

ANTLER



Don Booker
EXALTED RULER



ANTICS

VOLUME 31, NO. 10

Editor, Jerry Serota

January 2003

BPO Elks Lodge #2477 Presents The 26th Annual



LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIREFIGHTERS NIGHT

Wed. January 29, 2003

Social Hour: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Combination BBQ Ribs & Chicken
\$12

Ceremony: 8:00 p.m.

Scott F. Dool, Chairman

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



EXALTED RULER
Don Booker

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ANTLER ANTICS: Jerry Serota, Editor
NEW FACILITIES: Tom Ryder, PSVP
HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK: Jerry Serota
GREETERS: Jack Loughran, PER
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jerry Serota
BUILDING MAINT.: "Mac" McDonald



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

Members and Friends,

I hope you and yours had a wonderful Christmas.

Our Charity Ball, etc. was very successful thanks to Greg and Barbara Metzgun and crew, also with your participation. Our Basket program will also be a success due to these programs. 2002 was a great year. I want to thank everyone for your support.

'About 'Operation Facelift', Len Cardoni is drawing us a plan for our Lodge Room. You will be seeing some improvements in the very near future.

A big thank you to Bob Hardy, PER, Chairman of the Christmas Tree lot, Terry Baker, Jay Block and the many other people who helped.

Another thank you to Max Maxwell and Mac McDonald for repairing our restroom for our office. It was a major job. Thanks for another job well done. A special thanks to Marilyn Harding for her decorations.

On January 29th we will be having our 26th Annual Law Enforcement and Firefighters Appreciation Nite. It is open to everyone, hope to see you there. Scott Dool is our Chairman and every year he has done an outstanding job.

"And remember it's a good live"

FIRST LADIES CORNER

Barbara Booker, FL



Hi,
Well, did you all have a wonderful holiday?

I want to thank all the of the ladies for all of their help. You did a superb job on all the many activities we have had.

Don't forget the Sweetheart Ball in February. See you there!

Barbara

CHARITY BASKETS RAFFLE

The last of the raffle baskets for our Charity Basket Program were drawn at the Ladies Christmas party on the 10th of December. The last two raffle baskets were won by:

Blue Ticket #207392 won by Pat McC

Blue Ticket #067946 won by Ed Jones

The baskets can be picked up at the lodge. Please contact Greg Metzgun, 498 5495 to arrange pick up of your prizes. Thank you all for your support in this raffle, the proceeds all went to our Charity Basket Program.

Thank you, Greg Metzgun, Leading Knight

TREE TRIMMING PARTY



The members supplied a wonderful array of food and dessert



The children entertained us with carols



EDITORS CORNER

jserota497@earthlink.net

With the coming of the New Year in the past we have always greeted it with hope in our heart and optimism of better days to come. A year of 'Health, Love and Prosperity'.

January sees us entering the year 2003 and after reading the newspaper and listening to the news we are saddened that the year 2003 bodes evil in every direction.

If we were Nostradamus we could look into our crystal ball and see airplanes falling out of the sky from missile attacks, large atomic mushrooms hovering on the horizon; and our country falling into a period of isolationism due to the fanatics who have little or no regard for life or limb; Free travel will be curtailed; no one will be allowed to leave or enter our borders; trade with the rest of the world will cease and a great depression will strangle the whole world and millions of people will starve to death.

Why is it that every 40 or 50 years people forget who the *'Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse'* are. They are **War, Death, Pestilence, and Famine**. Great wars can destroy and that seems to be in the direction the world is going. What evil motivates fanatics to blow themselves up so they can destroy themselves and all those around them.

The near East and the Far East find us an enemy that must be destroyed at all costs. What have we as a freedom loving people done to deserve such hate. Have we been so heavy handed in our dealings with other countries to warrant such hatred? Being an optimist we hope not.

We hope it is not envy because we enjoy freedom and a plentiful way of life and theirs is wanting. Have they lost all hope for the coming New Year? Let us pray that the coming year gives them back the hope they may have lost and peace and prosperity replace their hatred. Let the coming year of 2003 be a happy one for the whole world.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION (ENF)

ENF, the Great Heart of Elkdom. The Great Heart of Elkdom supports Student Scholarships, Drug Awareness programs, Veterans Service programs, Youth Activities, the Elks National Home and the Veterans Memorial



ELKS HOSPITALITY

You are all acquainted with the statement "The Order of Elks is distinctively American". In the United States and its territories, that is true. In fact in most of the world that is true. But in Canada that is not so!

The Canadians have an Order of Elks very similar to ours. They have the same allegiances to God, the flag of their country and to their country. Many of their rituals are similar to ours. I had the pleasure of meeting and talking with one of these Canadian Elks several years ago when he and his family visited the Thousand Oaks lodge. Checked his membership card, same as ours, and discussed the goals and principles of the Canadian Elks, same as ours!

Have been asked by several lodges as to what the protocol is to be in our reception of any Canadian Elk who happens to come to our lodge. Decided to get some guidance and help. Called Grand Lodge. Spoke to a person in the Grand Secretaries office and was told there is nothing written as how to handle visiting Canadian Elk members. The general unofficial opinion is that while they cannot join our Order we can make them welcome and extend their paid up members the courtesy of Elks hospitality within our lodges.

It is up to the lodge they visit as to the matter of how they are to be allowed to use that lodges facilities. But in general we, as Elks, can make them welcome and invite them to join in our Elks activities and functions. They do the same for us in their country. Fraternally

Tom Ryder – DDGER
West Central Coast District
California-Hawaii Elks Association

maintenance fund. These are a few of the areas that your ENF Funds support. The California-Hawaii Elks Association (CHEA) gets a little over \$2 back for each dollar that is donated each year. Do you get back \$2 for every dollar that you donate to ENF? No! But the CHEA committees do. And where does this money go. Last year over \$600,000 went from ENF back into CHEA's Major Project, Handy Capped Children, additional funds go to scholarship programs, Hoop shoot and Soccer shoot .

