District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Jewelling Dinner for our own Richard Goldner was a blast, thanks to the efforts of Denise and David Goldstein and all of the District ERs and their better halves who attended.

Continued Page 3



FIRST LADY'S CORNER

First Lady Myrna Block

Hi:

As I write this I am packing for Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis. It looks like we will have rain almost every day. Oh well. Next month I'll tell you all about it. I had the privilege of being the Chair person for the Elk Ladies Father's Day Brunch. I found out what the Elks are really all about!!! Everyone pitched in to cook, serve, and clean up, with the result that every one had a good time. At last count, we served around 100.

Things have really been jumping around the Lodge. What with lunches, and Friday Night Entertainment, we have been packing them in. However we would like to see MORE participation by the members. Remember THIS is OUR Lodge. Hope to see more and more of you at the Lodge.

Elks Care - Elks Share



IN MEMORIAM

THE CLOCK OF THEIR DAY HAS STOPPED AND
 ACROSS ITS DIAL A MOTIONLESS SHADOW
 MARKS THE HOUR OF ELEVEN, WITH US ---

**"THE GOLDEN HOUR OF
 RECOLLECTION"**

Charles Parsons

Born: March 7, 1930
Initiated: May 25, 1983
Died: July 4, 2004



EDITORS CORNER

jserota497@earthlink.net

"GIVE ME SOME MEN WHO ARE STOUT HEARTED MEN...."

Sigmund Romberg penned these immortal words for the famous song from the operetta "The Desert Song". We echoed their lyrics the night of the State Vice Presidents visitation to our Lodge. Preparing to join the ladies at the Block residence, the wheel chair lift from our van decided life is a little too easy and unraveled. Lucky for us it did not have Patti in it.

Faced with the prospect of being stranded we went into the patio and in desperation cried "*Give me some men who are stout hearted men*". Five Brother Elks stepped to the fore-front and became our Shining Knights and saved the day. They lifted her and her wheel chair body and all into the van and we were able to go to our daughter and son-in laws and with their help we were able to put the lift together so she wouldn't have to spend the night in the van.

In gratitude and in haste we were not able to show our proper appreciation. Gentlemen we are in your debt and you have proven once again that not only do *Elks Care & Share*, but they are stout hearted men and can spring into action when called upon so to do.

Thank you Harold Calvin, Kevin Metzgas, Joe Clancy, Dale Smith and Mitch Strunk for being our rescuers.

AN OLD FRIEND IS MOVING

An old friend is leaving and he is taking away more than just his belongings, he is taking away a part of us that will always cherish his friendship.

Bro. Roy Sapp born and bred in Georgia is retiring back to the roots of his youth. Whenever our Lodge was in trouble with our computers he was the Knight that rode to the rescue. Countless times your editor has been in desperate means to get the Antler Antics out and his computer was on the brink of disaster, in rode Bro. Roy Sapp to the rescue and saved the day. When our 11 O'Clock chimes started missing a beat which was an embarrassment, Bro. Roy rode in, cleaned it up and it has been working like a champ ever since.

When he leaves us he will be taking with him not only his possessions but our love and affection. Out of sight but not out of mind he will also be leaving us with treasured memories.

NOMINATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The following member, having met the requirements outlined in Grand Lodge Statutes Section 14.260 by having been a member in good standing of the Order for at least 30 consecutive years, a member of Thousand Oaks Lodge for at least 10 years, and having attained the age of 65 years or older has requested nomination for Life Membership in the Order.

Donald G. Allen Member #300

This member will be nominated at a regular session of the lodge to be held on August 11, 2004 and will be balloted on at the meeting held on August 18, 2004.

EXALTED RULER CONT.

As I expected, the ER's Going away party was a real scream, and I suggest you put it on your calendar for next year when it is Sally's turn to lead you all to glory.

Our BBQ teams remain busy every Saturday, and it is still encouraging to see many of our of the new members turning out for duty. I urge you to contact, Eddie Rice, Herb Jellander or Jim Rochford, and find out what you can do to continue bringing our **BEST IN THE WEST BBQ**, to our community..

Have you taken advantage of the lunch offerings yet? Judy has continued to outdo her self on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you haven't tried it you are missing out on a great offering. The menu is diverse and the food is delicious, so bring a guest and enjoy.

Remember, **SUPPORT THE BOND SALES!!!**. Again for more about this subject see PER Greg Metzgas's article.

I want to encourage any member to come to the Officer's Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm, if you have any issue that you feel should be brought to our attention. Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours in Fraternal Brotherhood
Exalted Ruler
Jay Block



2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	LEADING KNIGHT Sally Claunch	2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG: David Naccarato SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch INVESTIGATION: George Meehan ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION: Robert Jones CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Tom & Sally Claunch		INDOCTRINATION: Jack Loughran, PER MEM. CONTROL. COM.: Herb Jellander CVAC: Tom Hartin COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Jerry Serota OFFICERS ROUND TABLE: Jack Panczak, PER CHARITY DINNERS: Sally Claunch

Random Thoughts from Claunch

As an Elks B-B-Q wagon groupie for years and now the proud wearer of a purple apron denoting a wagon worker, I am here to announce once again that the wagon is a weekly event at our Lodge. The new team leaders have been trained and mentored in the art of B-B-Q techniques by the masters, thus ensuring the same quality week after week. Being a team member is a great way to make friends of your fellow Elks and to taste the great product. If you would like to volunteer to become a team member on any given Saturday, I am listing the names and phone numbers of each team leader.

