



Terry Gicking  
Exalted Ruler



# ANTLER ANTICS

Vol 39, No. 9

Editor, Sally Claunch, PER

Dec. '09

## Memories From The Past To Rebuild Our Future



### New Year's Eve

Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge 2477  
Dinner by Wild Women on Wine

### "Cruising Again In 2010"

Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
Cocktails/Appetizers 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Dinner 7:30pm

Fun & Games in the Vino Casino  
Music by One Last Dance

Dressy Casual  
\$35.00 pp

Designated Drivers available  
Raffle Prizes      RV Parking  
Champagne Toast



2009-10 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS



**EXALTED RULER**  
**Terry Gicking**

2009-10 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**ANTLERANTICS:** Sally Claunch, PER, Editor  
**Jerry Serota, Photographer**  
**Calendar:** Kira Wagner  
**HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK:** Jerry Serota  
**GREETER:** Dorothy Murray  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Jerry Serota  
**OPERATION FACELIFT:** Tom Ryder, PDDGER



**BUILDING MAINT.:** Max Maxwell, Tom Hartin  
**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL  
**LODGE VISITATIONS:**  
**BBQ OFFSITE:** Eddie Rice  
**AUDITING:** Debbie Irish  
**ELKS TRAINING:** Terry Gicking  
**SHOE TOURNAMENTS:** Mike Budenski  
**BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS:** Robert Jones

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Wow! They are here already! Well, let's see just how much fun we can have helping others this Holiday season. Thanksgiving was a hoot! Now we jump into December, and we start with Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>, the/ Elks Ladies Tree Trimming Party! On Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup>, the Marines Color Guard will be on display with the Toys for Tots at our BBQ from 10 – 2. Bring a gift, get a \$1 off a our BBQ tri-tip sandwich. Then on Sunday, the 6<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Elks Memorial Service w/ brunch. Services are at 11am. Brunch is from 10am – 1p.m We will have our regular service for our departed members from this year and years past. Also we will have a special tribute to some of the members from the past who helped shape our lodge into what it is today. Brother, Harry Brockwell ,has helped compile a list of members who have past to “realms on high”, while they were here, they left an impression! Please everyone, plan on attending. This will be one of those events that everyone will be talking about! (no pressure Terry!)

Next up it will be DDGER, Greg Metzgus', Homecoming on the 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be an open meeting for all to attend. Tom Ryder is doing prime rib for dinner, so make sure to bring your spouse for a great meal and a fun time! Now on the 11<sup>th</sup> will be the ER Christmas / Tom n Jerry Party! This is always been a traditionally fun night as dinner & Tom n Jerry's are on the ER. It's my gift to you! Dinner will be Chinese. You know, nothing says Happy Holidays more than Chinese food! (wink, wink!) Sorry, I thought we would do something a little different. Please come down for the food and stay for the rum, oops, fellowship! Haha!

The very next day (12<sup>th</sup>) is the Kids Christmas Party, at 11am. It is a good time for the whole family. Next on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>, we have the Kampers Annual Champagne Holiday Brunch! Another don't miss event! Now I know that Catherine will be typing about the

Christmas baskets, but I want to add something. THIS IS WHEN WE SHINE AS A LODGE! We always need help! From set up to delivery, there is something for every member and their family to help with! Please plan on helping! Call Catherine or me! There are sign up sheets in the lounge.

Now while all of this is going on, we are also selling Christmas trees down at Carlsons on T O Blvd from Dec 1 – 20, 9am to 8pm and we also need help there. Your teenage kids or grandkids are always in need to help at the lot, as well as you! Please pick a day or 2 to come down and help. Nothing will help you feel the Holiday spirit of giving more than helping at the tree lot or with the baskets!

As I wrap up my long winded dissertation of events for the month, let me thank you personally for supporting our lodge thru-out the year. None of the great things that have happened this year would have been accomplished with-out You! And for that, I am truly grateful. THANK YOU!

Oh yea, One more thing! Wait till you see what we have in store for you on New Year's Eve! It will help start off the next year with a BANG! You won't want to miss this! Terry 805-231-9788



### Your Lodge Serving the Community

- \*Supplying dictionaries to third graders in the Pleasant Valley School District
- \*Providing clothing for veterans
- \*Hosting bingo party at Veterans Hospital
- \*Selling Christmas trees to the public
- \*Sponsoring Hoop Shoot for youth in the community

**BE AN ELK VOLUNTEER--SHOW  
 ELKS CARE--ELKS SHARE-  
 CONTACT THE OFFICE-496-2477**

2009-10 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

## LEADING KNIGHT

### Catherine Koeritz, PER

2009-10 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG:**

David Naccarato, PER

**SICKNESS AND DISTRESS:** Sally Claunch, PER**INVESTIGATION:** Bob Arbetman**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:** Tom Ryder,  
**PDDGER****CHRISTMAS BASKETS:** Catherine Koeritz, PER**INDOCTRINATION:** Dave Naccarato, PER**MEM. CONTROL. COM.:****CVAC:** Tom Hartin**COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** Jerry Serota**CHARITY DINNERS:** Catherine Koeritz, PER

The Holidays are here! We have a lot of events happening. Please check the calendar and highlight the activities that you would like to attend or participate in, and read-up on upcoming activities on the poster in the lounge.

