

ANTLER



Sally Claunch
EXALTED RULER



ANTICS

VOLUME 34, NO. 10

Editor, Jerry Serota

January '06

"LIVE THE MOTTO - ELKS CARE- ELKS SHARE"

LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIREFIGHTERS APPRECIATION NITE



January 25, 2006

Social Hour 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Baby Back Ribs & Chicken \$12

Presentation 8:00 p.m.

2005-06 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



EXALTED RULER
Sally Claunch

2005-06 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ANTLER ANTICS: Jerry Serota, Editor
NEW FACILITIES: Greg Metzger, 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:
David Naccarato

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM CLAUNCH

By the time you will read this article, the stockings will have been hung by the chimney with care, Saint Nick will have eaten his cookies and milk and returned to the North Pole, the Christmas Charity Baskets will have been delivered, and the New Year's Eve party will be commencing. Another year of lodge functions and activities will have coming to an end. Yet this ending is the beginning of my giving thanks to all the unsung little and sometimes big elves who gave their time, talents, and monies for making the charity basket program a success, for decorating the lodge room, and for organizing the holiday parties, and for Elks Memorial Service. When you see one of them, besides wishing them "Happy New Year" add a thanks for living the Elks motto—Elks Care & Elks Share.

Tommy Claunch- -map maker for Christmas basket delivery, organizer of room set-up, and my life partner; Dave Pearson- computer whiz for providing the boxes, labels, organization for the Christmas basket program; Jim Rochford & crew-preparing breakfast buffet for Memorial Service; Pat Jellander -providing lunch for the Christmas basket delivery drivers; Carol Neuner-chair of Elk Ladies Christmas party; Tom Hartin & Jack Loughran- ordering and picking up food at Naval commissary; Cherri & John Peterson- in lieu of wedding gifts donating toys and turkeys to the Christmas basket program; El Konejo Kampers- making a contribution to the Christmas basket program; Dave Naccarato-chairing the Charity Ball and Christmas basket program; Herb Jellander & Terry Baker-chairing the Christmas tree sale project; Bill Miller-taking disadvantaged scouts to the Nutcracker ballet; Dave & Karen Naccarato - decorating the lodge room for the holidays; Marva D'Ambrogio-providing the dessert buffet at the Exalted Ruler Christmas party; Shirley Kozlowski and crew - hosting and organizing the Tree Trimming Party; Shirley & Chet-organizing the Kids Christmas Party; Don Newcomer-providing wonderful entertainment at the Exalted Ruler Christmas party; Wrappers & Packers- filling the Christmas Baskets, wrapping toys; Drivers-delivering the Baskets; Raffle ticket purchasers-providing the funds to make the project happen.

May you be blessed this new year with health and the company of good friends!!



Elks Memorial, George Meehan, Jack Loughran, PER, Sally Claunch, ER, Catherine Koeritz, and David Naccarato

**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"

Eugene Stevens
Born: December 10, 1938
Initiated: February 24, 1993
Died: November 8, 2005

Mark Ziegler
Born: July 10, 1962
Initiated: August 28, 2002
Died: November 13, 2005

Vernon McNaboe
Born: June 24, 1919
Initiated: January 22, 1963
Died: November 14, 2005



EDITORS CORNER
jerryserota@earthlink.net

'Love is better the second time around' so the song goes. After attending the wedding reception of John and Cherri Peterson on November 26, 2005 we were witness to that affect. There were over 100 family, friends and Elks to share their happiness.

They pulled out all the stops providing food and entertainment. There only wish was an unwrapped toy for the Xmas Baskets. We were especially captivated by the lead singer in the band and her guitar skills as she performed one virtuoso run after another on the strings. Her vocal renditions reminded me of the way the late Al Jolson attacked the songs and made them his own. Without a doubt in my mind she will be a big time star some day.

We wish the happy couple all the love and happiness in the world and as time goes by they will prove that 'Love is better the second time around'.



29th Annual Law Enforcement And Firefighter Appreciation
Scott Dool, Com. Chair

On Wednesday, January 25, 2005, the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge will hold a meeting open to the public and will conduct its **29th Annual Law Enforcement And Firefighter Appreciation** program.