1st Sat.	Jim Rochford		379-4459
		Cell	630-9669
2nd and 4th	Eddie Rice		499-9116
		Cell	807-1416
3rd	Herb Jellander		497-2624

This year was the first time that I attended an ER Going Away Party. It was a blast; the PER association certainly know how to host a party. The food prepared by PER, Tom Ryder and crew was outstanding. After dinner PER Bob Hardy ably assisted by wife Donna and officers conducted the horse races. However the highlight of the evening was the show written and MCed by Don Skinner and Tom Ryder (doing double duty) and hilariously performed by the Jacks- Loughran and Panczak, Buggy Ansell, John D'Ambrogio, and two Jolly Corks-John Ennis and Walter Ogden. I'm sure that Jerry Serota will have photographic proof in this issue. Loughran's legs were ageless. D'Ambrogio's muscles were powerful Panczak's chest was manly, and Ennis, Ogden and Ansell were lovely ladies. Every year the entertainment just gets better, according to one PER. As a result laughter certainly reigned during their performance. Many thanks PERs for a great evening. You gentlemen are truly an asset to our lodge.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

805-495-0577

OUR CONDOLENCES TO: Greg Metzgas, PER, on the untimely passing of his younger brother; and the Evans family on the passing of Maurine Evans, widow of John R. Evans a past Elk of the Year.; to Barbara Parsons on the passing of Bro. Chuck;

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Dick Rogge fell and broke his leg;

ON THE MEND: Joyce Mendelsohn from surgery; Leo Lambert and Muriel Ingolia are recovering from pneumonia; Zelda Rindone is now living at home with a caretaker; and Gil Riding is recuperating from back surgery.

Remember cards and visits are always welcome.

From Dick Rogge: *"We would like to thank everyone who signed and sent cards etc. while being hospitalized. My hand problem prevents me from visiting all of you personally to express my sincere appreciation. You made me feel sooooo goood!"*



How about the new patio cover? Thanks to Tom Ryder, Bob Hardy, Tom Hartin, Bill Miller, Rusty Kennedy, Rick Herrera and his crew, for all the efforts they put forth.

EL KONEJO KAMPERS

Pat von Wittenburg


**JUNE - -EL KONEJO KAMPERS
TRAVEL TO SANTA MARIA ELKS
PARADE AND RODEO**


Absolutely AWESOME! The Ericksons and von Wittenburgs were the first to arrive Wednesday afternoon. From the moment we arrived, it was very apparent that this undertaking was BIG, BIG. One could only guess the number of manhours and volunteers it takes handle this event.

We were directed to our spots indicating "Thousand Oaks" to learn that we had exactly TWO at that location - it worked out fine as the others were across the lane and behind. After setting up, the speculation began as to who would be the next to arrive. Dang, couldn't get a healthy bet going, the four of us agreed that it would be the Newcomers. Right on! Don and Doris pulled in Thursday morning. Doris had her hair all done up expecting HOT weather - wrongo. The temperature remained quite acceptable. Twas a bit windy but it didn't get hot. In fact, Steve and Molly Chizsar rolled in from a graduation in Bakersfield where it had been HOT and were delighted with the pleasant temp.

Actually we were quite pleased with our spots. It was close to the main tent where food was served and most of the Lodge sponsored activities took place. It was also close to the strawberry fields. Yup, lots of fresh strawberries purchased right out of the field for five bucks a flat. Steve Chizsar was a demon with Strawberry Maggies. I'm SO-O-O glad there was no Sheriff and there's no carry over to the next campout, cause I'm sure my happy fanny would've been fined big time. Steve was in big demand as a "drink mixer" especially by me!

Got a chuckle out of Gladys Ennis cheerfully pointing out that John had washed their rig since the Far West campout when she fined him for having a dirty rig! Good going John - and you came to the Rodeo where dust, crap and corruption rains 24/7. Though we were quite a ways from the rodeo arena, there were tractors with trailers attached that hauled us to various places, running from early morning until late in the evening - back & forth, clouds of dust - Get to do it all over again, bud! !

Friday was a very interesting day, to say the least. Those in charge of locating the rigs, just couldn't seem to get their minds around the fact that the Rochfords and Sanford had horse trailers with living quarters in them. Absolutely NO HORSE TRAILERS where we parked. I

decided that was NO place for my big mouth so gave that a WIDE berth. Eventually everything worked out and they were allowed to park with us.

Friday night - we had several Rodeo virgins. Had NEVER been to a rodeo, had no clue what mutton busting might be (kids riding sheep), didn't know a saddle bronc from a bareback bronc and absolutely no idea how hard a rodeo clown worked and/or what good physical shape that clown must be in.

Most now understand why Bill and I don't often miss one of our Kelly's rodeos. I was doubly interested in seeing one of Cotton Rossers productions "Flying U Rodeo", keeping times to see exactly if his production is that far superior to the National Police Rodeo Association. NOT!