Last year the Thousand Oaks Lodge had a per member donation of \$11.343. Grand Exalted Ruler, Roger True has set his per member goal of \$3.65 for the 2002-2003 Elks Year. As of November 30, 2002, the Thousand Oaks per member donation was \$2.613, far below last years figure. In our district Thousand Oaks ranks 7th out of the twelve lodges. Last year we were first! Please support the Lodge's ENF programs and help to get our lodge back up on top. Your donations count!

Fraternally – Tom Ryder – DDGER - WCCD

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	LEADING KNIGHT Greg Metzgus	2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG: Dave Naccarato SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch INVESTIGATION: George Meehan ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION: Jay Block CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Greg & Barbara Metzgus		INDOCTRINATION: Jack Loughran, PER MEM. CONTROL. COM.: Darren Zigler CVAC: Tom Hartin COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Jerry Serota OFFICERS ROUND TABLE: Jack Panczak CHARITY DINNERS: Greg & Barbara Metzgus

I am taking a break from the planning of the Holiday Basket program to write this article for the January issue. The Holiday baskets have brought home to me the charity that exists in our order and particularly in our lodge. From the very beginning of this endeavor clear back in July, I have received help from so many of our members. It all started with a suggestion by our Secretary Bill Lloyd that I raffle off a weekend trip to raise money for the baskets. I stretched the weekend into 4 days and obtained a cruise to Mexico as the grand prize. The support by our members in that raffle was overwhelming. Larry and Coleen will be traveling to Mexico aboard the Carnival ship "Ecstasy" in May because their number was drawn at the Charity Fiesta. Two other weekend trips were won along with several dinners at local restaurants.

The Charity Fiesta was another fund raiser for the Charity Baskets that was very well supported by our members. Felix Gomez arranged for the Mexican Food and Carol Neuner prepared Chicken for the few Gringos we had in the room that night. The Mariachis and the DJ kept us entertained. Thank you to all that helped bring the Fiesta together. Great Margarita/ Tequila bar guys.

I would like to thank Sharon Baker, Marilyn Harding and my wife Barbara for putting together the raffle prizes we used to raise funds. As I said earlier, a lot of people have made our Charity Basket program happen.

Thank you to everyone that has come up to me and said, "here, put this money toward the Charity Basket." The Campers, the Ladies, the Jr. Elks, the Konejo Klays, individual members and I hope I haven't left anyone out but the support has been tremendous.

I will return to my Excel spread sheet with the names and addresses of 60 or so less fortunate members of our community. There is still a lot of verifying to do and a shopping list to be made out. I have to tell you that this Christmas will be special for me. With all of your help the star at the top of all of our Christmas Trees will shine a little brighter this Holiday Season.

Thank you, Happy New Year and God bless you all.



Larry & Coleen Morris won the Charity Ball cruise to Mexico



Greg Metzgus, Leading Knight receives a check from Scout booster Jack Malone for \$100



Johnny D' Ambrogio, PER, and Chair of Elks Training handed out certificates of those who passed the test



THANKSGIVING FEAST AT KENNEY GROVE

Pat von Wittenburg



The Camping Gods were not kind this year! The rain started Thursday evening and did not stop until sometime Saturday night - but it did not detour most of the die-hard campers. Thursday evening saw some of us with umbrellas, ponchos or

just getting wet sitting around the campfire in spite of the rain.

The Nueners even arrived after Carol had cooked at the Lodge Friday night and set up their campsite in the rain - now that's dedication.

Of course Sunday when it was time for most of us to go home, the sky was crystal clear and the sun came out as bright as it could possibly be.

It seems the poker players will always find a place to play - as I walked passed the Erickson's rig Friday evening I observed a group totally engrossed in a game and Saturday evening I overheard Doris Newcomer remark to Bob Hardy, "Are you happy now, I lost." Do you supposed that means Bob won?

The slate of officer for the year 2003 will be President - Walter Ogden; Vice President - John Kolb; Secretary - Pat von Wittenburg; Treasurer - Donna Hardy.

It seems that those who cook on the grill in the kitchen at the Lodge find it inadequate - the campers have designated Joel Erickson to shop for and purchase said piece of equipment and have authorized an expenditure of up to \$2500.

The books and video sales produced a nice sum for the Purple Pig - when I had to turn it over to Beverly, as I recall we had in excess of \$50 - not too bad!

The prizes on the raffle table were numerous and Barbara Kurmas walked away with quite a few. Vickie Egan was there a few times also, always serenaded on her walk from the back of the room with "Happy Birthday" - I'll bet she'll be quite content if she doesn't hear that tune again for several years. There were several repeat winners, but one "random act of kindness" was very touching - Marva picked a pair of teddy bears, I guess she had heard Donna Hardy say she'd like for a great grandchild and Marva gave them to Donna. How about that?

Since this campout is so large, Sheriff duties have been divided into the three levels of the campground. Walter Ogden did a great job with what he had to work with - considering the weather and the fact that people were inside the majority of the

time. Then came the imaginative, creative Sheriff for the middle level - Carol Ewald. She got all the campers on her level together, wrote a little diddy (I'm sorry I didn't capture a copy) the final line being as best I can recall "and here's your lousy buck!" Needless to say - everyone cracked up on that.



Then - I had to follow that show - certainly not an easy task - but I did manage to muddle through and even elicit a few chuckles.

Some people are too lucky for words, Donna Colleran's mom, Beverly Day, has won the 50/50 for the past two months.

Joel and Beverly Erickson have handled Wagonmaster duties on this campout for the past six years, at least. It is always the largest of the year - and they do an incredible job. I think we have all begun to take their efforts for granted. We have forgotten that MANY days of preparation prior to the campout (shopping, loading, etc), unloading, preparation at the campsite, cleanup and reloading in preparation for departure takes place.

Thank You, Kudos and Words of Praise are ALWAYS appreciated - but a helping hand is the most sincere kind of thanks. Is there anyone out there that wants the job? ? ? I certainly don't, do you? Joel will probably chew me out - but I really think we tend to become complacent when all the work has been done for us for a long time.

All things considered - it was a glorious campout! ! !

January 11-12 '03 Port Hueneme - John & Gladys Ennis

February 14-15 '03 Oak Park - Don & Doris Newcomer

TECK TIPS

Another lesson learned this campout - we seem to assume (what does that word make out of u and me) that because we are going to a campground with hookups those hookups will always work - wrong-oh! This time there was a problem with the city water pump down the road a ways and the park was without water for a while. Some of our campers were without water for a while also. We have found it a good policy to carry at least 25 gallons on board, even when traveling a short distance - you just never know.