The geographic area for membership of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge includes Agoura Hills, Oak Park, Westlake, Hidden Valley, Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park. As this area is served by the California Highway Patrol, Ventura County Sheriffs Department, and the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department, we will present a plaque as will the Mayor of Thousand Oaks, and the Ventura County Supervisors to honor the outstanding law enforcement officers and firefighters from each of these area agencies.

The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a social period in the Elks Lodge lounge area. Dinner will be BBQ Baby Back Ribs & Chicken \$12 served around 7:00 p.m. At approximately 8:00 p.m., the awards will be presented in the Elks Lodge meeting room.

Bring you family and friends to this program for an evening of social enjoyment, good food, and community service.



Mr. & Mrs. Cherri and John Peterson with a wedding toast



Lorrie Headland lead singer for the Blue Diamond band

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS
495-0577

OUR CONDOLENCES TO: the family of Mark Ziegler on his passing; the family of Vern McNaboe on his passing; the family of Gene Stevens, and associate member Willis Smith, and Sharon and Terry Baker on her sister's passing.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Roxanne Horning and Dick McNeal

ON THE MEND: Yolie Loughran from pneumonia; Barb Metzger from angioplasty

You can receive the Antler Antics on line as a .PDF file and be put on our early mailing list by sending me an Email at:
jerryserota@earthlink.net

WELCOME ABOARD OUR NEW MEMBERS



Dale Birdsong with sponsor Boyd Lindquist



Michael Budenski with Michael Ramirez standing in for sponsor Ed Rice



Friday -- January 6th

Pot Roast Queen: Coleen

And Crew: Morris/Mullen/Lenahan

\$9.00

**Entertainment, 50/50, and more...surprise!
Don't miss out!**

WELCOME ABOARD OUR NEW MEMBERS



Jeffrey Parsons with sponsor Elizabeth Bell



Joseph Ratto with sponsor Greg Metzgas



George Reich with sponsor George Meehan



James Shelton with sponsor John Ennis



Thomas Walsh with sponsor Alfred Battles



Myrna Bloch, Elks National Foudation, Com. Chair, presents to ER, Sally Claunch a Certificate of Appreciation for the Lodges donations of \$10,000 over the years



**FROM THE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY**
Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL

Another year gone by and as usual nothing seems to get done that really needs it. Yet, this is the season that the entire world waits for whether it be to finish out the past years business or get ready for another. Usually, they tend to mix rather well so that one really can't tell when the old one leaves off and the new one chimes in. It is the one season where all faiths seem to have a commonality no matter what holiday they are celebrating. There are many things for us to celebrate, but the most important I believe are health, prosperity, and in the case of us Elks, knowing that we are constantly giving of ourselves to help the more unfortunate. This trait is not shared by all. The one thing that binds us together in this Order is our continual pursuit of helping our fellow man. And that's some goal. No matter if we give to our State Association's Major Project, which is Disabled Children (commonly known as the Piggy Bank), Elks National Foundation, Veterans, Scholarships, or any number of our charities including the community itself, we are comfortable knowing that we are doing the best we can to help our fellow man.

Next month, we are going to lose a lot of our charity-raising power due to our regular season of dropping lapse members. At this writing, it will be 31 Elks who no longer care to share in our humanitarian work. I have said it many times, that a member joins this organization because they have a need, whatever that need is. If we don't keep our new members busy in lodge work, be it BBQ or other committees, we are going to lose them. And statistics bear that out. Each year we lose anywhere from 22 to 32 members, the vast majority of which are 1- or 2-year Elks. We're just not making them want to be a part of us. We do in times of need help long time members with their dues depending upon the circumstances. There is a lapsation list published to let everyone know who hasn't paid their dues. Often times the sponsor of that member knows they are lapse and will do nothing about it. Guess they didn't want them there after all. There are as many reasons for members not to pay their dues as there are members on the lapsation list. Let's start the New Year out the right way and not only bring in new members, but keep what we have.

If you know any of the members on the lapsation list, why not contact them and get them to become current in their dues. We have already paid their Grand Lodge and State Association assessments, so the membership is already out that much in funds. This year our losses amount to nearly \$3,000 in dues and \$500 in assessments.