Saturday was a perfect day for a parade. We piled on a bus - headed downtown Santa Maria. **THANK YOU KEVIN ROBICHAU** - our train ran perfectly. It was exciting to see our Lodge represented outside our own backyard. It was also nice to have a color guard thanks to Teri and Jim Rochford. HOWEVER, Teri and I are working to put a little pizzazz into this project, we will never win any recognition as it stands. Frankly people, our appearance was dull as dirt. It will take time and money. I understand (hope correctly) thus far the color guard stuff has come out of the Rochfords pocket. Not acceptable. I've purchased stuff to make covers for the breast collars and am looking for cording for the blankets. The driver of the train and passengers - GOTTA be a little glitzy - IT'S SHOW TIME!

Saturday evening, Thousand Oaks received a framed certificate in recognition of having one of the largest groups there - pretty exciting. Would we do it again - ABSOLUTELY!



2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	LOYAL KNIGHT David Naccarato	2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Ed Rice LODGE ACTIVITIES: Greg Metzgus, PER SCOUTING: Bill Miller HOOPSHOOT: Tom Hartin WED. NIGHT DINNERS: DRUG AWARENESS: STRAY ELKS: MOTHER'S DAY: Rusty Kennedy		ENTERTAINMENT: Pete Padilla WED. NIGHT TICKETS: LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE FIGHTER APPRECIATION: Scott Dool DISTRICT PICNIC: Tom Ryder, PDDGER PRESIDING JUSTICE: Dick McCann YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Heather Maddox

How's your summer going? The lodge is in full swing. I hope to see all of you at the lodge picnic on the 29th. We had a good time last year and I expect a larger attendance this year. Baseball, hotdogs, hamburgers and a good time with your fellow Elk members.

Thomas Ryder and Crew will be cooking up a feast for us on August 13th. A Buffet style dinner beyond your wildest dreams. Terry Baker is back with his Internationally renowned Mac & Cheese on the 27th. Visit our B B Q every Saturday and breakfast every Sunday. Still looking for cooks or just Ideas for dinner ... call me. Did you come down for our Free Bond dinner? It was productive and the chicken Cor Don Blu was pretty good and would like to thank my wife Karen for giving me a hand.

Pondering, Can you cry under water? If money doesn't grow on trees then why do banks have branches, once in heaven, do you get stuck with the clothes you were buried in for eternity? Why does a round pizza come in a square box? Why are you IN a movie, but you are ON TV? How come we choose from just two people for president and fifty for miss America? If you have to "put your two cents in".....but it's only a penny for your thoughts'? where's that extra money going? If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing? I leave you with this. If the world was perfect then Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM POWER DAVE

Balance is knowing when to use our strenghts and when to take time to renew them.

Richard Goldner, DDGER	
VISITATIONS FOR AUGUST	
August 16	Oxnard
August 17	San Luis Obispo
August 24	Santa Barbara
August 26	Atascadero



NEW FACILITIES
Greg Metzgus, PER, Com. Chair

Our bond account advanced by about \$20,000 in one night thanks to a very informative bond information meeting/ free dinner put on by our Lodge Officers. This was a nice shot

in the arm but we still need to work some more on members that have not yet pitched in to help.

I would like to remind everyone, this investment is going to pay interest to the bond holders from the day they receive their bond. This is not a grant, not a donation but a loan to your lodge and an investment in its future. We need every member's help in this endeavor. We have come a long way but we need to keep up the work if we want to realize the dream of a new lodge building.

On the construction side, Len Cardoni has put together a revised preliminary floor plan of the proposed building. Those that attended the Bond dinner last month were able to see it. The plans are available for your input and will be on display in the lounge. Please address all of your design concerns in written form to either the Exalted Ruler or myself. This lodge building will be our new home for many years to come and we want to make sure that the needs of the members are addressed in the design of the building.

The bidding for the General Contractor on this project has been narrowed down to 3 contractors. All three are local contractors and have experience in building similar buildings. They are all contacting me weekly to see if we are ready to have them finalize their bids and start construction.



The only thing holding up the back hoes from starting to dig is the availability of funds. If you are reading this article and have not yet purchased a bond and are in a financial position to do so, you are holding up this project. If you feel that this is not a good investment or you do not want a new lodge building, please come and talk with me and voice your concerns. All we are asking is that each member, spouse of a member or spouse of a deceased member, or associate member participate to the best of their ability.

Greg Metzgus, PER

AMERICANISM

Raven West, Com. Chair.



What is the Americanism Committee? The Committee on Americanism - Grand Lodge, State and Local - is charged with implementing the patriotic activities of the Order. The ambition and goal of the Americanism Committee is to quicken the spirit of American patriotism, and to stimulate an awareness - a genuine feeling of pride and respect toward patriotism - so that we as members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will become constant reminders to the people of our Nation that truly America means freedom!

The major project which our Lodge participates in every year is the Americanism Essay Contest for Conejo Valley students in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade. This year, the theme is "What does Old Glory Mean To Me?" I've had the privilege of reading the past two year's essay entries and am very excited to see how the next generation of American patriots responds this year. Our Lodge awards savings bonds, certificates and plaques to each of the six winners; first, second and third place during the Elks Youth Appreciation Week celebrated in May.