While having our tow bar adjusted at Totten RV in Kingman, AZ, had an opportunity to talk with their serviceman who had just returned from a two-week seminar on Onan Generators and various RV appliances. Was surprised to learn they recommend that the generators be run 3 to 4 hours per month, the air conditioners be run for 15 to 20 minutes per month in the winter and the furnace be run 15 to 20 minutes per month during the summer. Hey - that's what the man who works on these things said!

**Kampers - remember your dues become due and payable
January 1, 2003.**

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	LOYAL KNIGHT Jay Block	2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Lee Grindle LODGE ACTIVITIES: Dave Naccarato SCOUTING: Greg Metzger/Gary Holton HOOPSHOOT: Heather Maddox WED. NIGHT DINNERS: DRUG AWARENESS: Tom Ryder, DDGER STRAY ELKS: David Pearson MOTHERS DAY: Jim Rochford		ENTERTAINMENT: Joe Smith WED. NIGHT TICKETS: George Meehan\Sally Claunch LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION: Scott Dool DISTRICT PICNIC: Tom Ryder, DDGER PRESIDING JUSTICE: Dick McCann YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Heather Maddox

This article is being written during the first week in December, therefore all of the great things we do during this month have yet to be done. But we did open the Tree Lot under the able leadership of Bob Hardy at the time of this writing and I'm sure it did well. All of the parties I hope were a success as well as the Charity Basket Program. So on to the New Year, and new endeavors.

Operation Face Lift and Lodge Beautification will be on the front burner all calendar year, and will be the special concern to our entire Officer Corp and Trustees. The work that has been done so far is only a beginning, the plans for the Lodge Room and Lounge are being prepared as I write, and if they are as I know they will be, the membership will be most impressed.

At the urging of Brother Jack Malone, on Thursday the 23rd we will have the first "Build Your Own Burger Night" for \$1, in conjunction with a Pie Sale by our Elks Ladies. We hope that this will become a regular event.

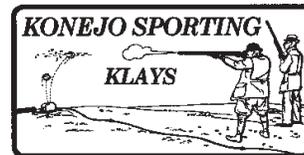
On the 3rd, the Dennison Crew is blessing us with their FFC (Fantastic Fried Chicken) accompanied with all of the accrements of a Southern Style Dinner. Price \$8

My better half, the beautiful Myrna, will provide you all with her outstanding Meat Loaf or Roasted Chicken (your choice). Price \$8

I want to welcome Crystal Dool to our elite line up of chefs as she presents her Gourmet Stroganov of Beef dinner on Friday the 10th. Price \$8

The Polish Eagles (Chet & Shirley) are giving their all by preparing a super supper of Polish Delights on the 24th. Price \$9.

The D'Ambrogios are presenting their fantastic Ravioli dinner on Monday the 27th for the piddling price of \$8. And I'm told there is a surprise following the dinner.



The Konejo Sporting Klays will hold a special meeting at the Lodge on Monday, January 6, 2003, at 6:00 PM.

It is imperative that all officers and members attend this crucial meeting. In addition to paid club members any past members or those with a peripheral interest in the organization are also cordially invited to attend.

As noted the meeting will take place:
MONDAY
January 6, 2003
6:00 PM

The Annual Recognition Night for Law Enforcement and Firefighters will be held on Wednesday the 29th with a great combination dinner of Baby Back Ribs & Chicken for \$12. And as in the past, Scott Dool is heading this event making it a sure bet to be a roaring success.

With the success in November, on the 5th Friday, we are going to have a repeat of the \$0.50 a dip as supervised by Heather and Carol.

So ending with a the following...

With Happy faces
And hearts full of cheer
Let us embrace
A brand new year-

Lets ponder the good times
It promise may bring;
A world of good tidings
A season to sing.

EQUIRE'S CORNER

Dave Naccarato, Esquire



This month I will highlight Past Exalted Ruler Richard Goldner. His year as Exalted Ruler was 1999-2000. And may I say he had a heck of a year ... a true benchmark for those to follow!

Richard has been married for 36 years to Elaine, Past First Lady and Elks Ladies Past President. They have two children, Denise and Richard L., who are both Elks.

He was invited to become an Elk eleven years ago and was sponsored by Tom Corrigan. Richard remembers the Initiation as being very impressive and beyond expectation. Coincidentally, he recalls several of the members of that Initiation class; especially the Elk who also moved up in the organization from the Trustee side ... David Pearson, another strong contributor to the Lodge.

When Richard was asked in what Lodge function he wanted to become involved, he chose the Elks Partners in Scouting program. He has this advice for new members or existing members who want to get involved in Lodge activities. Step up and volunteer and ... "select one program or activity which interests you, work as a member of a team (not by yourself) and give 100% effort to making a difference and leaving footprints." ... "With all the new enthusiasm, just don't spread yourself too thin with too many things too early."

Bro. Goldner followed his own advice in his personal life. He was an Air Force Captain; recipient of the Air Force Commendation Medal. He was heavily involved with the Apollo Manned Spacecraft Program and received two NASA Awards of Excellence. Richard has a BA - Mathematics and minor in Chemistry from Upsala College and attended several other Universities concurrently to take advanced courses for his role in the space program.