**THE BIG TURKEY ROUNDUP:** Please donate a turkey or two for the baskets. I would appreciate it if you could keep it at home in your freezer, put your name and phone number on the turkey sign up sheet in the lounge. Please contact Corrine at the bar if you do not have room to store an extra turkey.

**CHRISTMAS TREE TRIMMING PARTY:** The Elks Ladies will sponsor the annual Christmas Tree Trimming Party on the 4th. This is a great event for the kids to come decorate the lodge tree and have some fun. The following week will be the Kids Christmas Party on December 10<sup>th</sup>. These events are open to Elks, their children, grandchildren and neighbors. That same week, the Elks Ladies will host their annual Christmas Party where traditionally the Officers serve the Ladies. We have the DDGER (Greg Metzger, PER) Homecoming on Wed. and the ER Christmas Party on Friday. Don't forget about the Kampers Christmas Brunch, you don't want to miss. They always have great raffle prizes to win!

**CHRISTMAS BASKETS:** The list of families needing a Charity basket will be compiled, and we will need happy little Elk helpers to volunteer. Many opportunities await and I have listed some of them below.

**TOY DONATION:** There is a bin in the lounge for depositing UNWRAPPED toys that will be distributed to the families along with the charity baskets.

**FILLING THE BASKETS, WRAPPING TOYS:** The lodge room will be closed on the week of the 14<sup>th</sup> in order to prepare (basically turn the room into a refrigerator) the baskets to be delivered on the following Saturday (Dec 19<sup>th</sup>). Volunteers will be needed to fill the baskets on Wed, December 16 afternoon and Thurs-Fri Dec 17-18 in the morning. PLEASE HELP

**DELIVERING:** On Sat. December 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am, we become delivery Elks Elves with trucks or whatever to personally deliver the baskets to the families. The families will be contacted and are eagerly awaiting our arrival with the food and toys for the kids. It is such a rewarding experience to deliver a basket while the kids are jumping up and down, so excited to see the toys and the parents appreciating the meal for the family.

I have a poster in the lounge. Please, please, please read the upcoming events, dates and volunteer opportunities.

**TREE LOT:** Don't forget about the tree lot. Help is always needed.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY:** We will be "Cruising Again in 2010". We plan on having an excellent dinner (a Wild Women on Wine Dinner!), great raffle gifts and door prize, a casino environment for your entertainment, dancing and the final ball drop to welcome in the New Year!

I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season with lots of love, health and peace.

### ELKS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

On Saturday Oct. 17th a difference was made in the life of 16 year old Mia Stoutenborough when the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 hosted a blood drive on her behalf. Mia suffers from Severe Aplastic Anemia.

When I signed up to donate blood for her and noticed the members who had already signed up before me, a wonderful feeling came over me that I was joining my Brothers and Sisters in a noble cause and that is making a difference. Through our good efforts 41 pints of blood and 101 signed up for the Bone Marrow Transplant registry.

On Sunday Oct. 18 we saw another example of Elks making a difference, the Street Faire. The BBQ teams joined forces to mount a great effort demonstrating once again that Elks Make a Difference. The satisfaction we saw in their faces as they joined forces in the Fraternity of Brotherhood for the good of Elkdom was very heartwarming.

Some times we go about our mundane daily lives and that is good. Then there comes along an opportunity like Mia Stoutenborough to make a difference. It is a two way sword when you can help a desperate cause. You are doing good and that makes you feel blessed as well.-Jerry Serota



2009-10 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	<b>LOYAL KNIGHT</b> <b>Steve Smith</b>	2009-10 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
<b>LODGE ACTIVITIES: Dave Naccarato, PER</b> <b>SCOUTING: Bill Miller</b> <b>HOOPSHOOT: Dave Naccarato, PER</b> <b>WED. NIGHT DINNERS: Steve Smith</b> <b>DRUG AWARENESS: Robert Jones</b> <b>STRAY ELKS: Herb Jellander</b>		<b>MOTHER'S DAY: Grant Thistle</b> <b>ENTERTAINMENT:</b> <b>WED. NIGHT TICKETS: Kira Wagner</b> <b>LAW ENFORCEMENT &amp; FIRE FIGHTER</b> <b>APPRECIATION: Scott Dool</b> <b>PRESIDING JUSTICE: Richard McCann</b> <b>YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Robert Jones</b>



### Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, which is annually on December 7, commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii, during World War II. Many American service men and women lost their lives or were injured on December 7, 1941. National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is also referred to as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day or Pearl Harbor Day.