The Americanism committee is much more than an annual essay contest. There are six categories of Americanism programs and activities, all with a long list of suggested activities; Flag Programs, Community Activities, Lodge Activities, Publicity and P.R., and eleven activities under the "Other" category. I would love to be able to construct a "Heritage Corner" at our Lodge which would contain our Country's most important documents; The Bill of Rights, The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, The Monroe Doctrine and The Gettysburg Address. As this is a very important election year, I would also like to organize a "Get Out The Vote" program at our local high school for students who will be 18 this November, and also at CLU.

To raise funds for this years events, I've placed an unsealed bottle of Bean whiskey in a commemorative ELKS flask at the bar. The drawing was going to be on July 4, but as there were few entries, it will be extended through Labor Day. Unfortunately, there are not enough people on this "committee", which consists right now of me, to implement much more than the annual essay contest and a chairman is only as effective as the committee it chairs. In order for the Americanism Committee to survive, it needs YOU.

I believe now, more than ever in our country's recent history, Americanism and Patriotism need a good boost. Americanism is not only celebrated with a fireworks display one day of the year, it is in our minds, thoughts and prayers 24/7, 365. I can't think of a better way to light the patriotic fires of our community than by implementing the many activities under the banner of AMERICANISM, but I need your help to make it happen. If you believe in this great country, please join this very important committee. For more information, contact Raven West, Americanism Committee Chair at 805-493-0269 or email: ravenwest9@yahho.com.

**FROM THE TRUSTEES**

Herb Jellander, Chairman of the Board

Thanks to everyone's tremendous efforts, our Lodge is enjoying a financially successful year so far. The hard work of all our kitchen crews, barbeque teams, the Pearson's Conejo Valley Days gang, Judy's club team, the campers, the Elks Ladies and others has enabled us to fund all our charities, make numerous improvements to our existing Lodge and add to our new facilities fund. All of us have reason to be proud.

The remainder of the year promises more opportunities. We have several off-site barbeques scheduled, as well as our weekly Saturday barbeques. We have our Christmas trees ordered and our lot will be open at Carlson's Building Materials on Thousand Oaks Boulevard the first two weeks of December. As always, the more volunteers we have, the more fun it is. If you can help in any of these activities, I know you'll enjoy it. Call me at (805) 497-2624 if you'd like to join in.

If you can't afford the time, help us by patronizing the club and enjoying all the positive changes being made, attending our appetizing dinners, Sunday brunch, entertainment specials, Monday Night Football and now, sampling a full menu of great lunches served on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 11:30-2:30. Keep the calendar handy!

Fraternally,

Herb

Get Reacquainted at the Thousand Oaks Elk Ladies Brunch



For all Elk Ladies and for those who might like to become an Elk Lady are invited.

Saturday August 14, 2004 @ 11:00 am

Brunch is on us!

Look for your invitation in the mail!

R.S.V.P. by August 3rd.

No late R.S.V.P.'s after August 3rd can be accepted!
Contact: Carol Neuner @ (805) 492-6980

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LECTURING KNIGHT

Catherine Koeritz

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
2004-05
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

AMERICANISM: Raven West
FLAG DAY/FLAG RETIREMENT:
 Robert Jones
SCHOLARSHIP: Rick Herrera
GOVT. RELATIONS: Denise Goldstein
MEMORIAL SERVICE: Rusty Kennedy
NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg



KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER
GOLF TOURNEY: Dave Pearson
 Tommy Claunch
LODGE PICNIC: Catherine Koeritz
MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member
CHRISTMAS TREES: Bob Hardy, PER
EL KONEJO KAMPERS:
 Bill von Wittenburg

"SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING IS EASY"

It's summertime and the calendars are filling up with outdoor activities. Remember to mark your calendar for our Elks Annual Family Picnic on August 29th, 11:00 am, at Conejo Community Park. We will have children and adult activities, BBQ and fun. Please see the flyer for more details.

The Kampers are fixing their breakfast on that date, so eat early and come to the picnic and eat some more!

CATHERINE'S COMMUNICATION:

I would like to dedicate some time in creating a forum for communication for the Members. Sometimes we have annual events that our members, new or existing, are not aware of. A perfect example was the ERs going away party. I asked a few people if they knew what this event was about. And as I expected, some didn't know. I didn't either! We had a great time watching a few of our Members dress-up and put on a skit for everyone. The going away party was for the ER's in our District who were "going away" to the National Convention, held this year in Minneapolis. And as explained to me, this is a tradition that Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge has been performing for several years. So, if you have any information that you would like to be relayed, would like to communicate, explain an upcoming activity, or simply would like to make a suggestion, please contact me. I would be happy to place information here in my monthly articles.

So, here are some tips for Better Communication:

Think before you speak. Saying what you mean and meaning what you say is the golden rule to communication. Hearing is half of being heard. One of the biggest reasons people don't communicate is that the listener isn't listening. Often our minds race ahead by planning what we want to say next, all the while ignoring what is presently being said.

Communicating your ideas isn't easy, but making a connection with someone is well worth the energies used. When this connection is made, the gates of knowledge and understanding are open wide.

They don't call me the Lecturing Knight for nothing!!!