In Richard's 7-years as Lodge Scouting Committee Chairperson, the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge was the largest Scouting lodge in the District, sponsoring more Boy & Girls Scouts, Scouting units, and adult volunteers than any other Lodge. Richard was the first in California - Hawaii Elks to receive the prestigious Marvin M. Lewis Award for Elks & Scouting, Youth & Community Service award. Prior to going through the chairs, which is unusual, he was selected for a District chairmanship position as the West Central Coast District Scouting Chairman. During his two (2) years in that capacity, the District won two consecutive FIRST PLACE CHEA awards for Scouting

New programs, hard work, and innovative ideas are Richard's forte; apparently qualifying him for continued advancement and recognition. He was one of the founders of the lodge's Konejo Sporting Klays (shotgun club) and the Elks Klays for Kids (youth marksmanship club). He originated the Elks Konejo Skuba Krew and Elks Skuba-Doo for Elks and Scouts. Richard sponsored and produced the Elks Mystery Knight dinner theater programs and created Elks Komedy Knights and the Magic Castle Knights

MAJOR PROJECT

David Naccarato, Esquire



The Major Project Fund received a much needed shot in the arm. Our total right now is \$1721.96. We received a donation of \$571.00 from Barbara Metzgas for some peanut brittle that she had made and sold. She donated all the proceeds to the Purple Pig. Also we received a portion of another check that was received to the lodge from Conejo Valley Days. The figure of \$1721.96 does not include donations from

the 4th. I was not at the meeting because I was in the hospital. I would like to thank all of you for the flowers, cards and phone calls.

Thank you, David Naccarato-Purple Pig Chairman

Elks Care - Elks Share



Dave Naccarto, Purple Pig, Chairman accepts a check for \$200 from Johnny D'Ambrogio, PER, for the Sees Candy and Craft sales by Marva D' and Peggy Mullenau

entertainment events; all of which attracted many new (and previously inactive) members to the Lodge.

Richard increased the Lodge's New Facility Fund by many thousands of dollars. He received the CHEA President's Recognition Award for 3 consecutive years for our lodge as well as FIRST PLACE All American Lodge in the state and SECOND PLACE in the country. During 1999 - 2000, the Lodge won more awards than any other Lodge in CHEA. There's not enough space in this article to mention them all. Just ask to peak in his office at home the next time you visit.

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	LECTURING KNIGHT Sally Clauch	2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
AMERICANISM: Raven West FLAGDAY/FLAGRETIREMENT: Sally Clauch SCHOLARSHIP: Bobby Holm GOVT. RELATIONS: Marilyn Harding MEMORIALSERVICE: Jim Rochford KONEJOSPORTINGKLAYS: Don Corts		NATIONALSERVICES: Jim Kellogg KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER GOLFTOURNEY: Dave Pearson Tommy Clauch LODGE PICNIC: Bobby Holm MEMBERSHIP: Darryl Vadnais CHRISTMASTREES: Bob Hardy, PER ELKONEJOKAMPERS: Bob Hardy, PER

Happy New Year!!! As it is the beginning of a new year, it is also the beginning of the new look at our lodge. Enough monies have been raised through Operation Face Lift, to start the lodge interior remodel. Architectural plans have been drawn, and bids have been received. Look for improvements to flooring, walls, and ceilings in the kitchen, patio, main room and hallways.

Happenings this month:

- Veteran's visitation-
third Thursday- meet at the Lodge at 5:00 p.m.
- Super Bowl Party- January 26th



SICKNESS & DISTRESS

Sally Clauch

OUR CONDOLANCES: To the Michael Habicht family on the passing of Linda Lee, after a long battle with cancer; the Donald Peterson family on the passing of his wife Merle; the family of old time member Dave

Davies a retired pilot in Grant Pass, Oregon; the Darryl Vadnais family on the passing of his mother Irene.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Don Ansell, PER eye surgery; Roxanne Horning had eye surgery; Phil Reardon had open heart surgery; Jim Wallace, PER, at Los Robles, had bypass surgery;

**DISTRICT DEPUTY
GRAND EXALTED RULER CLINIC**

The next DDGER Clinic is scheduled for Saturday January 11, 2002 at the Lompoc Elks lodge. This clinic will be most informative. The clinic starts at 9:30 AM and will be over no later than 1 PM.

This clinic is being especially geared to the committees of our lodges and the purpose and goals of each. The West Central Coast District Committee Chairman are going to tell about their committee, how it works within the lodge, District and within the Order of Elks and how it is important to the lodge and the Order of Elks.

If you are an officer of your lodge, are considering becoming an officer, a committee person or have aspirations to be a committee worker, this clinic will be most informative.

Get a carpool together and come up to Lompoc for a day of Elks information. DDGER clinics are for those interested in the Order of Elks and how one can help to further the efforts of our Order. You do not have to be an officer to attend a clinic! Any member interested in gaining more knowledge about Elkdom is invited.

**Ask not what Elkdom can do for you,
But ask what you can do for Elkdom!**

Fraternally
Tom Ryder – DDGER
West Central Coast District



The year was 1987 a happier time when Irene, Darryl Vadnais mother played the organ for our first Thanksgiving dinner

