



The California-Hawaii ELK



Elks Care
Elks Share



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CA-HI ELKS HELP JOPLIN RECOVER

New temporary Joplin lodge
(future tractor barn)



Elks Care Elks Share
Elks live Aloha



Our Ohana (Elks family) at work



Maybe it's not so dramatic as Ben's success, but even a little makes a huge difference for these children. (See the letter from Ben's mom, page 18.)

Sonora Elks Lodge No. 1587 collects over \$8,500 for "Operation MOM"

An innovative fundraiser was held before Christmas throughout Tuolumne County to benefit Operation M.O.M. Dubbed the "The Million Penny March," the Lodge placed empty bottles in various locations in the community to collect pennies. At last count, over \$8,500 had been donated, and more donations are still being collected. The photograph shows the bottle that was placed in the Sonora Elks Lodge for collections from Lodge members and their guests.

This money is being used to purchase and ship comfort items to our troops and to assist two local military families with food and a little bit of extra money to use for whatever they needed.



Dave Slicton, Skip Hoy (Exalted Ruler), Bob Nath (Lodge Veteran's Chairman)

Brawley Elks Lodge No. 1420 helps children's bicycle drive

The Las Chabelas Restaurant in Brawley was joined by the Brawley Elks Lodge No. 1420 in their effort to purchase 77 new bicycles and helmets for local foster children during their Christmas Bicycle Fundraising Drive.

Both groups worked closely with Imperial County's Children and Family Services organization, which provides services to over 200 children in their program. The bicycles were delivered to the foster children's annual Christmas party in the Imperial Valley. Another local community group, Los Camperos, also joined in by helping to assemble the bicycles. It was a true community effort!



2011 Theme Child visits Coalinga Elks Lodge No. 1613

The Coalinga Elks Lodge No. 1613 held a spaghetti dinner and Piggy Bank Night on January 18, 2012. This event was a Major Project fund raiser. Lodge members and their guests donated \$826 to the Purple Pig.

The 115 attendees were privileged to meet the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project Theme Child for 2011, Delilah Rodriguez, and her parents. Judy Wong, a Major Project therapist, accompanied Delilah and her family.

Judy spoke to the audience about the Major Project and the work that she and other therapists do to help children in need. Delilah received a gift certificate that will be used to purchase additional software for her Nintendo DS (which she received at last year's Association Convention). Another guest donated a beautiful doll house to Delilah.

In other news, the Lodge delivered 420 dictionaries to Dawson Elementary and Huron Elementary Schools and Faith Christian Academy on January 25-26, 2012.



L to R: Judy Wong, Delilah and her parents, Hollis Green (Exalted Ruler)

Walnut Creek Elks Lodge No. 1811 hosts 40th annual Hoop Shoot

The Walnut Creek Elks Lodge No. 1811 hosted its 40th annual hoop shoot at De La Salle High School in Concord. Several hundred contestants from the greater Bay Area competed for top prizes and a chance to move forward to the Central District Elks Hoop Shoot competition.



L to R (front): Shingo O'Flaherty, Stephanie Leighton, Sophia Leighton, Connor Moses, Clare Driscoll, Brianna Rodriguez, Rick Trapp,
L to R (rear): Mike Rittenhouse (the Lodge's Youth Director for 25 years), Connor Snarr, Jacob Corpus, Danielle Trapp, David Gamba, Jordan Allred, Kaitlin Miller, Connor Lawson, Emmy Dunn, Chase Bennett and Garrick Gouveia (Exalted Ruler)

President's Message

"Elks Live Aloha"

Coleen and I continue to travel around California and Hawaii visiting many fine Lodges in this great Order of Elks. We are enjoying the warm hospitality and aloha of our Elks Ohana.

This Elks year is slowly coming to a close. As we look back at the months that have passed, we know that this is truly a great organization. We have witnessed some of the many great accomplishments of the Elks Lodges, and we can see that the Elks will stay strong in the future.

The Association has exceeded our Grand Exalted Ruler's per-capita goal for donations to the Elks National Foundation (\$4.50 per member) and our members will continue to add to this total in the coming months.