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

By Chairperson Denise Goldstein, ID

The Lodge has a lot of new members since I last served as Government Relations Chairperson back in 2000 and 2001. So, for the newer members and those who are not sure what the purpose of the Government Relations committee is---read on!

The purpose of the Elks Government Relations Program is to help protect our Order's right to exist as a private organization and to monitor any legislation that could negatively impact our exercise of this freedom. It is our fundamental right under the 1st Amendment, commonly known as "Freedom of Association" to remain private and have discriminatory requirements for members of our organization in accordance with the Preamble to the Elks Constitution, so long as it is not gender-based (a la the Supreme Court decision re: Rotary International).

To assist in this regard, our Lodge subscribes to a quarterly newsletter from a California organization called CONPOR (Conference of Private Organizations). The purpose of this group is to monitor and evaluate proposed legislation and to share the information with various private organizations. The State Chairman of CONPOR, Mr. Yubi G. Separovich, oversees this publication and is an Elk member himself.

The Lodge Government Relations Committee is also to keep current information on all our government representatives from the local to the national level and how to contact them. Using the recommended website, www.vote-smart.org, you can look up the various government representatives and contact them via e-mail. For those who would rather write, the information has been posted on one of the Lodge bulletin boards.

This committee needs another member! The committee work does not take a lot of time, but it is an important and necessary position within the Lodge. Please consider it!

NEXT ARTICLE: Understanding the Pledge of Allegiance positions of the parties in the Supreme Court case, Elk Grove Unified School District v. Michael Newdow

WELCOME ABOARD OUR NEW MEMBERS



Elks BBQ at the Cal Cup Field Hockey Tournament

Memorial Day weekend found the Elks BBQ Team working the field hockey tournament held at Moorpark College. Known as the California Cup it is the premier field hockey event held in the

United States, with more than a hundred countries being represented.

Virtually unknown in America until the early 1920's, by which time several colleges and clubs sponsored field hockey teams for women. It has grown to a sport in which there are approximately 15,000 members in the U. S. Field Hockey Association. Although exact origins of the game are unknown, 4000 year old art works in bas relief found in a tomb in the Nile Valley show men playing a similar sport. Played on a field 60 x 100 yards, with sixteen players a side (eleven on the field) and similar to soccer, it is an exciting game for participant and spectator alike. The international flavor of the game made interesting days for our BBQ team. We had several compliments from people who had attended the event last year. As we were closing up for the day - tri-tips off the grill, one player asked us if we were all out of Elk meat.



Pete Stewart and sponsor David Stull



Eric Morrow and Patricia Pawlus with their sponsor Rick Spampinato



Mark Lampenfeld and Harold Calvin standing in for sponsor Dick McNeal





Ontario State Convention
 Elaine Goldner, Lee Northcutt, CHEA State President, and wife
 Rosie, Richard Goldner, DDGER, Des.



Terri & Ken Curto Area 7 Grand Lodge, PR Committeeman,
 (Standing) Richard Goldner, DDGER, Des.



Simi Valley Inaugural Ball
 Richard Goldner, DDGER, Des. & Elaine, Christian Turkish, ER
 & Tami, Mary Lou & Mac Clark, State VP, CHEA



Oxnard Inaugural Ball
 Richard & Elaine Goldner, & ER, Shelley & Jess, Gonzales, PER



**Smiles and aprons abound as the ladies hold forth for Father's Day
 Brunch, Alice Kennedy, Karen Naccarato, Myrna Block and Vera Bailie**



Alice, Karen and Myrna

**Mac Clark, State Vice President, CHEA
Made his official visitation to our Lodge**



Mac looked us over and by the smile we did OK.



Lodge business is over and time for refreshments



Mary Lou and Mac ready for dinner



FL, Myrna and ER, Jay did a great job of extending hospitality to our guests and visitors



Dona and Jim Diacono, DDGER, enjoyed their visit with us



Our wonderful Jr. Elks provided their expert services in serving a wonderful dinner for the State VP, visitation. We are proud of them

2004-05 COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSONS

THE ELKS LADIES

Karen Naccarato

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CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell
MAJOR PROJECTS: Marva D'Ambrogio

CVD: Dee Swanson & Marilyn Cissell
HISTORIAN:
SUNSHINE: Shirley Kozlowski



Hello Everyone,

Here it is August! Can you believe it? I sure can t.Where is the time going? Well, what I can answer is some of where the time went. In June school let out for the summer. we celebrated Father's Day and Annie and Sally (with help from Tommy Claunch and Bob Hardy.) put on the Annual Elks Ladies Laughlin Trip at the end of June. We had some winners and some losers but overall "We ALL" Had A LOT OF FUN!

So To: Annie and Sally; On Behalf of all the Elk Ladies, We All Thank You Both and all those that helped you put this wonderful event on again. You do it so well! THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Oh "We can't forget" to Thank Chuck and his crew for cooking that wonderful Pot Roast Dinner that he had waiting for us after the long bus trip home. Thank you Chuck and your Crew!

4th of July has come and gone. I hoped everyone had a safe and wonderful 4th. ER, Jay and Myrna went to the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis. The Elk Ladies had their monthly meeting on Tuesday July 6th, we had such a small turnout that we didn't make a quorum of 15. Boo hoo....