Elks Care - Elks Share

AMERICANISM

Raven West



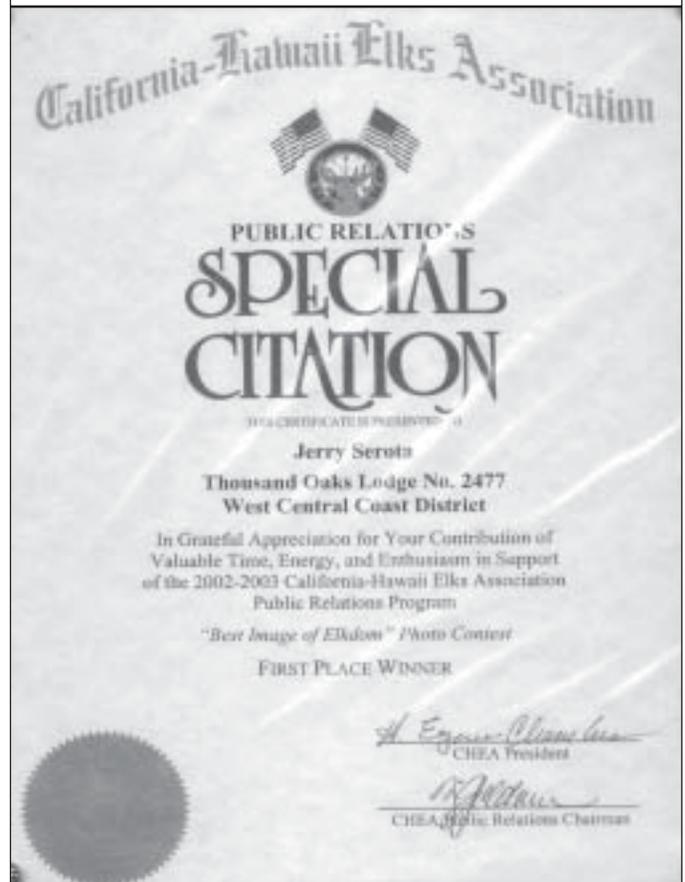
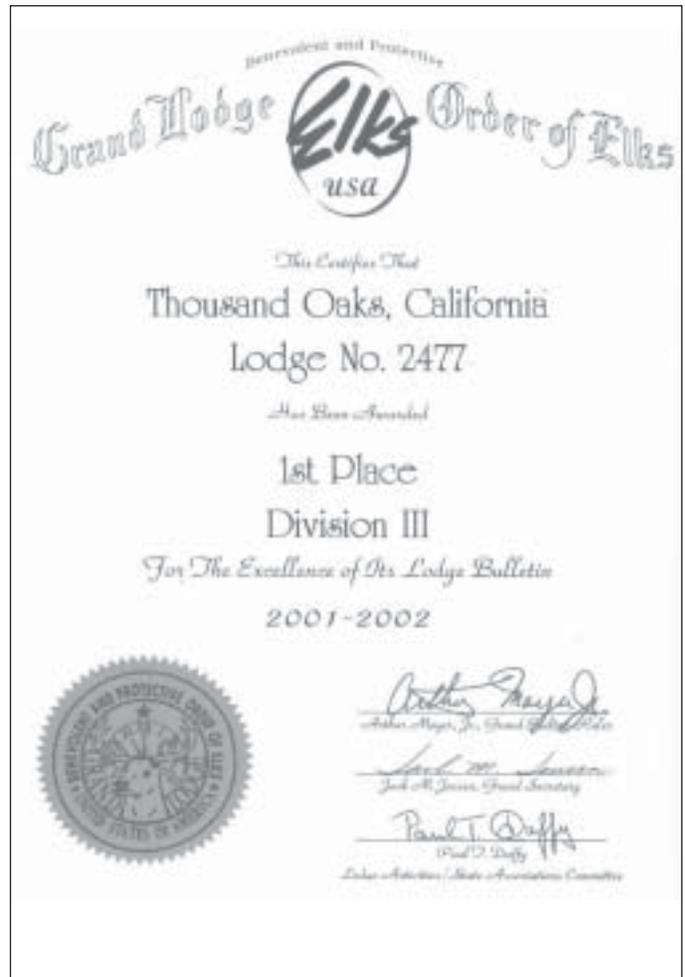
As we begin a new year, we look ahead to the next twelve months as an opportunity to improve ourselves with a series of "resolutions". Some of us also wonder if all the work and effort we put into the past years was enough and if our country will stay strong against difficult times that may lie ahead.

We look toward the future and wonder where the next generation is headed. Have we, as parents and community leaders, instilled in our children the necessary values to keep America strong in light of the many challenges they will face once they've taken their place in society?

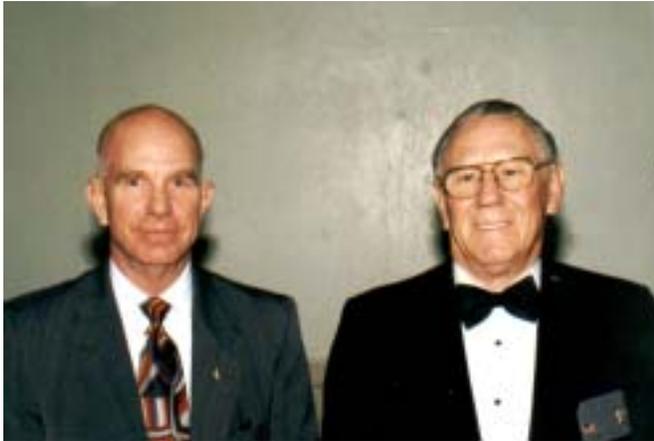
After reading the entries to this year's Americanism essay contest, I can state unequivocally, the answer to that question is a resounding YES. "What Does Freedom Mean To Me?" was the topic question put to students in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades of the Conejo Valley Unified School District. Some quoted Martin Luther King and his desire for equality for all races and Rosa Parks bravery in demanding equal seating on the public bus. Many wrote of their appreciation of their own personal freedom to make choices in their future, whether for a career or whom they will marry. I was especially impressed with one entry which stated "freedom is a privilege which should never be taken for granted." Of course, there were those who wanted to be free to stay up as late as they wanted and play video games, but there was also a great deal of creativity in some of the entries, comparing freedom to a winged bird, a yo-yo, and food: "Freedom is the sweetest drink, the best candy bar, the icing on the cake."

While we cannot rewrite history, the future generation is well on their way to write the next chapter in the continuing epic that is America. Judging from the entries in this year's essay contest, the story will be extraordinary.

Happy New Year!



*WELCOME ABOARD
OUR NEW MEMBERS*



James Bragg with sponsor Bill Lloyd



H.W. "Pete" Marston sponsored by Dick McNeal



Halloween brought forth the patriots, cowboys, clowns, beauties and Harem princesses





Richard Goldner, PER, and Public Relations Chairman, CHEA presented a Tashiba Digital camera to Jerry Serota winner of the 'Best Image of Elksom' photo contest



Jr. Elks were on duty for the Mexican Charity Ball Carol Neuner, Heather and David Maddox



El Patron, Greg Metzgos put together a wonderful Charity Ball party as enjoyed by Joe Smith, El Matador, Barbara and Sheron Baker



Mariachis provided live entertainment



Johnny D' was not in costume for the Halloween party.



Greg Metzgos, Leading Knight orchestrated a most successful Charity Ball for more than 120 happy members

<p>2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>	<p>THE ELKS LADIES Myrna Block</p>	<p>2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>
<p>1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Melinda Pekow 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Karen Naccarato 3RD VICE PRESIDENT: Alice Wagner SECRETARY: Alice Kennedy/Dee Swanson TREASURER: Donna Hardy AUDITOR: Kathy Ryder TELEPHONE: Patti Serota</p>		<p>PARLIAMENTARIAN: Shirley Kozlowski CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell MAJOR PROJECTS: Gladys Ennis/Anne Ogden CVD: Dee Swanson & Marilyn Cissell HISTORIAN: SUNSHINE: Pat Smail</p>

FROM THE ELK LADIES
2ND VICE PRESIDENT
 Karen Naccarato

Hello Ladies! Well we didn't have a meeting in December but we sure had a great turn out for our Christmas Party. We had around 90! Wow! It was wonderful. Thank you Myrna for putting it all together. Tom Ryder and his crew again out did themselves with dinner. It was very yummy! I'm sure no one went home hungry.