What do people do?

On the direction of the President, the flag of the United States of America should be displayed on the homes of Americans, the White House and all United States government buildings. The flag should be flown at half-mast to honor those who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Many associations, especially those linked with Pearl Harbor survivors or those who died from the attack, participate in special services to commemorate the event. Memorial services are held at venues such as the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor. Other activities include: wreath-laying ceremonies; keynote speeches by those associated with the event; luncheons; media stories on survivors' recollections of the Pearl Harbor attack; and school activities to educate students about the attack on Pearl Harbor in relation to World War II history.

Public life

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is not a federal holiday. Government offices, schools, businesses and other organizations do not close. Public transit systems run on their regular schedules. Some organizations may hold special events in memory of those killed or injured in Pearl Harbor.

Background

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy. The attack came as a surprise to the American Army and Navy and led to great losses of life and equipment. More than 2000 American citizens were killed and more than 1000 were injured. The Americans also lost a large proportion of their battle ships and nearly 200 aircraft that were stationed in the Pacific region. More than 60 Japanese servicemen were killed, injured or captured.

The Japanese Navy also lost five midget submarines and 29 aircraft.

The Japanese military had hoped that the attack on Pearl Harbor would prevent the United States of America from increasing her influence in the Pacific. However, the events in Pearl Harbor actually led to the escalation of World War II. The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan and so entered World War II. President Franklin Roosevelt in a speech to Congress stated that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was "a date which will live in infamy". Shortly afterwards, Germany also declared war on the United States. In the months that followed the attack, the slogan "Remember Pearl Harbor" swept the United States and radio stations repeatedly played a song of the same name.

In 1991, which marked the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States Congress established the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Medal. This is also known as the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Medal and can be awarded to any veteran of the United States military who were present in or around Pearl Harbor during the attack by the Japanese military. The medal can be awarded to civilians, who were killed or injured in the attack.

Symbols

Memorials have been built to remember or to symbolize the day. For example, the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor is a marble memorial built over the sunken USS Arizona, which was dedicated in 1962. The memorial remembers all military personnel who were killed in the Pearl Harbor attack. The memorial was designed by architect Alfred Preis, an Austrian-born resident who lived in Honolulu and was placed at a detainment camp after the Pearl Harbor attack as part of the internment policy of Japanese and German Americans at the time.

Another memorial that commemorates Pearl Harbor Day is the USS Utah, a battleship that was attacked and sunk in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. A memorial to honor the crew of the USS Utah was dedicated on the northwest shore of Ford Island, near the ship's wreck, in 1972. The ship was added to the National Register of Historic Places and declared a National Historic Landmark in 1989. It is also Utah's official state ship. Memorabilia, books, and movies about the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 have also been made available to the public over the years.

The above article was gleaned from <http://www.timeanddate.com>, but a more detailed reference to this day of remembrance can be found at <http://www.pearlharborday.org> which I encourage you to visit.



**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

- December 4-Tree Trimming Party
- December 6-Elks Memorial Service
- December 8-Elk Ladies Christmas Party
- December 9-Greg Metzgus, DDGER Home-coming
- December 11-Exalted Ruler's Christmas Party
- December 12-Kids Christmas Party
- December 13-Kampers Brunch
- December 14/19-Christmas Basket Setup
- December 31-New Year's Eve Party
  
- January 20-Firefighters and Police Appreciation Dinner
- January 23-ENF Fundraiser

**SICKNESS AND DISTRESS**

**805-495-0577**

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:** All members of the Armed Services who help keep us free, Bill Lloyd, DL from spine infection

**ON THE MEND:** Lynn Rodriguez from surgery

**REMEMBER CARDS AND CALLS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!!!**

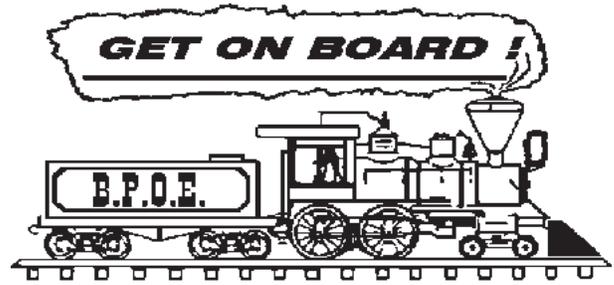
**House Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Trustees meet the first Tuesday at 6 p.m.**