So as promised here's the results of the monthly Drawing for July!

Bubble Drawing for the month of July:

Shirley Kozlowski	\$100.00	Not Present
No Winner		
Barbara Metzger	\$100.00	Not Present
No Winner		
Pat Jellander	\$40.00	Not Present
No Winner		

Remember in order to win you need to be here at the meetings that are held on the First Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Don't Forget! The Get Reacquainted Brunch is Sat. August 14th. RSVP no later than the 3rd of August.

IT'S IN YOUR HANDS, LORD

Marilyn Cissell



Was global warming not enough?
 now terrorism threatens all.
 Our Country's loss of life is great,
 to help Iraq, is now our call.

Middle East, a troubled zone,
 yet still the goal democracy.
 Your part, Dear Lord, so great a need,
 and only you can make men free.

Amen



AUGUST

01	Judy Sandham
02	Sharon Baker
	Beth Kozlowski
	Marie Wagner
09	Yolie Loughran
10	Jeanne Sandt
15	Zelda Rindone
26	Myrna Block
30	Gladys Ennis

Dates to Remember:

August 3rd	Elk Ladies Monthly meeting
August 3rd	RSVP Due for Elk Ladies Brunch
August 14th	Elk Ladies Get Reacquainted Brunch 11:00 am
August 17th	Elk Ladies Board Meeting

For more information or need a ride please Contact: Carol Neuner (805) 492-6980, Karen Naccarato (805) 375-1089.

Alice Kennedy (805) 497-2504

As Always I wish Everyone Well & Happiness,
 Carol Neuner

HONOR ROLL



- Richard McDonald
- Bar Purple Pig
- Scott Dool
- Catherine Koeritz
- Greg Metzgus
- Adam Erslick
- Candy Drive
- Jack Loughran



AUGUST

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Erle Pittman, PDDGER | 10. Joe LeFlore | 24. Joel Erickson |
| 2. David Naccarato | 11. Greg Ryder | 25. Walt Schaedle |
| 3. William "Max" Maxwell | 14. Steven Ogden | 27. Mark Montenegro |
| 4. Doug Routh | 16. Jan King | 29. John Ough |
| 5. Donald Dittman | 17. Tim Kelly | 31. Tom Agar |
| 6. Mike Ferragamo | 18. Frank Coley | Ken Warren |
| 7. John Good | 19. Cal DiValerio | Caren Longson |
| 8. Dr. William Doody | 20. Dave Perry | 28. Gil Riding, PER |
| 9. George Conahey | 21. Stan Zabaglo | Deneice Whorton |
| 10. George Deradoorian | 22. Don Skinner, PER | 29. Jack Cote' |
| 11. Carelton Douglas, Jr. | 23. Jim Barker | Dan Johnson |
| 12. Mike Asadurian | 24. Richard McDonald | Jon Adam Eslick |
| | 25. Paul Marsh | 31. Daniel Kozlowski |
| | 26. Patricia Pawlus | |
| | 27. Bart Vanderlip | |
| | 28. Fred Severo | |

*Belated Birthday greetings to Woodie Hammer, overlooked on June 8th

**FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE
PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON**

Date: August 11, 2004

NAME	OCCUPATION	SPONSOR
Larry Brown	Retired	Herb Jellander
Peter Gordon	Software Engineer	Mitch Strunk
David Graham	Sales Rep. American Paper & Plastic	Herb Jellander

**CRYING
TOWEL**



June 2	\$500.00	#1390	Peter Ingolia
	\$200.00	#1842	Bob Thornton, PDDGER
Lucky 13	No Winner		
June 9	\$500.00	#1020	Dave Perry
	\$225.00	#501	Tom Corrigan
Lucky 13	Denise Goldstein	WINNER	
June 16	\$500.00	#1870	Chris Meske
	\$250.00	#1989	Leonzo Rodriguez
Lucky 13	No Winner		
June 23	\$500.00	#1815	Donald Long
	\$275.00	#861	Robert Williams
Lucky 13	No Winner		
June 30			DARK NIGHT NO MEETING



GRUNTS

GRUNTS AT IT AGAIN! Have you seen the new BBQ picnic table cover? This picnic table cover was donated by the Thousand Oaks Elks Rabbit Run Tournament

Bowlers of years past and was put up by GRUNTS, Bob Hardy, Jay Block, Tom Hartin, Rusty Kennedy, Bill Miller, Chet Kozlowski and yours truly. Provided quite a sideshow for the BBQ crew and customers that Saturday! Also moved parking about five feet back so as to give us some more picnic space alongside the cover. Should be good area for cook your own steak night.

Rick Herrera joined the GRUNTS when he brought his crew in with a power posthole digger and dug all of the holes needed for the new fence on the Conejo School Road side of the lodge. Thank you Rick for that big favor! By the time you read this, the GRUNTS hope to have the new fence up which should give us more privacy for our BBQ picnic area.

GRUNT Pete Jackson had his crew, Joe Clancy removed the overgrown junipers along the Conejo School Road side and it was amazing just how much area we got back. It was suggested there could be enough space for us to put in a full size horseshoe pit. Need some persons interested in building a pit after we get the fence up. Pete also patched the hole that was developing in the Conejo School Road side driveway and parking area.