Now we must focus on our Major Project. We need to increase our Piggy Bank donations so that we can reach and exceed last year's contributions. You should have as many fundraisers as needed, and, while doing so, use them to get your new members involved.

Volunteerism is an important ingredient in any successful Lodge. Every new member joins the Elks for a reason. Most will tell you that it was to get more involved in their community. You should use this information to get them involved in your community related committee work and also ask them to become involved in other ways within the Lodge itself. For example, I am sure that your Lodge can use more help around the Lodge to maintain the facility. There is always something that needs to be done, and getting new members to join other members in these tasks will help them build pride in their Lodge and be proud to be a member of the Elks.

Membership is in need of your help. I would ask each of you to make a point to ask at least one person this month to join us in the work we do. While it is true that they will not all join us in our charitable work, if no one is asked then we cannot grow. We also need to remind our members to pay their dues (if they have not already), so that we don't lose them as a member.

Coleen and I look forward to the visitations that we will be making as we see the end of this outstanding year come to a close. Seeing old friends, making new friends in California and Hawaii, and spreading Aloha is a top priority for us.

Faternally,

Wayne Howard, President



Richmond Elks Lodge No. 1251 receives an ENF "Beacon Grant"

The Richmond Elks Lodge No. 1251 is one of fifty Lodges randomly selected by the Elks National Foundation ("ENF") to apply for a "Beacon Grant." The Beacon Grant is a new program that has been created as part of the ENF's "Community Investment Program." The Beacon Grant needs to be used in a visible and meaningful way to benefit the community, promote the Lodge's image in the community, attract new members and show the good things that Elks do. The Richmond Elks Lodge successfully applied for and was awarded a \$2,000.00 Beacon Grant.

The Lodge will use the Grant for two projects at St. Paul's School in San Pablo. The first project will be to complete the infield of the school's baseball field. The Lodge is hoping that St. Paul's School will name the baseball field "Elks Field." For the second project, Lodge members will build raised compost beds for a demonstration garden and other related science projects.

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- ✓ Occupational Therapy
- ✓ Speech-Language Therapy
- ✓ Preschool Vision Screening
- ✓ Physical Therapy
- ✓ Disabled Student Scholarships
- ✓ The Eye Care Fund
- ✓ Bequests and Living Trusts
- ✓ The Piggy Bank Program

*Give to your Major Project.
"A coin a day so they can
walk, talk, see and play."*

President's Upcoming Visitation Schedule

March 9-10, 2012

*Homecoming Association
Business Meetings (Ontario)*

March 23-25, 2012

*Western Region Hoop Shoot
(Las Vegas, NV)*

March 30-April 1, 2012

*Homecoming Social Meeting
(Honolulu, HI)*

April 19-22, 2012

*Hoop Shoot Finals
(Springfield, MA)*

April 26-29, 2012

Utah Elks Association Convention

May 16-19, 2012

*California-Hawaii Elks Convention
(San Diego)*

Hemet Elks Lodge No. 1740's Auxiliary delivered supplies for our troops

The Hemet Elks Lodge No. 1740's Auxiliary delivered 12 boxes of supplies for soldiers to the Hemet Bank of America. The supplies were collected by the Auxiliary during the month of December at the Lodge and also at the Lodge's annual Christmas party. Among the items donated were: 61 knitted hats, 200 neck coolers, 58 pairs of socks, 41 hand warmers, 49 paper back books, 9 sewing kits, 40 game books, 51 juice boxes, 37 packets of hot chocolate, 38 decks of cards, 45 packages of gum/candy, and assorted personal items such as toothpaste, deodorant, talcum powder, razors, etc.

According to Kevin Santana, the Bank of America's contact for their program, "Bank of America Supports Our Troops," the supplies delivered by the Elks will be sent overseas to the troops in January. The bank has a list of supplies that the troops need and sends them out on a quarterly basis. "We will sort the supplies brought in by the Elks into shoe boxes to be delivered to individual members of the military," said Santana, adding, "We like to get the donations already packed in shoe boxes, but we're happy to re-package them this time." He went on to say, "This program has been advertised by word of mouth, and we hope that more groups and individuals will bring these donations into Bank of America."