**Your input is valued. Your attendance is welcomed.**

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

~ ENF ~

~ Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities ~



*Elks National Foundation*

Great phrase! GET ON BOARD! Just checked with Grand Lodge. Thousand Oaks Lodge is listed as 74<sup>th</sup> out of 180 Lodges in the California-Hawaii Elks Association. Our per capita as of October 31st is \$4.34 per person (\$1500 total donations). That means we are close to the Grand Exalted Ruler's per capita goal of \$4.50 for the 2009-2010 Lodge year in the greatest, covers the most, program in the Order of Elks. The mission of the Elks National Foundation is to help Elks build stronger communities. Budgeted ENF programs for 2009-2010 are;

State Elks Associations Grants -	\$7.22 million
Scholarship Programs -	\$3.64 million
National Veterans Service Program -	\$950,515
Hoop Shoot free throw contest -	\$776,340
Elks Memorial Building Maintenance -	\$426,652
Elks Drug Awareness Program -	\$748,200
Community Investment Program -	\$1.375 million

This year for every dollar donated last year, the Grand Lodge ENF program has made available \$1.90 to budgeted ENF Programs.

. If you chose to donate by check, make your check payable to the Elks National Foundation, put Lodge #2477 on the check and mail it to the Elks National Foundation, 2750 Lakeview Ave, Chicago, Il, 60614-2256. If you want to give it to me and I'll mail it for you. I also accept cash but make sure that you get a receipt from me. I am forgetful at times! Also if you are brave and internet savvy you can make your donation by e-mail, enf@elks.org.

ENF Fundraiser being planned;

**PAST EXALTED RULERS THANKS TO DEE SWANSON**

**PERs Saturday Night at The Lodge  
Dinner and Fun Night Honoring Dee  
Saturday January 23, 2010**

Fraternally  
Tom Ryder - PDDGER - 805-497-1853  
Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge ENF Chairman



# ENTERTAINMENT

December 4-Renagades Band  
 December 11-Tom & Jerry Party  
 December 18-Entertainment  
 New Year's Eve--  
 One Last Dance Band



**Corinne Richeson**  
 Bar Manager



## PULL TAB COLLECTION

The Elks do make a difference in the lives of the families of the children fighting life threatening illnesses.  
 How?? A small yet significant way is by collecting pull tabs and toiletries. Over the past year the Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley Elks collected and donated over a million pull tabs. One million pull tabs when recycled will provide a night's lodging for 25 families at the Pasadena Ronald McDonald House. A job well done!  
 Keep collecting those pull tabs and toiletries and fill the containers in your lodge. Thank You.  
 Gerry Gillies



## ELKS CHRISTMAS TREE LOT – 2009

Once again, it's time to start spooling up for the Elks Christmas Tree Lot. As always, it will be a lot of hard work but provides a significant return for our charities and building fund. We had a very good year in 2008, despite increased competition, in large part due to a record participation by our membership. At least 80 members helped out – some a lot, some a little – but everyone was needed and appreciated.

CARLSONS BUILDING MATERIALS has again made a part of their street front property available to us on Thousand Oaks Boulevard. Please be sure to patronize this valued sponsor whenever possible.

Please mark your calendars with these dates and times:

November 30 & December 1	(Mon/Tues)	9am-1pm	Setup lot & trailer at Carlsons
December 2	(Wed)	TBA	First Tree Delivery (Tentative)
December 3 - December 20		9am-8pm	Tree Sales
December 9	(Wed)	TBA	Second Tree Delivery
December 20	(Sun)		Last Day of Sales
December 21	(Mon)		Tear Down Lot

The lot will be open from approximately 9 am to 8 pm every day. Food, drink, campfire and camaraderie always included. Thanks in advance for everyone's help!

Fraternally,  
 Herb Jellander 805-497-2624  
 Cell 805-905-8146  
 Terry Baker 805-495-6127  
 Bill Sternberg 805-933-9020  
 Ben Reiger 805-492-3998

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Sally Claunch, PER  
[claunchsally@gmail.com](mailto:claunchsally@gmail.com)  
 articles due 5th of month  
 send as Word attachment



## MEMORIAL SERVICE

Traditionally, December is a month of joyous celebrations and gift giving. Yet for Elks, it is also a somber time. We honor our deceased members and support their spouses. On the first Sunday in December in every lodge across the country a ceremony is held for this purpose. It is a moving ritual performed by the officers and a gift is given to each new widow/widower by the PER Association. As an officer, I had participated

many times. Now as a PER it is my honor to be part of the gift giving crew. I invite all Elks to come within the lodge room on December 6th to witness the ritual and give support to the newly made widows and widowers. Your presence will be a gift worth giving.