A good chunk of change.

In just a few months it will again be time to elect new officers for the 2006-07 lodge year. If you would like to be a part of the officer corps, please contact David Naccarato, our hopeful for the upcoming year. I hear he has a few openings and would certainly appreciate your wanting to help. This past year has been really great with a lot of participation and hard work by all. The BBQ teams have given their all to help all they can, but I'm sure they still need help. Contact Eddie Rice or let the office know. We never turn down volunteer help. In the meantime, support in every way you can. And by hook or crook, hopefully this year we can move into a new facility that we will all be proud of, and that we built, not one that someone else who had an old building that they no longer wanted. From the ground up, it will be ours.

Also, many thanks to Herb Jellander and his crew for the many cold, miserable, and most often muddy hours spent helping us to sell Christmas trees. This project is a major source of income to the lodge, and Herb, you and your guys and gals are most deeply appreciated. Our late Bob Hardy took this job over from Jeff Enger who started the program, and pretty much made it what it is today. These are three dedicated Elks to who we owe a great deal of gratitude.

Earlier this year Britt Rutherford donated a Remington Model 870 12-gauge shotgun to the lodge. Britt had previously won this shotgun, and decided that it might somehow benefit the lodge. This weapon has never been fired and is in the new condition that he received it in. The shotgun will be raffled off soon, so watch for the details. We have had excellent results with these raffles before, and I'm sure Brother Britt's endeavor to help us will be equally successful. Thank you Roy for your most generous donation. It is truly appreciated.

Flo and I hope that each and every one of our members had a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, and will have a prosperous and healthy year to come.

And that's 30 for this month,

Bill



Steve Dorsch and cousin Rich Case entertained with Christmas Carols during the Tree Trimming party

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LEADING KNIGHT

David Naccarato

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG:

David Naccarato

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch**INVESTIGATION:** George Meehan**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:**

Myrna Block

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:** David Naccarato

First I would like to thank you all for attending the Charity Ball. Thank you to those who sent in the raffle tickets or bought the 50/50 tickets at the ball and those who bought the basket raffle tickets. Through your generosity we have made our goal to fund this years Christmas Cheer program or Charity Basket program. Our trustees do budget monies for this project but it is up to the Leading Knight to put the money back in the budget and thanks to you we did. And also thanks to Dick Flittner for donating and raffling off the 5ft Santa Claus that was on display in the lounge.

The charity Ball went off without a hitch. I got to tell you Bobby and Paula Williams put on a pork chop dinner fit for a king. To Bar B que an inch and a half pork chop and have it fork tender and juicy took someone who knows what they are doing. Many thanks to Bobby and his wife Paula. Now Bobby and Paula did have help in the kitchen. They had help from Robert and Catherine Koeritz and Patrick and Toni Hartin. Now having the Charity Ball is just something this lodge has always done. I was not trying to reinvent the wheel all I did was try to involve some people that may not have come to the ball so we had the motorcycle poker run and the horseshoe tournament. Now to have a horseshoe tournament the first thing you need is horseshoe pits. This lodge does not have horseshoe pits but thanks to Tom Hartin, Max Maxwell, Joe Claucey, Tommy Claunch and the use of Pete Jacksons Tractor and the back boards for the horseshoe pits were made by Terry Baker so we now have horseshoe pits. It was a lot of fun and we are going to do it again look for flyers around the lodge. The horseshoe tournament netted \$100.00 and two new members. Every one bought sandwiches and drinks it was a good day for our lodge. For the next one I'll just make sure the Campers are in town (that was my mistake). Also we had trophy presentations to the winners and the trophies were donated by Smiths Trophies Thanks Joe and Betty.