A message from the CHEA First Vice President

By Art Echternacht, CHEA First Vice President



"Hello and Aloha" to all of the members and guests of the California-Hawaii Elks Association. A new year is dawning and Shirley and I are looking forward to making new friends as we travel throughout the States of California and Hawaii in the coming year. As we all know, the New Year starts for the incoming President at the Association Convention in May. This year, the Convention will be at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, San

Diego, CA 92108 from May 16-19, 2012. Please contact your District Housing Coordinator for reservations.

The convention is open to all Officers, Members, and their guests. There will be special informative meetings and workshops for Exalted Rulers, Leading Knights, Secretaries, Trustees, and Members. Everyone can benefit from the meetings and workshops, no matter how many years you have been a member of the Elks. The highlight of the Convention is the final session on Saturday morning. During that session, you will meet the Major Project's Theme Child and witness the Piggy Bank March. Be there to see how your Lodge's ongoing dedication to its Purple Pig fund raising effort has helped all of our children with special needs.

Remember, the Convention is not all work and no play. There will be plenty of time to socialize and meet new friends from other Lodges, and, in so doing, have a great time. There are also many things to do in the San Diego area. The Light Rail system, which is about a block from the rear of the Hotel, will help you get to many interesting venues. For Ladies who like to shop, a large mall is just beyond the rail station. It has great shops and many wonderful places to eat.

Shirley and I look forward to meeting you, making new friends, and seeing old friends. Please help us to start our year off with a bang! We will see you in San Diego!

Novato Elks Lodge No. 2655 hosts Court of Honor

Recently the Novato Elks Lodge No. 2655 hosted an Eagle Scout Court of Honor which bestowed upon Christopher Hosking the rank of Eagle Scout. Christopher, who has a goal of becoming a doctor, is a very active young man and was recognized by the Novato Elks for his achievements within Scouting and within his community.



L to R: Bud Howlett (Lodge Scouting Chairman), Christopher Hosking, Nina Lilienthal-Murphy (Exalted Ruler)

GER David Carr and First Lady Penny visit Hawaii

The Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks visited Hawaii recently. The photograph shows GER David Carr and his wife, Penny, arriving at the Honolulu International Airport.

On hand to greet GER Carr and Penny, on behalf of the Hawaii District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Ron Mizuno, were PDDGER John Brown and his wife, Colette Aoki, of the Kona Elks Lodge No. 2616.

Also present to greet the GER was PDDGER David Bell, who took the photograph. David Bell gave the Carrs their Hawaiian names: "Kawika" (pronounced kah-vee-kah) and "Kala" (pronounced kah-lah).



John Brown, Penny Carr, David Carr and Colette Aoki

Fullerton Elks Lodge No. 1993 recognizes Student of the Month

In December, the Fullerton Elks Lodge No. 1993 honored their Teenager of the Month. Lodge member Rod Propst introduced 16 year old Sean Muleady to Exalted Ruler Charles "Butch" Rock and the other Lodge members in attendance. Sean was accompanied by his parents, Bob and Sandy, and his 11 year old brother Daniel. Rod Propst, a past Scoutmaster and Troop committee Chairman, sponsored Sean because of his love of God and of the American Flag, and for demonstrating a lifestyle that is free of drugs and alcohol.

Sean received a framed certificate and tickets to the Lodge's Sunday brunch from ER Rock. Other Lodge members presented him with gift certificates for money and dinners at various restaurants. Before the presentations, the family enjoyed a complimentary dinner. Sean introduced his parents and his brother, and then described his hobbies and his accomplishments at Troy High School in Fullerton. Sean earned his Eagle Scout badge at the age of 15 and is a member of the Scout's Order of the Arrow.



Sean Muleady with his family, his sponsor, Rod Propst, ER Rock, and other Lodge members

Orange Elks Lodge No. 1475 helps a local youth

Orange Elks Lodge No. 1475 member John Hollaway brought the Lodge's attention to a family friend and local young man, Zack Collie. He is a typical 17 year old living in Southern California. He enjoys hanging with his friends, playing on-line video games, dirt-biking in the desert, camping at the Colorado River, watching movies, texting his friends, going to the beach, taking boxing lessons and was on the Yorba Linda High School wrestling team.