Grunt Bob Neuner has done some stucco repair to the lodge building and plans to have the building painted in the near future. Should improve the looks somewhat!

GRUNT Jim Allen had his crew in and trimmed up the eucalyptus trees. Looks good! Clean Up, Fix Up and Face Lift projects are in progress with more planned. Need some additional weekday and weekend help to get all of the projects moving faster so we can get on to planning more.

Most of the tasks just noted have been done at a low cost due to members' involvement. More improvements and cleanups are being planned. There is a need for more involvement of the membership.

If you have any suggestions or would like to join the GRUNTS please call me at 805-497-1853.

Fraternally
Tom Ryder - PDDGER

CALIFORNIA-HAWAII ELKS ASSOCIATION

Lee Northcutt, the California-Hawaii Elks Association President for the 2004-2005 Elks Year, will be making his official visitation to the West Central Coast District (WCCD) the weekend of August 21 and 22, 2004. He will be hosted by WCCD Vice President Mac Clark and his lady Mary Lou. His schedule right now is that Friday night dinner will be at the Santa Maria Lodge, his official visitation dinner will be at the San Luis Obispo Lodge Saturday night with a Sunday Breakfast Brunch at the Lompoc Lodge. All Elks and their guests are invited to any and all of the functions! Lets have a good representative group from the Thousand Oaks Lodge. Attend any or all. Contact VP Mac Clark for reservations.

Fraternally
Tom Ryder - PDDGER



A MESSAGE FROM THE ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Looking ahead ten years can be a very frightening and intimidating experience. Looking back ten years makes one wonder how the time went by so quickly.

Ten years ago, when I was appointed to the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, little did I realize what a wonderful adventure I was about to embark on. As I looked back and saw what the Elks had done for our nation's veterans, I was duly impressed and proud of our accomplishments on their behalf. When I looked forward and saw what still needed to be done for these patriots, I became afraid and uncertain about whether we would be up to the challenge.

How silly I was to worry. With the leadership provided by the Past Grand Exalted Rulers with whom I was honored to serve, we could not fail.

The biggest reason for our success however, was our Elk Members. While our State Veterans Chairmen, VAVS Representatives and VAVS Deputy Representatives provided leadership and guidance, it was the untiring efforts of our local Elk volunteers, their spouses and families who really helped enhance the level of comfort of these American heroes.

As I complete my ten years as a member of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, the last two years as Chairman, I look back and reflect with a heart full of memories and a great deal of satisfaction on what we have accomplished for the veterans of our Armed Forces. It could not have been done without you, our splendid volunteers.

Change is inevitable. PGER Amos McCallum will replace me as a member of the Commission. He will bring fresh ideas as he joins the Commission's leadership team. There will also be new challenges to meet as we continue to assist the veterans coming home from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq while we continue to minister to the older veterans from previous battles.

The one constant that will not change though, are our compassionate, caring volunteers. You are the reason for the success of the programs of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. Without you, our programs and slogans would be empty, meaningless words. You are living proof that

"Elks Care - Elks Share"

I hope and pray that you never lose your sense of urgency to help these veterans as you continue to fulfill our pledge, that *"So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."*

Remember! **FOR OUR VETERANS - ALWAYS FOR OUR VETERANS.** God bless you and God bless America's veterans.

Fraternally,
Charles F. Williams, PGER, Chairman
Elks National Veterans Service Commission



ELKS RETIREMENT HOME TESTIMONIAL

Moving into the Elks Retirement Home in Bedford, Virginia was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Friendly, loving and caring atmosphere pervades throughout these living quarters.

Thoughtful attention is given to the comfort, happiness and well being for each person, whether he or she lives in an apartment, a residential room or in the special care facility. You have your privacy too if you wish, or can enter into the many extra-curricular activities that have been planned.

The interaction with the community also gives one a feeling of being at home in the beautiful surroundings of this delightful, small city of Bedford.

New friends are made, too, for many of the retirees are from other areas of our country. All are members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks; therefore, the ideals and goals of this organization are always before them creating this feeling of being family.

Frances Owen
Lynchburg, VA No. 321

ELKS RETIREMENT HOME TESTIMONIAL

Anna Mae Stewart and Phil Thienel, with a nostalgia for the likes of Bedford at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, place of quietness, tree-lined streets, absence of hustle and bustle brought us separately to the Elks National Home in the autumn of our lives.

Fortunately, we became acquainted with one another. We shared a history of events from the 1930s to the present. We discovered much more about ourselves, our memories, and how circumstances brought us to the Elks National Home.

We developed a rapport; enjoyed one another's friendship. In the course of events we fell in love. We answered one another's yearnings. We married knowing well its responsibilities.

We had fulfilled our responsibilities of providing for our children, the upkeep of a home, with the benefits of retirement; we were free to enjoy sharing our life together. The Elks National Home gave us the opportunity to participate in social, recreational and cultural events; and the opportunity to live a free and happy life.

The home provides us with our household needs, all at a reasonable fee, in a secure environment. We are free to enjoy life with our fellow residents or go our own way. We are fulfilling our lives' desires. We are thankful for the Elks National Home in its satisfying and inspiring environment.