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



Misty Boykin with sponsor Heather Maddox



Chuck Costigan with sponsor Heather Maddox



Dennis Bock with sponsor Carol Fredericks



Chad Peterson with sponsor Bill Burmeister



Allan Erickson with sponsor Rick Herrera



Ed Bianchi for donating paving material for the parking lot and Tom Hartin for leveling the parking lot



**Pat Von Wittenberg**  
**Elkonejo Kampers**

**IT'S STILL NEW - - BUT HAS GREAT  
POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE  
AND WE FILLED IT - - - SORTA**

October @ Tapo Canyon Park

We haven't exactly had a plethora of campers the past few months, and were a bit concerned about that shortage at Tapo Canyon. Due to the "aggressive" sales of either Deb LaFarr and/or Joel Erickson - we managed to fill all the sites. WAHOO the treasury doesn't take it in the shorts!!

Speaking of our sagging treasury, a couple of my quilting buddies have donated quilts in various stages of completion, which I intend to finish and offer at a silent auction, date to be determined. One of the tops I was working on at Tapo is a patchwork CAT top. Cheryl grabbed hold of the unfinished top and I had to pry it from her hands to continue working. DOWN GIRL - - wait till it's finished. (it is pretty darned cute). Even quilter Mary Holbert took a shine to it. Should be interested to see what happens.

Our October theme has switched from Halloween to October Fest (fine by me, got tired of being outdone by the Erickson grandkids, giggle). There were so many helping hands but I understand the LaFarrs and Drakes were co-wagon masters. And a mighty find job they did!

Come Saturday, the LaFarrs were cooking Brats in Beer, assisted by Dave Holbert, saw Mark Rediger chopping onions - not sure what hands the Drakes put into the prep but I'm sure it was something.

One of the attention getters at the campout was Bob and Margaret Thornton's pet stroller. I looked out our window one morning and thought, "what the heck is a baby stroller doing by the Thornton's rig?" I then realized it was Thomas' stroller. Tommy the Cat. That boy LOVES being taken for a walk in his stroller. We do have a tendency to cater to our animals - and this is above and beyond. NO Cheryl they don't have multiples to accommodate your FIVE at a time.

I'm getting ahead of myself here but before I forget and while speaking of the Thorntons - - FINALLY at LONG LAST - Margaret won a raffle prize all on their own - - probably the best - - a FREE CAMPOUT. You shoulda seen that lady jump - oh I'd say a couple feet off the ground when their number was called. At every campout they attend and it is generally every month, the Thornton's buy raffle

tickets. In the past, some of us felt so bad - -we'd give our ticket to Margaret - - not this time and she sure wasn't sharing [giggle].

Don't know if any of you have received this information or not - but with all the flap-doodle going round about Swine Flu, thought this information received from an insurance agent appropriate to share:

**Cold**

Symptoms:

**Fever**--Fever is rare  
**Coughing-**

A hacking (mucus producing) cough is often present

A dry cough is usually present

**Aches**-Slight body aches and pains

Severe aches and pains

**Stuffy nose**

Stuffy nose is commonly present and typically resolves spontaneously within a week

Stuffy nose is not commonly present

**Chills**-Chills are uncommon

Chills occur in 60% of cases

**Tiredness**-Tiredness is fairly mild

Tiredness is moderate to severe

**Sneezing**-Sneezing is common

Sneezing is not common

**Sudden Symptoms-**

Symptoms tend to develop over a few days

Rapid onset within 3 - 6 hours with sudden symptoms of high fever - muscle aches - shortness of breath - tight chest

**Headache**-Headaches are fairly mild

Headache occur in 89% of cases

**Sore Throat**-Sore Throat is commonly present

Sore throat is not commonly present

**Chest Discomfort**-Chest discomfort is mild

Chest discomfort is often severe

Stay well everyone. See ya out an about!

**Upcoming Campouts**

January 8-9-Travel Village

February 12-13-California RV Acton

March 12-13-Newport Dunes



visit the website:

<http://elkonejokampers.oaksdata.com>

to join call Bev Erickson 495-9715



## Angels For Mia



John and I would like to express our thanks to all Thousand Oaks Lodge members and friends and family who participated in this effort to help Mia Stoutenborough. The fundraiser was a great success, raising thousands of dollars to help Mia in her fight. 100% of the gross proceeds went to help offset the costs not covered by medical insurance in conjunction with the Talbert Family Foundation. While we were partying on Halloween, Mia was undergoing a second round of chemotherapy in Maryland. We were lucky to have a videoconference with Mia and her parents Doug and Candida Stoutenborough via SKYPE. The list is pretty long of people to thank, but here goes (and if anyone is left off, please accept my apologies in advance – it was truly a Lodge effort!) First and foremost, a huge THANK YOU to all of the bone marrow registrants and blood donors.