On Memorial Day, 2010, all that changed. Zack sustained a life-changing injury while bodysurfing at Newport Beach, CA. He broke his neck at the 4th vertebrae and damaged his spinal cord. He was immediately paralyzed, fully conscious, and floating face down in the surf. Fortunately for Zack, his friend was close, turned him over and got him to the beach, thereby saving his life. Zack was rushed to Hoag Hospital and then transferred to CHOC in Orange, CA. After a six hour operation he remained at CHOC for two weeks. From there, he was transported to the Casa Colina Inpatient Rehabilitation facility in Pomona, where he remained for six weeks. He was taught life-skills to learn how to function with his disability. He had some movement in his forearms and was paralyzed from the chest down.

After Zack was released from Casa Colina, he chose to enter an outpatient physical therapy program at Project Walk in Carlsbad, CA, where he visits twice a week for ongoing therapy. He chose Project Walk because it is an intensive exercise-based recovery program designed to stimulate the nervous system. This is not a six month, or one or two year program. It is an ongoing program that is dedicated to push you as hard as possible so that you can recover as much as possible - however long it takes. This is the program that their clients have chosen who have made the most recovery. At a recent therapy session, his trainer pulled Zack to a standing position, placed in a walker in front of him and Zack was able to lift his foot and swing it forward.

The Orange Elks Lodge donated \$500 to Zack for his therapy sessions.



L to R: John, Zack and his mom, Amber

Fremont Elks Lodge No. 2121 donates to Boy's and Girl's State

What do Rush Limbaugh, Michael Jordan, George Pataki, President Bill Clinton, Vice President Dick Cheney and Tom Brokaw have in common? They all attended the American Legion's Boy's State Program. What is the Boy's and Girl's State Program, you might ask? In 1935, Hays Kennedy and Harold Card became concerned about the youth of America attending fascist training camps. They felt that it was important to have a counter-movement to stress the importance and value of our democratic form of government. The strength of our nation lies not only in the size of our armed forces, but also in the character, loyalty and intelligence of our citizens. American citizens who understand our government and who recognize their duties and obligations to our country are the foundation and backbone of this country.

The Boy's State and Girl's State Program is offered to high school juniors who are recommended to local American Legion Posts by their schools. This week long program, offered separately to boys and girls, teaches the students how city, county and state governments are organized and how they function. They learn through participation in mock executive, judicial and legislative bodies that emulate the real thing. It is a "learning by doing" program. These students carry the skills and knowledge acquired through this experience back to their schools and communities. Many employers, service academies and university admissions boards believe that participation in the Boy's State or Girl's State Program is another indicator of a student's strong leadership and character traits.

The Fremont Elks Lodge has donated money to their local American Legion Boy's State and Girl's State Programs each year for many years. The Lodge's contribution helps the American Legion Post fully sponsor each student's attendance to the Program, thereby making a positive difference in their lives. Local graduates of the Boy's State and Girl's State Programs have gone on, following their high school graduation, to attend the West Point and Air Force Academies, the Merchant Marines Academy, Princeton University, Harvard University and many more fine colleges and universities. Others have also worked as aides to California Legislators in Sacramento. The Lodge is proud to continue sponsoring this program which has benefitted the lives of so many of our local youth.

Westchester Elks Lodge No. 2050 raises money for LAX USO center

The Westchester Elks Lodge No. 2050 held their annual Charity Ball in December which raised over \$1,100 for the Bob Hope Hollywood USO Center at the Los Angeles airport. The Lodge presented a check to the Center's Director of Operations, Barbara Musella. They also donated multiple cases of water and soda. The Center is open 24 hours a day and is one of the finest state-of-the-art USO Centers in the world. It provides a comfortable and welcoming "safe haven" for our servicemen and women and their families.