We had some wonderful booze baskets that we raffled off. The basket were put together by Sharon Baker. thanks to Sharon for all her running around and hard work. A lot of the booze in the basket were donated by Myrna Block and Sally Claunch. Whenever they would win on a Wednesday they would hold on to it and donated to our basket program. A lot of the other neat trinkets found in the baskets were from Sharon Baker. The main cruise to Mexico we gave

away was won by John Petersen and the television was won by Chuck Busch. Our Inner Guard Liz Bell donated the television. Thank you Liz. We all had a good time. The Band, The Original Renegades were superb I suggest them for your next function

But before signing off I would like to thank my lovely wife for her hard work and dedication to this project, She was my right hand man (woman). When I was off doing something else she was picking up the loose ends and tying them up for me. Thanks honey:)

Ritual practice starts this month. And I still need a couple officers in my corp. Its very challenging and rewarding. I need an esquire, Innerguard, Tyler and lecturing Knight see me with any questions about what is involved with these positions and I won't sugar coat it and be up front about what's expected.

We would like to express my deep appreciation to John and Cherri Peterson Newlyweds of our lodge. John and Cherri had a wedding reception at our lodge and in lieu of wedding gifts they asked for donations to our Charity Basket program. The response was more than I could have hoped for. With this we will have enough to fund the program and give Catherine a good head start for next year. Thank you John and Cherri and all who participated, Thank you

After the Charity Ball It was our turn to create breakfast for the lodge. We wish to thank my helpers who after attending the Charity Ball made it in the next morning to help bring the breakfast to you. It was Bill and Jeri Miller and Jay and Myrna Block. We try to come up with some new ideas. We offered Chicken fried steak, Hamburger patties and scrambled eggs with diced ham. The El Konejo Kamper breakfast offered a Mexican dish the Bright lights had a quiche. All good Ideas so come out to support the people who bring you breakfast at the lodge. its not our job we are not paid to do it we do it for you to enjoy and its a lot of fun in the kitchen to work together with fellow lodge members. If you would like to enjoy a good time in the kitchen see our Loyal Knight, Catherine Koeritz to put you on a crew. So come on out to the lodge for a good breakfast. To get all we do at our lodge breakfasts would cost double at Denny's or Ihop and plenty of coffee available.



EL KONEJO KAMPERS



THE ERICKSON'S LAST HURRAH! NOVEMBER - 2005

After several years of Joel saying "this is our last November wagonmaster role", Beverly has now concurred and this was the LAST. After 7 or 8 years handling this monstrous task, they really are passing the torch, not sure to whom, but they're finished. They deserve mucho kudos for the incredible job they have done.

It had all the earmarks of being another weather disaster as Gene Ewald, the Ericksons and the von Wittenburgs huddled under the Erickson's awning WEDNESDAY evening. Yup, that's right the Friday and Saturday campouts are getting longer and longer. However, Thursday although not exactly bright and sunny - it wasn't as wet as Wednesday had been. Friday dawned bright and sunny and good weather prevailed - Thank You Lord, we didn't have to find alternate accommodations for anything.

The weather certainly is fickle, as we all know. I have an acquaintance in Ohio who makes these kites - no spars or anything. You can fold them up and put them in your pocket. We went through all sorts of machinations figuring out how to get these kites to California in time for the campout, his constructing and mailing them to the campground. Do you think there was a breath of wind at Kenney Grove? No, nothing, nada. Really disappointing - but then again IT DIDN'T RAIN.

Personally, Kenney Grove tops the list of campgrounds we visit. However, when we take over the entire park, people sneak in and you never know they've arrived. Thursday Steve Chiszar delivered Debi Fitzpatrick's rig, Debi showed up later. The Stewarts were in place an entire day before I found out they were there - Toni and Pat Hartin arrived sometime - and I think I saw them only while eating. AMAZING.

Friday night there was a happening - celebrating Kevin Robichau's birthday. It was no small take for Veronica to keep him away from the central gathering area until all was in readiness for his surprise. It seems February might have been rather cold through the years - there were three of us with birthdays in less than a week. Wayne LaFarr's is the 12th and mine is the 16th.

Saturday, is of course, a very busy day. Actually started very early for Joel and Wayne LaFarr - we had two "smoked" turkeys this year and smoking requires about 15 hours. So these guys started the smoked turkeys cooking late Friday afternoon and had to get up a couple times during the night to tend to the task.

Our "continental breakfast" seems to have blossomed (do you see any skinny campers?). There was more than juice and rolls on the table - and as usual GOOD STUFF.