Between the event on October 17 and Halloween weekend, we registered 118 people into the bone marrow registry and received blood donations from 41 people. AMAZING... Holly Collier from Be The Match told us usually 30 registrants is considered a successful event. Holly is also coordinating with other Lodges in our District to hold registry events. Helping with decorations and the night of the event was Duty Officer Robert Koeritz, Jason, Cheryl Templeton, Karen Martyn, Amanda Skoczek and Kylie Milner. Our ticket taker Karen Boudreau was helpful in securing raffle prizes also! Corinne was great as our behind the scenes coordinator of suppliers and logistics. One Last Dance donated their fantastic music as our Angels, witches, pirates and assorted hooligans danced and danced and danced. The Tri-tip sandwiches were a big hit (thanks to the PER Association for cooking and slicing for us during their Saturday BBQ). The Kampers rallied (literally) in the parking lot and put up a spectacular Haunted House (donations for Mia). Thanks to the Kudras for organizing the Kampers... and to Tom Hartin for making the parking lot level and electrified... We had great raffle donors – Marmalade Café in Calabasas was the grand prize, other donors for certificates were The Junkyard Café in Simi Valley, King's Fish House in Calabasas and the Pearson's (our ER won a Day of Fun at their home!). Dark Angel sparkling Gail Bergin was the raffle ticket seller.

Financial donors in excess of the event entry cost were Azar's Sports Grill, the Pearsons, the Koeritzs, Peterson's Heating and Air Conditioning, Du All Sheet Metal, czs, inc., the Metzgus', Robert McFarlane, Corinne, Rick Herrera and the Scholarship recyclers, even Gabriel that came to wash our RV in the parking lot donated back the cleaning fee. We also want to thank the many of you bought wristbands and made financial donations even though you couldn't attend. The Costume contest winners were happy to find that the prizes were drink tokens! Monday night Jambalaya dinner proceeds served 33 Saints fans (GO SAINTS 8-0 now!). The cost was \$5 for Saints fans and \$10 for Atlanta fans; no one would admit to being an Atlanta fan. John Peterson underwrote the weekend's costs so

that the donations and gross proceeds were 100% for the cause.

Our publicists Jerry Serota and Sally Claunch got the word out for us and last but not least, we want to sincerely thank Exalted Ruler Terry Gicking. He was 100% behind the project from the beginning and we could not have had such a successful event without him! Mia's father Doug visited the Lodge Wednesday night before the meeting on November 4 and was happy to meet many of our members. Turns out Doug's father Paul and Bill Sternberg were Cub Scout Pack leaders together over 30 years ago.

On a serious note, with Aplastic Anemia, the only real hope for long term survivability is a bone marrow transplant. At this time there is no donor. This has been devastating news for Mia and her family, but the fight continues. The immediate family had already been tested, but none of them were a match. The chances of anyone in the general population being a match are slim, but that is now our only hope. Please consider being tested as a possible bone marrow donor match for Mia. The test takes 10 minutes of your time, and is done by swabbing the inside of your cheek with a Q-tip like swab. It is very simple, and of course, painless. Such an easy thing to do to save a life! You can find out how by going to Mia's Caring Bridge website at: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/mias/journal>

Additionally, the National Marrow Donation Program has a website. Here you will find information about becoming a potential donor. A quick, excellent video, "Life - It's in You", explains the testing and donation procedures, and can be seen at: <http://www.marrow.org/JOIN/index.html>

If you've ever thought about being a hero who saved someone's life, here's your chance to fulfill your dream.

Cherrie Peterson



2009-10 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**Leo Rodriquez**

2009-10 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**AMERICANISM: Grant Thistle**  
**FLAG DAY/FLAG RETIREMENT:**  
**Robert Jones**  
**SCHOLARSHIP: Rick Herrera**  
**GOVT. RELATIONS: Scott Dool**  
**MEMORIAL SERVICE: Grant Thistle**  
**NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg**  
**KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER**



**GOLFTOURNAMENT: Dave Pearson**  
**LODGE PICNIC: Joe Clancy & Ed Bianchi**  
**MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member**  
**CHRISTMASTREES: Herb Jellander**  
**Bill Sternberg, PER/Terry Baker**  
**ELKONEJOKAMPERS: Mike Flannery**