Once again the handsome officers did a wonderful job of serving us ladies our meal. And not to forget Dee's grandson Taylor. Would like to thank Marilynn Harding for sharing with us that great Christmas game. It was alot of fun. Being one of the winners wasn't bad either. Also would like to thank Shirley and Chet and everyone else who helped make the Elk Ladies Tree Trimming Party another success!



Marilyn spoke and God replied, "I'm a little late for the Kampers Christmas Brunch, catch you later"

JANUARY



15	Darlene Stogsdell
22	Alice Wagner
27	Sheila Aitken
	Elaine Goldner

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
 Marilynn Harding

Supreme Court to Hear Case Concerning Cost Disclosures by Outside Fundraisers

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear an Illinois case involving the use of professional fundraisers by charities to determine whether such fundraisers can be pursued under fraud and other claims when the actual percentage of funds that go to the charity is not disclosed to potential donors.

The Illinois attorney general alleged that since Telemarketing Associates, a company retained by the nonprofit organization VietNow, retained 85 percent of funds

without informing donors, they were guilty of common law fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and claims under the Solicitation for Charity Act and statutory consumer law.

Last year, the Illinois Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that the attorney general's action operated to limit the professional fundraiser's ability to engage in solicitation, an activity protected by the First Amendment. The court said fundraising appeals go beyond financial appeals and involve education, advocacy and providing information.

"If a complaint such as the one at issue were allowed to proceed," said the court, "all fundraisers in this state would have the burden of defending the reasonableness of their fees, on a case-by-case basis, whenever in the Attorney General's judgment the public was being deceived about the charitable nature of a fundraising campaign because the fundraiser's fee was too high."

HONOR ROLL



Jack Loughran, PER
 Greg Metzgus,
 Leading Knight
 Don Booker, ER
 Vern Jossy
 Xerox -
 Richard Goldner, PER
 Walter Ogden
 Jerry Serota
 El Konejo Kampers
 Wed. Meeting



JANUARY

***Happy belated birthday to Raven West Dec. 11th.

- 1. Tom Skaff
Zig Aukstkalflie
- 2. Paul Kruspir
- 4. Vincent Coffin
Gus Chinery
- 5. Chuck Morsa
Derrick Stevens
- 6. Dick McNeal
Ralph Campbell
- 8. David Pearson
- 11. Dan Thomas
Jack Murray
Jeff Johnson

- 12. Dan Hammond
- 13. Jon Preston
James M. Barron
- 14. Stephen Pence
Arlene Tellez
- 15. Tommy Claunch
Michael Markey
Lou Mages
- 16. Jerry Risvold
- 17. Leo Lambert
Stan Fitzgerald
- 18. Sterling Wetzsteon
Frank Corrigan
- 19. Stacy Shaw
- 20. Heather Maddox
- 23. Terry Vineyard
Glen Gatlin
- 24. John Swanson
- 27. F. Mallory Hicklin
- 28. Cheryl Templeton
Ted Radabaugh
Marilou Van Leuven
- 29. Robert Garcia
- 30. William White

**FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE
 PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON
 DATE: January 8, 2003**

NAME	OCCUPATION	SPONSOR
Kathleen C. Pivek	Farmers Insurance	Bill von Wittenburg

**CRYING
 TOWEL**



November	6	\$25.00	# 1136 Don Ansell, PER
	Lucky 13	No Winner	
November	13	\$50.00	# 1946 Felix Megron
	Lucky 13	Greg Metzgus	"WINNER"
November	20	\$75.00	# 278 Ernst Walta
	Lucky 13	No Winner	
November	27		No Meeting

The Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks

How it All Began



The moving spirit for the Elks was an Englishman named Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian. Born October 22, 1842, this son of a clergyman was a successful comic singer and dancer in the music halls of London. In November 1867, Vivian arrived in New York City to try his fortune.



Other actors and entertainers soon gravitated toward his magnetic personality. With everything closed on Sunday because of New York City Blue Laws, a group of theatrical people began meeting for their own amusement under Vivian's leadership. A loose organization was formed to make sure the

larder was well-stocked for these gatherings. They called themselves the Jolly Corks, a name derived from a trick introduced by Vivian in which the uninitiated purchased a round of refreshments.

When one of their members died shortly before Christmas in 1867, leaving his wife and children destitute, the Jolly Corks decided that in addition to good fellowship, they needed a more enduring organization to serve those in need.

On February 16, 1868, they established the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and elected Vivian to head it. Its social activities and benefit performances increased the popularity of the new Order. Membership grew rapidly. Elks traveling to other cities spread the word of the Brotherhood of Elks. Soon there were requests for Elks Lodges in cities other than New York. In response to these appeals, the Elks asked the New York State legislature for a charter authorizing the establishment of a Grand Lodge with the power to establish local Lodges anywhere in the United States. When the Grand Lodge Charter was issued, the founders then received the first local charter as New York Lodge No. 1 on March 10, 1871.

Dissension soon erupted. Legitimate actors headed by George F. McDonald wanted to restrict membership to the theatrical profession. This view was opposed by Vivian and his friends. Taking advantage of Vivian's absence due to an out-of-town engagement, the McDonald group summarily expelled Vivian and several of his closest friends. Years later the Order rectified this

illegal act, but it gave rise to a controversy whether Vivian was actually the founder of the Order. In 1897, a formal inquiry firmly established his right to this honored title.

Vivian continued, after his expulsion from the Order, to enchant audiences across the country. He starred with some of the largest road companies of the time. Together with his actress wife, the former Imogene Holbrook, Vivian set up a repertoire theater in Leadville, Colorado. Shortly thereafter he died of pneumonia on March 20, 1880. In 1889, the Elks moved his body from Leadville, Colorado, to Mt. Hope Cemetery, Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. Vivian received a stipend from the Order her husband founded until her death in 1931.