The 4,000 square foot Center offers its famed "Hollywood Canteen" snack bar, a big-screen TV lounge with a library of thousands of Hollywood's current and classic films, The General Jimmy Doolittle Lounge and free lending library, a full-service Internet Computer Center, a Disney inspired family room, a nap room with leather recliners where troops can catch a few winks between flights or remain overnight, a secure luggage storage room, men's and women's restrooms and showers, an outdoor patio and barbeque and more.

All services are provided without charge to military personnel and their families. Additional services include the free use of cell phones to call home; a team of volunteers to assist with onward transportation services; use of nationwide fax services; short-term temporary parking for brief visits, passenger pick-up and delivery; free DVDs and music CDs from Operation DVD, as well as discounted hotel reservations.

Membership

By Noe Saenz, CHEA Membership Chairman



My fellow Elk members, the membership performance has been on a roller coaster - up and down and on its way to positive results. It is evident that your continued support, dedication, hard work and enthusiasm have paid off. I congratulate you and express my appreciation to all of the District Chairs who have so diligently sent in their reports.

The Chicago Lodge Management System version 2 ("CLMS2") report as of January 15, 2012, shows that the California Hawaii Elks Association has a net membership gain of 3.23%. Our goal is to attain a 10% increase in membership. Speaking of percentages, the percentage gain by districts are as follows: South Central Coast 7.76%, Hawaii 6.45%, San Gabriel Valley 6.32%, West Central Coast 4.60%, Orange 4.26%, West Central 4.01%, South 3.98%, Bay 3.21%, Northeast 3.00%, Metropolitan 2.96%, North 2.90%, North Central 2.87%, East Central 2.50%, Inland 2.36%, South Coast 1.64%, Northwest 0.94%, Central 0.76%, South Central -0.24% and the Southeast District -0.73%.

The CLMS2 report indicates that the Association has experienced a membership gain of 6,726 and a loss of 3,910 for a net gain of 2,816 and the ending membership of 90,024. The results are very promising. However, the CLMS2 Lapsation numbers, show a total delinquency of 7,553 for a percentage of 8.39%. The Lapsation goal is 2% or less.

It is important for us to continue our hard work and, with determination, try to keep those delinquent members from being dropped from our membership rolls. I encourage and ask each Elk, and every family member, to take part in the activities of your individual Lodges and to lend a hand whenever possible. Remember, we are a family oriented Order and, by promoting and encouraging family participation, we will meet the challenge and end up with a plus membership gain.

Not only must we try to save our lapsed members, but we must also try to recruit new members. One great way is to take advantage of the new Membership Inquiry Program. Membership inquiries are now being accepted online through the [elks.org](http://www.elks.org) website! This means that non-members now have a quick and easy way to express their interest in joining the Order.

Here's how the system works:

1. Members of the public, many of whom may not know a member of the Order, may express their interest in membership by submitting an online inquiry form: <http://www.elks.org/who/default.cfm>.
2. An email is sent to the secretary of the Lodge with jurisdiction over the zip code included in the inquiry. The Lodge Secretary will also see an online notification when they sign on to the CLMS2 websites.
3. The Secretary, or another Lodge member, will contact the potential candidate within seven days via email, telephone, or U.S. mail and let them know the best way to introduce themselves to a member or the Lodge. Hopefully, this will result in an invitation for membership. Please note that our membership procedures have not changed: Candidates must still be invited to join.
4. Once contact has been established with the potential candidate, the Secretary will visit the CLMS2 website to mark the transaction as processed. This step is very important, since Grand Lodge staffers and/or CHEA Membership chairs will be following up with all secretaries regarding any overdue membership inquiries in their jurisdiction.

For more information on Membership manuals and references, please visit the CHEA website: <http://www.chea-elks.org/membership.html>.

At the upcoming CHEA Convention in San Diego, there will be a workshop on Membership Recruitment and Retention. I encourage you to attend and participate.

That's it! Hopefully this simple program will make it easier for more individuals to join the Order and discover first hand that "Elks Care, Elks Share" and that "Elks Live Aloha."

Lake Almanor Elks Lodge No. 2626 donates to CASA

The Lake Almanor Elks Lodge No. 2626 donated \$500 to the Plumas County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program on January 24, 2012. Dave Henise, Lodge Secretary, Steve DeWitt, Exalted Ruler, and Bill Mahaffey, Lecturing Knight, were pleased to present the donation check on behalf of the Lodge.