It was pure pleasure to have Donna Hardy present. If anyone knows

the ins and outs of the history for the El Konejo Kampers - she does. What a memory! Too bad she had a grandchild's birthday celebration to attend and couldn't stay for dinner.

After the meeting, at which the new officers for 2006 were elected by acclamation, the washer toss tournament and the craft faire began.

Oh - - who are the new officers? Well Ed Colleran has stepped up to the plate to take on the Presidency, Carroll Stewart will take on the position of Vice President, no change here - I'm still the Secretary and Beverly Erickson is Treasurer.

The Washer-toss tournament with Debi Drake and Debbie LaFarr in charge produced a very interesting result - someone said it was a "first". The winners of the loser's bracket actually finished first over all. Those winners/losers being John Robichau and Joel Erickson. (Yup, Joel squeezed out time to play.) Second place went to Walter Ogden and Shirley Kozlowski; and third place to Gary Mullenau and Pete Padilla.

It seems Peggy Mullenau always has busy hands (no Devil's workshop there - giggle). The woman had an entire picnic table with beautiful creations. She is such a sweetie - says "Hey, Pat, I made Clyde a sweater - but you have to pay me for it?" Well, okay, - when I saw it - ya know, I didn't mind paying. She is one talented lady.

Donna Colleran, Debbie LaFarr and Beverly Erickson also had some darn good looking stuff for sale. I think Donna's jewelry was a big hit - especially with the younger generation.

We were surprised and happy to see Carol Ewald on Saturday, little did we know? ? ?

As I understand - Beverly Erickson had contacted her sometime ago, asking Carol to be Sheriff for this humongous event. The woman is VERY CLEVER as those of us who have had the pleasure of her company in the past know - BUT I think this performance tops the list. She and Don Newcomer collaborated on a "ditty" pertinent to this group, adapted to "On the Road Again", subjecting all in attendance to a fine.

There's more to report but I've already exceeded my word count. Can you cut me some slack this time, Jerry? Suffice it to say - IT WAS MAGNIFICENT!



Cheryl Templeton, Kamper Vice President and Acting Leading Knight, Catherine Koeritz hand acting ER, David Naccarato a check from the El Konejo Kampers for \$750 toward the Christmas Basket program.

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LOYAL KNIGHT Catherine Koeritz

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Ed Rice
LODGE ACTIVITIES: Judy Brayman
SCOUTING: Bill Miller
HOOPSHOOT: Tom Hartin
WED. NIGHT DINNERS: Catherine Koeritz
DRUG AWARENESS:
STRAY ELKS: Herb Jellander
MOTHER'S DAY: Terry Baker



ENTERTAINMENT: Judy Brayman
WED. NIGHT TICKETS: Liz Bell
**LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE FIGHTER
 APPRECIATION:** Scott Dool
DISTRICT PICNIC: Tom Ryder, PDDGER
PRESIDING JUSTICE: Dick McCann
YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Heather Maddox

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year. We performed our annual Elks Memorial Service on Sunday, December 4th. It was a very emotional time for me as I remember our departed loved ones and friends. Jim Rochford and crew did an excellent job. Thank you!

I would especially like to thank all the committee chair people for their efforts this the year. Judy Brayman who brings in the entertainment and has a lot of fun ideas for us to participate in. She is a tireless worker that keeps going. I think she may be a Timex.

Bill Miller has given 100% to the Scouting Effort. He has received numerous awards and recognition. Bill Sternberg, his faithful sidekick has also dedicated a lot of his time for this rewarding experience. Jeri Miller did a fantastic job on making the Holiday Wreaths. I really enjoyed mine!!! We appreciate all your efforts.

For Youth Activities, Heather Maddox is always there with her troops having car washes and helping with distribution of the dictionaries for the Dictionary Project. What is the Dictionary Project? Elks Lodges around the nation have participated in sponsoring a dictionary to all the students in the third grade. The children put their names on the labels we provide with "compliments of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge".

Law Enforcement and Fire Fighter Appreciation night is this month, January 25th. Scott Dool has always done such a good job. You are so efficient and professional. It is such a pleasure to have you a Chairman.