**G.I. Joe Poem**

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.  
I'd come down the chimney with presents to give and to see  
just who in this home did live.  
As I looked all about, a strange sight did I see, no tinsel, no  
presents, not even a tree.  
No stockings by the fire, just boots filled with sand. On the  
wall hung pictures of a far distant land.  
With medals, and badges, awards of all kind, a sobering  
thought soon came to mind.  
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen. This was the  
home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more, so I  
walked down the hall and pushed open the door.  
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor  
in his one- bedroom home.  
He seemed so gentle, his face so serene, not how I pictured a  
U.S. Marine.  
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up in his  
poncho, a floor for a bed.  
His head was clean- shaven, his weathered face tan. I soon  
understood, this was more than a man.  
For I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives  
to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the nation, the children would play, and  
grownups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.  
They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year, because of  
Marines like this one lying here.  
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold  
Christmas Eve, in a land far from home. just the very thought  
brought a tear to my eye. I dropped to my knees and started to  
cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,"Santa, don't  
cry, this life is my choice"

"I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more. My life is my  
God, my country, my Corps"  
With that he rolled over, drifted into sleep, I couldn't control it,  
I continued to weep.

I watched him for hours, so silent and still. I noticed he  
shivered from the cold nights chill.  
So I took off my jacket, the one made of red, and covered this  
Marine from his toes to his head.  
Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold, with an eagle,  
globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.

And although it barley fit me, I began to swell with pride, and for  
one shinning moment, I was a Marine deep inside.  
I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night this guardian of  
honor so willing to fight.  
But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,said  
"Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day ,all secure."  
One look at my watch and I knew was right, Merry Christmas my  
Friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.  
Thank you Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt



**VETERANS REMEMBERED**

November 1st the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477  
remembered our veterans by inviting them to a Bunch in their honor.  
It is fitting that the November 11th is Veterans Memorial day and we  
took this opportunity to treat them to a special brunch. Twenty four  
of them came in 2 buses in order to accommodate the wheel chaired  
veterans from the VA Communal Center and Day Care Program.

They were treated with ham, sausage, bacon, potatoes,  
biscuits and gravy, tapioca, and sweet rolls. A special treat was a  
musician who played a medly of sentimental songs of the forties as  
well as the songs of their service. The members and their ladies  
served those who needed help as well as catered to those on the  
serving line.

The Elks pledge adopted in 1946 is "As long as there is a  
Veteran in our hospitals the Benevolent and Order of Elks will never  
forget them."-Jerry Serota



**Jim Weiner being greeted by ER, Terry Gicking-an interview with  
Jim can be seen on our lodge website-www.elks2477.com**

2009-2010 COMMITTEE  
CHAIRPERSONS

## THE ELKS LADIES

Patricia Peterson

2009-2010 COMMITTEE  
CHAIRPERSONS

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**SECRETARY:** Lynn Rodriquez  
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**AUDITOR:** Beth Kozlowski  
**TELEPHONE:** Patti Serota



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**CHAPLAIN:** Marilyn Cissell  
**MAJOR PROJECTS:** Niki Case  
**SUNSHINE:** Shirley Kozlowski  
**HISTORIAN:** Carol Fredericks  
**CVD:** Alice Kennedy & Marilyn Cissell

It is that time of year when we turn our thoughts to busy and happy times. We are getting ready for the Christmas tree trimming, Christmas charity baskets and the annual ladies Christmas dinner. Come out and support us. The winner of the 50/50 was Marilyn Cissell \$33.50 and the winner of the bubble drawing was Sharon Baker \$40. January bubble is worth \$20.

Now we leave you with thoughts of Christmas:

### Christmas history in America :

In the early 17th century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas. By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and, with him, came the return of the popular holiday. The pilgrims, English separatists that came to America in 1620, were even more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell. As a result, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. By contrast, in the Jamestown settlement, Captain John Smith reported that Christmas was enjoyed by all and passed without incident.

After the American Revolution, English customs fell out of favor, including Christmas. In fact, Congress was in session on December 25, 1789, the first Christmas under America's new constitution. Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday until June 26, 1870.

### The History of Hanukkah

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated for eight days, commencing on the 25th day of the month of Kislev (November/ December), to commemorate the victory of the Jews over the Hellenist Syrians in 165 BCE.

Following their victory, the Maccabees, sons of the Priestly Hasmonean family which led the Jews in their revolt against the Syrian overlords, entered the Holy Temple in Jerusalem defiled by the Syrian invaders, cleansed it and dedicated it anew to the service of God. Then, in memory of their victory, the Maccabees celebrated the first Hanukkah. (Hanukkah is the Hebrew

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Colleen MacFarlane-6  
Kay Riebe-10  
Shirley Kozlowski-12  
Catherine Koeritz, PER-14  
Roxy Skinner-15  
Mary Ann Swallows-23  
Marilyn Cissell-27  
Sally Claunch, PER-30

### PLEASE REFUSE TO BE BORED



Marilyn Cissell

So grand is your creation,  
such magnitude with much to see.  
You've given all of this to us,  
with love and unconditionally.