The legacy of Charles Vivian continues to this day. In addition to aiding members in distress, the Elks raise money for children with disabilities, college scholarships, youth projects and recreational programs for patients in veteran's hospitals. On June 14, 1907 the Order held a Flag Day observance. This tradition later was declared a national holiday by President Harry S. Truman.

During World War I, the Elks funded and equipped the first two field hospitals in France and built a 72-room community house in Camp Sherman, Ohio, and a 700-bed rehabilitation hospital in Boston, which they turned over to the War Department. They also raised money for the Salvation Army's frontline canteens. Their loans to 40,000 returning veterans for college, rehabilitation and vocational education were the precursor of the GI Bill.

When World War II broke out, the Elks were the only civilian organization asked to help recruit construction workers for the military, a task that was completed three months ahead of schedule. The Elks also contributed more than half a million books to the Merchant Marines so that their men would have reading material on board ship.

The Korean War again brought out the best in the Elks. They donated more than half a million pints of blood to help wounded soldiers.

When the wounded from Vietnam needed help, the Elks responded. They provided the funds for a recreation pavilion at the Navy Hospital on Guam. The wounded at Tripler Medical Center in Hawaii were sweltering in the heat. When the Elks heard of their plight, they purchased 24 air-conditioning units so these patriots could recuperate in some degree of comfort.

When Operation Desert Storm took place, the Elks again led the support for our fighting men and women in the Persian Gulf. Subordinate Lodges undertook letter-writing campaigns to help keep up the spirits of the defenders of freedom. The Elks were also among the first to welcome them home and thank them for a job well done.

Our story is long; our work is humble; our history is proud. As long as there are those who need our help, the Elks will be there to give aid and comfort.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



The Holidays are now behind us, and hopefully things can get back to normal. It was a very busy time for the Lodge with so many jobs and functions going on that we were barely able to handle them all. Many kudos to Bob Hardy, without whose ever enduring dedication we would not have been able to have a successful Christmas Tree lot. Thanks also to those dedicated members who helped Bob make it a success. I'm sure they will all be thanked in a different article.

The revised By-Laws have been received from the printer, and are available to members who would like to have a new copy. Ask Dee or me in the office for a copy. I would like to thank Brother Frank Pavonne for his donation of a huge bottle of B&B liqueur to the Lodge as a donation to raffle off. Because of his generosity, we were able to raise \$100.00 for the Major Project (Purple Pig). It is through our members generosity that we as Elks are able to help not only disabled children throughout California and Hawaii, but also help Boy Scouts, scholarships, veterans, and all young people who are in need.

In a separate article of the bulletin (Page 16) for this month, I have included a list of those members who are 1-year delinquent in their dues. Those members will be dropped from our rolls on the 3rd of February 2003. If you know any of these members, please contact them and ask them to bring their dues up to date. The 33 members who are delinquent represent over \$2600.00 in revenue. We had to pay their Grand Lodge and State Association assessments at the beginning of the lodge year. We have lost \$19.50 for each member that is lapse. Membership is the life blood of our organization, and we cannot survive without it. We are asking those members who do pay their dues to take up the slack for those who don't pay.

In the November issue of the bulletin I asked those members who had keys to lodge vehicles to please turn them in so we could have more control over who takes the vehicles where and how many miles were being put on them. Since I got no response to that request, I have found it necessary to have the ignition keys changed. It will now be necessary to come to the office to gain access to either the bob-tail or pickup. If there is to be a BBQ on Saturday, the keys will be left in the BBQ store room in the office building. The keys must then be returned to the store room upon completion of the BBQ.

REAP YOUR DIVIDENDS



Had you ever considered that, as a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, you are a "stockholder" in the Elks National Home? This means that you have the right to visit the Home, take a tour, have a meal, and see for yourself the magnificent beauty that is reserved for members of the Order of Elks.

We are always happy to have visitors - individuals and groups. Individuals may stop by anytime for a tour or meal. Groups should make prior arrangements by calling our toll free number, 1-800-552-4140, and talking with the Activities Director, Mary Wiley. Charges for meals are very reasonable: Breakfast - \$4.50, lunch - \$3.50, dinner - \$7.00. We also have a limited number of single occupancy overnight guest rooms. An overnight stay with meals is \$40.00. (Tax must be added to all meal and overnight charges.)

Your "stock" in the Elks National Home is very inexpensive as no portion of your dues goes toward the support of the Home. Resident fees and an annual grant from the Elks National Foundation support our operation, and bequests from members and friends pay for capital improvements. A portion of bequests is also deposited to our endowment fund, and the interest from that fund assists with operating expenses.

So why not begin to reap your dividends by making a visit to the Elks National Home. For more information or to arrange a visit, contact us at 1-800-552-4140 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. eastern time, or at ENHOME@aol.com. Also, you can pass the word out by telling them about our website at www.elkshome.org.

Nomination and election of Lodge Officers is knocking at our door again. Per Grand Lodge Statutes, nominations will be held at regular sessions of the lodge on the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays of February, and election to office will be held on the 3rd Wednesday. If you would like to be an elected lodge officer, you must attend one of the meetings for nominations, and have a member nominate you. If you would like to hold a non-elective position (Inner Guard, Chaplain, or Esquire) please see Greg Metzgas and make your wishes known. Also, if you would like to chair one of the many lodge committees or even be on one, of which we now have approximately 48, please see Greg. I'm sure he will be glad to see you.

That's about all for this month. Hope everyone had a pleasant Holiday, and that you all have a healthy and prosperous new year. Come down and support your lodge in all of the many ways that we need you.

And that's 30 for this month.

Bill

DELINQUENT DUES MEMBERS

The following named members are 1-year delinquent in their dues, and will be dropped from the rolls on February 3, 2003 for non-payment of dues.