Mother's Day celebration was wonderful. Thank you Terry Baker and your crew for putting on such a touching event as this. As I become more involved, I have met some of the nicest people in Elksdom. I appreciate your words of encouragement and all the help, especially in the kitchen, from ALL the volunteers.

Dick McCann, thanks for being the M.C. at the Flag Retirement Ceremony and for your words of encouragement. I appreciate you being there by my side on

LOTTO

The Editor of the Antlers, Jerry Serota, put out the word that he needed more articles for the next issue of the Antlers. He suggested that some one should write about the LOTTO machine services at the lodge.

Did you know the Thousand Oaks Lodge has a California Lotto machine where you can play lotto, Keno and many other approved games of chance? I know that a great number of our members play these games at other places around town. Do you know that the seller of these games gets a percentage of the sales and also a percentage of the winnings that people get when they have the right stuff?

Think about it! The lodge needs ways to increase its income and use of the lodge Lotto machine will help to get some more income. Who knows if a person should purchase a BIG winning ticket at the lodge, the lodge would benefit greatly. If the big one should come through the purchase of that game winner at the lodge there would be less money needed to be borrowed for the new building.

You that play, why not play through the lodge? Somebody is going to be paid for that game that you purchased, why not the lodge? Will not cost you extra to play through the lodge. And while at the lodge you can enjoy a libation while counting your change or winnings! The lodge wins all around.

Fraternally - Tom Ryder PDDGER

Wednesday nights. For all the people that I see in the lounge, the patio and at the functions, thanks for being good Elks! Your continued patronage helps keep this lodge going.

Let's have a great, prosperous, fun-filled, healthy, Happy New Year!!!

HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS CONTINUE

Total Donations have reached three quarters of a million dollars - the Members of our Order have been most generous. We have agreed to extend our support to the victims of Wilma in South Florida and will be helping people in Texas in addition to the several thousand we have helped in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and many living in other States that fled the effected areas after the storms.

BPO Elks Pledges Aid to Victims of Hurricane Katrina With numerous counties in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina, which slammed the state on August 29th, taking thousands of lives and making hundreds of thousands homeless, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A. has pledged its assistance to hard-hit hurricane victims.

WCCD SAFETY & INSURANCE CHAIRMAN

Bob Saynay

MORE TO THINK ABOUT -

As a rating~5 Hurricane, a Lodge liability lawsuit can be just as devastating.

Every Elks Lodge is strongly encouraged to use and maintain an Incident Report File. Any incident or happening at a Lodge property must be recorded, even if there is only a threat of bodily injury or property damage. Examples include fights, falls, arguments, missing property such as theft, or missing items at a Lodge function: or failure of furniture or equipment, food contamination, outsider intervention or a call for civil authorities for assistance. Broken windows or doors, kitchen accidents or injuries such as burns or cuts - even episodes of graffiti.

The list is endless. Its purpose is priceless in the event of legal action or lawsuit. Elk liability coverage is generally covered by the Grand Lodge, and separately by the individual Lodges. Be sure of an adequate deductible amount in all of your liability coverage. This would include your personal homeowners, renters, automobile, etc.

A large deductible could bankrupt many lodges and families. An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of possible liability expenses.

G/L GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Roland Seale, Member

PRO-ACTIVE VS. RE-ACTIVE

Our Order prohibits the introduction of anything of a political character. Partisan political activity must be avoided at all cost. It is essential that we maintain our neutrality to protect our image as American Ladies and Gentlemen. This does not, however, preclude us from defending our Order from those who would attack our rights of privacy and freedom of association by supporting damaging legislation that might prohibit our very existence. As we have found, these folks are very proactive in their endeavors!

As interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court: "the First Amendment and the related guarantees of the Bill of Rights create a zone of privacy which precludes government from interfering with private clubs or groups." The purpose of our Government Relations Program is to help protect our Order's right to exist as a private organization. Legislative bodies often consider legislation which would negatively impact our exercise of this freedom. Additionally there are areas where fair and appropriate legislation would in fact enhance our community and charitable work.