The CASA program consists of volunteers who will give a child a voice in the Court proceedings affecting their current and future circumstances. CASA advocates for stable, safe placements, mental and emotional health, appropriate educational services, and healthy family connections.



L to R: Dave Henise, Joelle Breazier (J. Volunteer Coordinator of CASA), Ann Krinsky (Program Manager of CASA), Steve DeWitt and Bill Mahaffey

Stockton Elks Lodge No. 218 auctions a quilt to benefit charity

The Stockton Elks Lodge No. 218 is the home of the "Tuleburg Quilters." This group donated a beautiful Christmas Cardinal Quilt to the Stockton Elks Lodge 218 for the Lodge's annual Charity Ball auction on November 19, 2011.

Proceeds from the auction will go towards local charities and Elks Charities for the year 2012.



L to R: Eileen Dugan, Lesley Foster (the winning recipient of this quilt) and Corrine Rubino, event chairperson

Piggy Bank

By Bill Williford, CHEA Piggy Bank Chairman



The Lodge year is quickly coming to an end. Everyone is gearing up for nominations, elections, the end of one year and the start of another. But, the Piggy Bank is open until May!

The Association Convention in San Diego is May 16-19, culminating in the Exalted Ruler's March. It is exciting to hear how much each Lodge donated and to watch the tote board total climb. Last year, the total was \$3,073,705.05. It was another amazing demonstration

of our member's commitment to our Major Project Piggy Bank program.

The 20th Annual Fishing Trip will be held in September, donated again this year by PDDGER Jim Olson. Tickets are being printed and Lodges will be receiving them soon. Please be sure to ask at your Lodge and buy your tickets. I hear it is a fantastic trip, well worth the cost of a few tickets, or a LOT of tickets if you wish to try harder to win the trip.

As was mentioned in the last issue, the Santa Monica Elks Lodge No. 906 donated a NASCAR jacket to be offered in a drawing at the Convention. This is a brand-new jacket with a retail value of \$300. We are a little behind in promoting this, but tickets will soon be available from your Lodge Piggy Bank Chairman. You may not be a NASCAR fan, but chances are you know someone who is.



As a reminder, my emphasis this year is on the "52 Club" and the recurring donation program. Each is easy to do and is very beneficial to the Major Project.

My thanks to every member for participating in the Piggy Bank - please continue!

Northeast District holds Hoop Shoot

The Northeast District held its Hoop Shoot contest on December 11, 2012 at the Portola High School gym. Over 100 visitors filled the bleachers to watch the competition. Trophies were given to the 1st and 2nd place winners and all of the participants received an Elks basketball. There were eleven Elks who volunteered to help with the event.



Left rear: Ron Jacobsen (PER, District Co-Chair) and Matt Swidergal (right rear, Exalted Ruler of Calpine Elks Lodge No. 2432)

Paramount Elks Lodge No. 1804 donates gift bags to VA hospital

The Paramount Elks Lodge No. 1804 presented gift bags to the veterans at the Long Beach VA Medical Center. The Lodge's Veterans Service Committee Chairman, Don Champagne, with the assistance of Lodge members and members of the "Future Homemakers" class from Paramount High School, presented 250 gift bags to the VA Hospital.

One Lodge member's wife donated the fabric used for the bags. The students sewed the bags and brought them to the Lodge to be filled with toiletries, cards, socks, etc. Also included in the bags were donations of lanyards, balls, cup holders, pens and pencils donated by the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines.



San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge No. 322 donates to Fresno VA hospital

On December 15th, SSG David Medzyk, Gary and Donna Donovan, Veterans Services Chairman, delivered a trailer-full of items donated by the San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge No. 322 to the Fresno VA Hospital and Geriatric Extended Care Unit (GECU). The estimated value of the items totaled \$19,945. The items donated included: hand-knitted lap afghans, scarves and hats, personal care items, playing cards, hardbound and paperback books, coffee, puzzle books, calendars, reading glasses, socks, shoes, clothing and coats.