Alexander, Guy	1911	Kelly, Timothy E.	1156
Anderson, James W.	1718	LaRue, James A.	1781
Austin, Zie	1881	Maddox, J.R.	1836
Barnes, Donald	1154	Masseti, Frank C.	1907
Barron, Ronald T.	1831	McDonald, Jack	1749
Carter, Jackie	1852	Moran, Mike	1825
Cavinder, Michael P.	1810	Nigg, Craig Duane	214
Church, Raymond	1527	Paolantonio, Victor	1878
Demma, Nick	652	Richman, Henry	1902
Ehrhardt, Marius	1876	Sallee, D. Bruce	1667
Elsea, Richard B.	1537	Sheridan, Thomas J.	1617
Galante, Joseph P.	1797	Smith, Richard G.	1170
Gentile, Mary	1913	Stevens, Bob	1562
Gessler, Frederick J.	1816	Tejada, Louis	1774
Grindle, Barrett S.	1910	Thomas, William D.	969
Hight, Lester R.	1524	Waddell, John T.	1690
Johnson, Jeff	1915		

If any of our membership know these lapse members, please contact them and try to get them to pay up their dues. Sponsors are especially encouraged to call them. They all had reasons for joining, let's find out why they don't want to remain with us.



Richard Goldner, PER, and Tom Hartin swap lies at the Elks Memorial where they cooked Ominous Omelets



Johnny D' Ambrogio, PER holds Grand Lodge 1st Place plaque for the Community Image Brochure during his year 2001-02



Chet and Shirley Kozlowski handed the kitchen chores for the Tree Trimming party

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November 3, 2002

Don Booker
Exalted Ruler
Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477
P.O. Box 2110
Thousand Oaks, CA. 91358-2110

Dear Don,

I read with interest and Elks' pride your Lodge's article in the Elks Magazine regarding your Lodge hosting 20 veterans for a movie and luncheon recently.

This is excellent public relations information. Thank you for promoting a positive image of your Lodge and our Order. This is also a perfect example of showing that "Elks Care — Elks Share."

Please pass my appreciation to your Lodge's Public Relations Chairman and committee for a job well done. If you have not already done so, please consider publication of this article in your local news media, your Lodge newsletter, and your State Association newspaper.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Ken Curto
Grand Lodge Public Relations
Area 7 Committeeman

cc: Don Dapelo PGER
Eugene Chambers SP
Richard J. Goldner CHEA PR

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POETS CORNER

By: Ken Muellerleile



LADY IN THE MIST

I saw a vision
through the mist,
a creature so beautiful
I could not resist.

Features outstanding
the chemistry grew,
lovely and statuesque
the eyes did subdue.

For in dreams
and a sense of duty,
heart's would flutter
for Romanesque beauty.

Soon the sun will shine
or awaken from a dream,
the Misty figure will leave
and it's back to the old routine.

REFLEXIONS

When power leads man toward
arrogance, poetry reminds him of his
limitations. When power narrows the
areas of mans concern, poetry reminds
him of the richness and diversity of
his existance. When power corrupts,
poetry cleanses. For art establishes
the basic human truths which must
serve as the touchstone of our
judgement.

*John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963, speech,
Amherst Collete, Oct 26, 1963*

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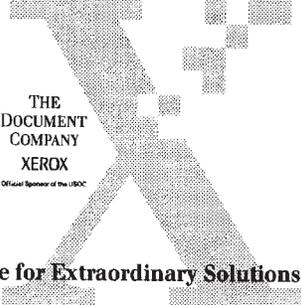
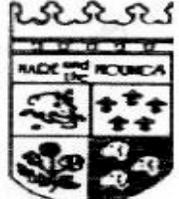
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<p>EXALTED RULER - Don Booker LEADING KNIGHT - Greg Metzgus LOYAL KNIGHT - Jay Block LECTURING KNIGHT - Sally Claunch SECRETARY - Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL TREASURER - Bob Hardy, PER TILER - Wayne Flittner ESQUIRE - Dave Naccarato CHAPLAIN - Jim Rochford INNER GUARD - George Meehan ORGANIST - Jim Wagner OFFICER AT LARGE - Jack Loughran, PER</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>1972-73 *Marvin D. Smith</td> <td>1993-94 Jim Wallace</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1973-74 Erle Pittman</td> <td>1994-95 *George Pekow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1974-75 Richard Flake</td> <td>1995-96 Gil Riding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1975-76 Bill Wagner</td> <td>1996-97 Jack Loughran</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1976-77 John E. Henry</td> <td>1997-98 John Kelly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1977-78 Robert McKee</td> <td>1998-99 Chet Kozlowski</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1978-79 *Frank J. Rindone</td> <td>1999-00 Richard Goldner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1979-80 Edward F. Stogsdell</td> <td>2000-01 Jacob Panczak</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1980-81 Frank "Tex" Hastie</td> <td>2001-02 John D'Ambrogio</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1981-82 Robert Hardy</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1982-83 *A. John Nichols</td> <td>By Affiliation:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1983-84 John Nau</td> <td>1981-82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1984-85 Vern Ogden</td> <td>Robert L. Thornton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1985-86 Dan Snyder</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1986-87 Bill Lloyd</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1987-88 John E. Henry</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1988-89 Ted Lipka</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1989-90 Don Skinner</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1990-91 Don Ansell</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1991-92 Gary Sleigh</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1992-93 Tom Ryder</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	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		1982-83 *A. John Nichols	By Affiliation:	1983-84 John Nau	1981-82	1984-85 Vern Ogden	Robert L. Thornton	1985-86 Dan Snyder		1986-87 Bill Lloyd		1987-88 John E. Henry		1988-89 Ted Lipka		1989-90 Don Skinner		1990-91 Don Ansell		1991-92 Gary Sleigh		1992-93 Tom Ryder	
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Official Publication of:
 1000 Oaks Elks Lodge NO. 2477 B.P.O.E.
 P.O. Box 2110
 Thousand Oaks, CA 91358

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The ANTLER ANTICS is published monthly in Thousand Oaks, California as the official Bulletin of the Thousand Oaks Lodge no. 2477 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the United States of America, 158 Conejo School Road, P.O. Box 2110, Thousand Oaks, 91358. Publication of the ANTLER ANTICS is an activity of the Lodge and contributions and interesting and pertinent reading material and photographs are welcomed. *Photographs MUST be identified and captioned or they will not be published.* Deadline for receiving ALL material for publication is the **5th** of each month.