However, far too often we react to damaging legislation after the fact, when it has already been enacted, and then, unfortunately, it is often too late. Legislative action at the local, state or national level, by design, is intentionally difficult to enact. Otherwise you would have a constantly changing barrage of laws and regulations. Though difficult to pass legislation, it is even more difficult to repeal legislation.

We, as an Order, cannot idly sit by, just waiting to react to damaging legislation. Rather, we must take a proactive stance by maintaining a diligent awareness for potentially damaging legislation and establish positive relationships with our legislators. We must influence our future!

And what better way to influence our legislators than to constantly beat our drums about the good that Elkdom does through our charitable deeds. The annual charitable summary provided to each State Government Relations Chairperson for dissemination to the Lodges should not be simply thrown on a shelf, never to be seen again. Lodges should use this data to let officials know what they are doing for the betterment of their community.

Being proactive requires a JOINT effort by our various Committees. What might impact one committee will surely impact others! Remember that "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

Don't be REactive - be PROactive! And always remain Ladies and Gentlemen by example and show that "Elks Care - Elks Share" for everyones benefit!

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	LECTURING KNIGHT Robert Jones	2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
AMERICANISM: Raven West FLAG DAY/FLAG RETIREMENT: Robert Jones SCHOLARSHIP: Rick Herrera GOVT. RELATIONS: Denise Goldstein MEMORIAL SERVICE: Terry Baker NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg		KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER GOLF TOURNEY: Dave Pearson TommyClaunch LODGE PICNIC: Robert Jones MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member CHRISTMAS TREES: Herb Jellander/Terry Baker EL KONEJO KAMPERS: Gene Ewald

LEADING KNIGHT CONT.

I met P.E.R John Nau 1983-1984. He and his wife came to our New Year's Eve party this past year. He came back to our lodge a few months later and donated a framed copper Elk head. He said to auction it off for charity. I have a small collection going of Elk artifacts and this was hanging proudly on my wall but as the charity drive for the baskets came close I was trying to decide how to use the Elk for the charity baskets. I came up with a silent auction at the charity ball. I started off with a \$25.00 bid but right away it was raised to \$100.00 by Al and up it went from there. By the end it hit \$175.00 and bought by Pete Jackson and Boyd Linguist. Just when I think I have lost the Elk Boyd and Pete donated back to the lodge to go again. I started with \$25.00 and again up it went but at eleven o'clock when the bidding stopped it was bought by Don and Barbara Booker and while I was inside giving the eleven o'clock toast they were putting it in my car. So it is back on my wall and we raised a few bucks for charity. Thanks to everyone who participated



VACANCIES

There are currently vacancies for single occupancy at the Elks National Home. These are all private rooms with bath. They are fully furnished and the monthly fee includes three meals a day, housekeep-ing, laundry, and utilities (except telephone and cable TV). One free haircut a month is even included! Call or write today for more infor-mation.

Elks National Home,
931 Ashland Avenue,
Bedford, VA 24523

• enhome@elkshome.org •
 1-800-552-4140.

More information and photos are also on our website at www.elkshome.org.

DONATE YOUR UNUSED VEHICLE TO THE LODGE



- ✓ **Get the tax write-off**
- ✓ **know that you are helping**
- ✓ **Major Projects and ENF charities**

- ✓ **Be living the motto---**
- ✓ **Elks Care Elks Share**

IS YOUR GROUP LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HAVE A LUNCHEON MEETING????

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Leading Knight, Dave and Karen Naccaroto greeted the members for prizes to be given later in the evening



Five foot Santa Claus donated by Bro. Dick Flittner will be raffled away to fill the Christmaa Basket program



In line dancing lessons were given by Carol Fredericks



The Killer Chop brigade who provided the evenings fare headed by Bro. Bobby Williams and crew



A tender moment on the dance floor for John and Gladys Ennis



Eula McKee won an umbrella to beat off the mashers



Horseshoe Tournament



If you look closely you can see the shoe in flight



DDGER, Gil Riding makes presentation of award to Catherine Koeritz, David Naccarato and ER, Sally Claunch



PDDGER, Richard Goldner and Elaine receive a Grand Lodge Award from , DDGER, Gil Riding