Phil & Anna Mae Thienel
Warrington, FL No. 2108 & Lynchburg, VA No. 321

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Elks Program For Children with Disabilities

What is BLT?

BLT is a full time committee of the Major Project approved and budgeted by the CHEMPI Trustees upon approval of the Past Grand Exalted Rulers. Its staff consists of a state committee directing district and lodge chairmen who will serve without compensation.

The BLT Concept

The idea behind BLT is to encourage all Elks to name the Major Project as a beneficiary of their estate in any amount a member and his/her spouse can afford. It is recognized that an Elk's first responsibility is to his/her family. We just ask that they remember our disabled children if they have any extra money or property available.

The Purpose of BLT

BLT was not begun as a replacement for the Piggy Bank Program. Its aim is to insure the future of the Major Project. To guarantee that future, the BLT Committee is seeking commitments from Elk members and their spouses, stating that they have provided for a distribution from their estate & upon their death) to continue the good works of the Major Project. Giving to the Major Project through BLT is not limited to Elks alone. Anyone can direct that a charitable gift be given to the Major Project from their estate.

How to Give

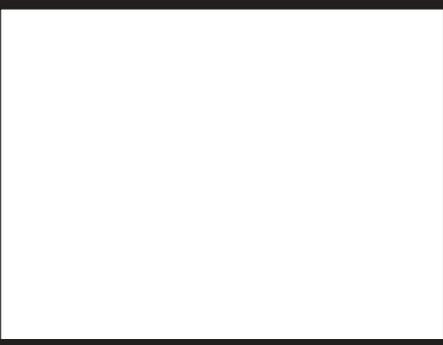
If you provide for your Major Project in your will, trust or as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, IRA, pension plan or annuity, you then qualify to become a BLT benefactor. You will then receive a beautifully framed certificate and lapel pin. Just notify the Fresno office that you have made that provision for the Major Project in your estate plan.

Where to Get Help

There will be questions. Direct all inquiries to the district or state chairmen who are all listed in the state directory or contact the Major Project office in Fresno at 5450 E. Lamona Avenue. Fresno, CA 93727. They are just a phone call away at 559-255-4531.

Keep the Major Project viable for generations!





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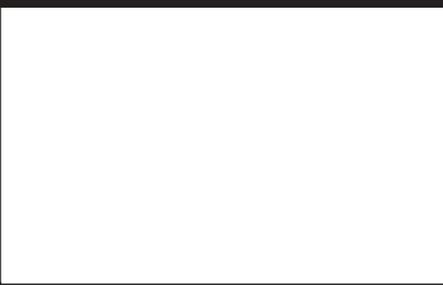
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The Dog days of Summer
By Ken Muellerleile

There is a certain time of year
when things are really a bummer,
and this happens every year
It's called the Dog days of Summer.

But we survive all those days
things do change for the better,
it can be hot, but weather may change
and at times we'll wear a sweater.

People that live on, or near the lakes
will see them turn to an ugly green,
swimming then is mostly prohibited
for that reason we wait for it to clean.

And after that, the weather is different
the temperature will change tremendously,
the humidity will drop quite a bit
and we'll enjoy that, enthusiastically.



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JS



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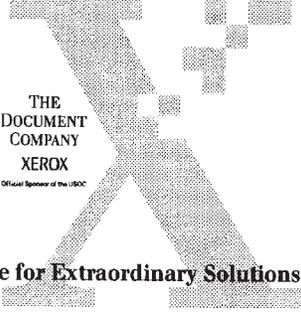
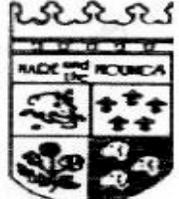
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ANTLER ANTICS

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<p>EXALTED RULER - Jay Block LEADING KNIGHT - Sally Claunch LOYAL KNIGHT - Dave Naccarato LECTURING KNIGHT - Catherine Koeritz SECRETARY - Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL TREASURER - Bob Hardy, PER TILER - Tom Klomparens ESQUIRE - Robert Jones CHAPLAIN - Rusty Kennedy INNER GUARD - Terry Baker ORGANIST - Jim Wagner OFFICER AT LARGE - Jack Loughran, PER</p>	<p>1972-73 *Marvin D. Smith 1993-94 Jim Wallace 1973-74 Erle Pittman 1994-95 *George Pekow 1974-75 Richard Flake 1995-96 Gil Riding 1975-76 Bill Wagner 1996-97 Jack Loughran 1976-77 John E. Henry 1997-98 John Kelly 1977-78 Robert McKee 1998-99 Chet Kozlowski 1978-79 *Frank J. Rindone 1999-00 Richard Goldner 1979-80 Edward F. Stogsdell 2000-01 Jacob Panczak 1980-81 *Frank "Tex" Hastie 2001-02 John D'Ambrogio 1981-82 Robert Hardy 2002-03 Don Booker 1982-83 *A. John Nichols 2003-04 Greg Metzgus</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TRUSTEES</p> <p>Herb Jellander- 1 Year John D'Ambrogio, PER- 2 Year Denise Goldstein- 3 Year Jim Rochford 4 Year Greg Metzgus, PER- 5 Year</p>	<p>By Affiliation: 1981-82 Robert L. Thornton</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*Deceased</p>

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