In addition, each of the 60 GECU patients received a new sweat outfit, a goodie bag, and a Christmas card from the Lodge. The Morro Bay Seniors and Camp San Luis soldiers also generously contributed donations to this annual activity.

In other news, the Lodge held its 40th annual Hoop Shoot on January 8th. The local school system held preliminary hoop shoot contests and sent their 49 finalists to the Lodge's Hoop Shoot event. Trophies were awarded to both boys and girls in the 8 - 9 age group, 10 - 11 age group, and 12 - 13 age group. All 49 participating finalists received a Hoop Shoot tee shirt. Dick Pierce Chairman of this Hoop Shoot Committee for the last 22 years was aided by Lodge members Ananda Watkins (Leading Knight), Vern Brody PER (Chairman of Hoop Shoot for the first 18 years), Bill Smith (Lodge Secretary) Frank Egan (Chaplain) Ron Schmitt, Randy Arseneau, Claude Alvis, Ken Egan and John Iribarren, who has assisted on the Hoop Shoot almost from its beginning. Other helpers were members Wendy Pierce, Nelda Krylach and Cleo Cooper. Terri Monnell, Co-Chair of the Drug Awareness Committee, handed out Drug Awareness material to all the kids.

In yet more news, State Senator Sam Blakeslee, Congresswoman Lois Capp's representative Greg Haas, Assemblyman Kacho Achadjian and the Supervisors of San Luis Obispo County recently assisted the San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge in honoring eleven Police, Fire and Sheriff's officers from San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. A tri-tip and chicken dinner was served to an attendance of 89 officers, families and guests. Awards and certificates were presented to all honorees.

Hemet Elks Lodge No. 1740 receives a community service award

The Hemet Elks Lodge No. 1740 received a plaque for their ongoing support of "Kin Care", a division of the California Family Life Center (CFLC) by Ron Walker, CFLC Executive Director and Mary Snow, Director of Kin Care.

The Hemet Elks Lodge has sponsored the Kin Care Christmas party and back to school programs for the last few years. The Lodge donates to their "Back to School" program that provides backpacks filled with school supplies, such as paper, pencils, crayons, folders, etc. for the children. The Lodge offers the use of the Lodge for their Christmas party, provides a volunteer for "Santa Claus," and donates the children's gifts and party refreshments.

More than five million children in the United States are being raised by grandparents and other family members because the children's parents are unable to care for them because of drugs, alcohol, crime, violence or abuse. Many of these guardians are on fixed incomes, such as Social Security, and do not have the extra funds needed to provide fully for these children. The Hemet Elks Lodge's Golf Club raised \$1,642 at a tournament in November to help fund Kin Care's Christmas party for the kids. The backpacks and school supplies were provided by individual donations from Lodge members and a cash donation from the Lodge.



L to R: Ron Walker, Mary Snow and Bob Okamoto, ER

Gardena Elks Lodge No. 1919 donates \$10,000 to the USO at LAX

The Gardena Elks Lodge No. 1919 surprised the USO at LAX with a \$10,000 donation. The USO Executive Director, Mike Teilmann, and Kathleen Salmas, the USO Chairman, received the donation check from Lodge representatives Rodney Tanaka (ER) and Harry Fitch (Veterans Service Committee Chairman). Also in attendance were Robert "Santa" Haywood, John Erskine, John Monson, Martin Almaraz, PER and Katriana Baker, US Army.

In other news, some members volunteered on Christmas Day to help almost 200 less fortunate people from the city to have a hot meal and to enjoy the meaning of Christmas. Last year, the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce held their first annual Christmas Day dinner for the less fortunate in a parking lot. This year, the Lodge offered their Lodge facilities for the Chamber's second annual event. ER Rodney Tanaka and seven or eight other members were on hand to help make this Christmas Day dinner an extra special event. Everyone received two gifts from Santa, fruit baskets and enjoyed lots of fun activities.

The Lodge also visited the veterans at the Long Beach VA Hospital. They brought new clothing, games, books, puzzles, blankets, box lunches and \$500 to the veterans so that they could have fun playing bingo and winning not just prizes, but also lots of cash. The Lodge Activities Chairman, Richard Blodgett, is an injured veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, and has been a volunteer at the hospital for 28 years.