Bill Sternberg, Debbie Fitzpatrick, Herb Jellander and Terry Baker brave the cold elements at the Xmas Tree Lot



Ken Keeler dishing up a killer pork chop

2004-05 COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSONS**THE ELKS LADIES**

Alice Kennedy

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CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell
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**STEP UP TO THE PLATE**

Hoping this finds all of you enjoying the finest in holiday celebrations, and my wishes for many blessings to you and your loved ones. I love this time of year despite all hustle, bustle and even sadness that some people experience at the holidays. For those people, I will remember to keep them in my prayers and thank God for my abundant blessings. I don't want to dwell on the season any longer as there is something, I believe, that is just as important on my mind.

Sometimes we develop a blind spot as a way of protecting ourselves. Have you ever found yourself just focusing on one thing to avoid having to consider something else? I do it sometimes, I will admit, and I did it a lot today. This article is not the easiest to write especially when it may come off as preachy and that is so not me. Here it is - Geri Miller, Sharon Baker and I were appointed as the nominating committee for the Elk Ladies, a job I felt honored to accept. I figured it would be a slam dunk and that I would be mowed down by ladies interested in holding an office in this noble organization. For myself, I thought that I would just keep my job as 2nd VP as I am so enjoying writing the articles and people are commenting on the articles, which leads me to believe they are being read! What a compliment - I couldn't be prouder. I made this decision knowing I would be leaving the area for several months and thought I might talk someone into subbing for me while I am gone. Since I have only been with the organization a short time, I also thought it prudent to learn more from those of you who have been around awhile before moving up through the chairs. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that only a few of us on the current board intended to stay. Now, those leaving have some valid reasons for doing so and I understand completely. But, this does leave some pretty important vacancies. I asked a few people that I like very much and was told they had already served. My response to that is **SO WHAT-WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU AGAIN!** One lovely experienced member suggested that I write this article and let you all know how much we need officers, and I took her advice. We do have some new folks that are thinking over the committee's proposal, and for that we are truly grateful. New members are great, heck, I'm pretty much one of them,

**ELKS LADIES CHRISTMAS DINNER**
Marilyn Cissell

If no one had a single gift
 Beneath our Christmas Trees,
 At birth we each were given, God,
 These gifts as qualities.

Among such gifts you've given us
 are love and strengths renewed
 Please bless this meal prepared tonight,
 and fill our hearts with gratitude.

Amen

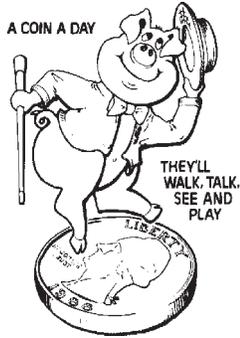
JANUARY

15. Darlene Stogsdell
 18. Carol Fredericks
 22. Alice Wagner
 27. Sheila Aitken
 Elaine Goldner

but the experienced people are needed too, as they bring a historical perspective to decisions that affect us all. Holding office is really not that time consuming at all. Think of it as an opportunity to get out of the house and extra night a month and enjoy interacting with your friends. So here it is, I'm challenging anyone who wants our Elk Ladies to continue to operate as it has for these many years, to call one of the nominating team and let us know you are ready to step up to the plate. We don't care if you "slide into home," or "walked in" with bases loaded - we need you.

Sincerely,
 Jessica Stull

HONOR ROLL



Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL
David Naccarato



- | | | |
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Out Of The Darkness
 By Ken Muellerleile

Walking through the darkness and letting my heart lead me, enjoying the happiness in my soul thinking of joys and jubilee.

My mind was in a rare mood I was thinking of all my friends, the trust and love they had for me never once, did they leave loose ends.

I am a fortunate person to have people around me like that, I've thanked the good Lord many times never once did I feel regret.

In this life time we know how important friends are to us, I believe, that every person is blessed to have friends is priceless.

This is the season we love the Christmas time is near, The most beautiful gifts we have are the friends we hold most dear.

Make My Day!
 Carol Ewald - Christa Harper

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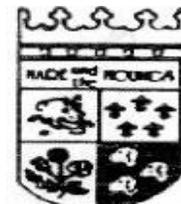
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