And anything is possible.  
How could anyone be bored?  
Your blessings are abundant,  
we worship you, most precious Lord.

Amen

term for dedication.) The Talmud, the body of Jewish oral law, relates how the Judean heroes, led by Judah Maccabee, were making ready to rededicate the Temple and were unable to find enough oil to light the lamps. However, in one of the Temple chambers, they finally came upon a small cruse of oil, which, under normal circumstances, would have lasted only one evening. Miraculously, this amount of oil kept the Temple lights burning, not for one night, but for all the eight nights until new oil fit for use in the Temple could be obtained. This is the miracle commemorated by the kindling of the Hanukkah lights.

However, you celebrate this holiday season, we wish you and yours the best of health and happiness. May 2010 bring you the best of everything.

The Elks Ladies Board,  
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Charlotte Gessler, Treasurer  
Lynn Roderguiz, Secretary  
Patricia Peterson, President

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 Cherri Peterson  
 Chris Prince  
 Eugene Letourneau  
 Tom Hartin  
 Bob Arbetman  
 Robert Jones  
 Karin Speights

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joan Roper-1  
 Bruce Cameron-3  
 Edward Cassese-3  
 Chuck Kudra-3  
 Paul Stein-4  
 Grant Thistle-4  
 Richard Johnson-5  
 Richard Wixon-5  
 Eugene Letourneau-6  
 Gerald Feldman-7  
 Raymond Clayton-11  
 Dale Smith-11  
 Erich Briggs-12  
 Valerie Higgins-13

Catherine Koeritz, PER-14  
 I.B. Jensen-16  
 Donald Rue-16  
 Kira Wagner-19  
 Harry Isaman-20  
 Robert Jennings-20  
 Rick L. Goldner-21  
 Mike Miller-21  
 David Bowman-22  
 William Sandham-25  
 George Estok-26  
 Mel Baker-27  
 Edward F. Bianchi-27  
 Stephen Finnerty-29  
 Robert R. Jones-29  
 Michael Ramirez-29

Susie Ross-29  
 Nabil Sakla-29  
 Sally Claunch, PER-30



Elks making a difference:



Paul Stein, Jim Mullen, Jim Moye and Ben Reiger cooking at the Street Faire



BBQ chief, Ed Rice supervising



Tommy Claunch and Ken Keeler making sandwiches

### FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON: December 9, 2009

Candidate:

Scott Bulmer  
 Phyllis Bulmer  
 Patricia Hawn

Sponsor:

Catherine Koeritz  
 Catherine Koeritz  
 Catherine Koeritz

Application for Reinstatement - Wendell Oxford  
 Transfer Dimit from Glendale Lodge - Clint Howard

### CRYING TOWEL

#### CRYING TOWEL

- 10/07/09 Capsule Drawing -no winner  
Lucky 13 no winner
- 10/14/09 Capsule Drawing - Mary Woodlief - not present  
Lucky 13 Bob Arbetman - Winner - \$150.00
- 10/21/09 Capsule Drawing - Peter Nolan - not present  
Lucky 13 no winner
- 10/28/09 Capsule Drawing - Dwight Williams - Winner - \$100.00  
Lucky 13 no winner



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Your Name

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Offer good during your Birthday month. Limit one drink per member

**Help Fund**



**Our Scholarship Program**

**Bring your aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles to the Lodge**



**Drop off at Wed. meetings or at Sat. BBQ by rear entrance to the bar parking lot**

**Thanks- Rick Herrera Scholarship Chair.**

Our sponsors through their generosity help defray the cost of this publication. We thank them. Please show your appreciation by supporting them.

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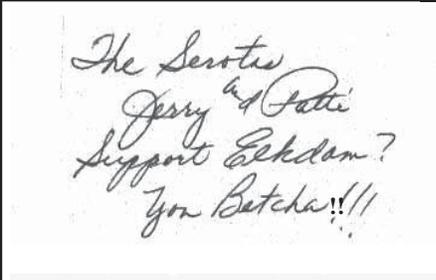
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Organization  
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Elks Lodge #2477**

General Meeting  
every month on the  
1st Tuesday  
at 7:30 pm



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We have the opportunity to help our Vision Screeners/Therapists and their children by saving Box Tops For Education. All you have to do is clip the top and bring it in to the lodge – each one is worth 10 cents – and that adds up fast! Just look for this symbol –



Kira Wagner

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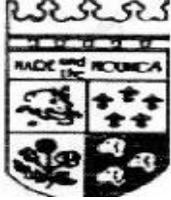
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1994-95 *George Pekow	
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\*Deceased

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