Willows Elks Lodge No. 1786 hosts fund raiser for Scouts

The Willows Elks Lodge No. 1786 hosted a dinner to benefit their local Scouting groups. The Scouts Dinner was held on November 2nd, and it was a huge success this year. 322 people attended the fundraiser which will help these boys and girls finance their Scouting programs throughout the year.

The \$2,508 that was generated at the event will be split between the three Scouting groups and will be presented at a Lodge meeting in the near future. This amount included a \$500 donation from TK Enterprises. All of the Scouts worked hard helping to serve, carrying out dinners, and keeping the tables and the hall clean for their guests. The delicious dinner was a total sell-out.

Many thanks go to Matt Garcia and his assistant, Rob Torres, who barrel-cooked 244 lbs. of pork loin. The Lodge Officers are to be thanked for setting up the tables and chairs for the dinner. More thanks go to Rich Stafford, who headed the kitchen crew, along with Bud Bernard, Leroy Robinette, and Cub Scout Master Jesse Roach. The bar was covered very well by Collette Feeney. The hall was cleaned by scouts, parents, and Bill Feeney. Thanks to all of you, especially to the 322 people who attended the event and donated to the Scouts.



Salinas Elks Lodge No. 614 donates gifts to disadvantaged children

The Salinas Elks Lodge No. 614 placed a "Giving Tree" at the Lodge recently. Called the "Angle Tree," it was festooned with over 200 tags, each of which represented a disadvantaged child. 238 Christmas gifts were purchased for the children and delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution. The Lodge also supported the Salinas Food Bank's food drive to help needy families in the Salinas area, by donating \$250 and several barrels of canned goods. In addition, an SUV loaded with Christmas packages of freshly baked cookies, books, and health care gifts was delivered to the veterans at the Palo Alto Hospital. With their Christmas charity efforts complete, Salinas Elks wish you all a Happy New Year!

In other news, the Lodge held their annual Public Safety Night on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 to honor members of their local police and fire departments. The event was well attended by law enforcement officials. We were honored to have Vickie Myers, the Seaside Police Chief, as our speaker. She was given a Community Citizenship award by the Elks Lodge for her inspiring speech. The Monterey County Police Officers Association presented their Officer of the Year award to Deputy District Attorney, Steve Somers. The Monterey County District Attorney, Dean Flippo, participated in that award. In addition, the Merit of Valor award was presented to Sgt. Bruno Diaz of the Seaside Police Department. Rachelle Lightfoot, President of the Monterey County Peace Officers Association, also participated in the award ceremony.

Advisory Committee (Past Presidents)

*L. E. Chenoweth	Bakersfield	1913-14
*Hilliard E. Welch	Stockton	1914-15
*Dr. Ralph Hagan	Los Angeles	1915-16
*William M. Abbott, PGER	San Francisco	1916-17
*Harry M. Ticknor	Pasadena	1917-19
*James M. Shanley	Oakland	1919-20
*Charles Donlon	Santa Barbara	1920-21
*John D. Saxe	San Rafael	1921-22
*Richard C. Benbough	San Diego	1922-23
*Howard B. Kirtland	San Luis Obispo	1923-24
*Edgar F. Davis	Long Beach	1924-25
*John J. Lermen	San Francisco	1925-26
*Mifflin G. Potts	Pasadena	1926-27
*William E. Simpson	Fresno	1927-28
*John J. Doyle	Los Angeles	1928-29
*Fred B. Mellmann	Oakland	1929-30
*Horace S. Williamson	Redlands	1930-31
*F. E. Dayton	Salinas	1931-32
*Horace H. Quinby	Alhambra	1932-33
*J. Thomas Crowe	Tulare	1933-34
*Milton R. Standish	San Bernardino	1934-35
*George M. Smith	San Jose	1935-36
*L. A. "Fay" Lewis, PGER	Anaheim	1936-37
*C. Fenton Nichols	San Francisco	1937-38
*C. P. Hebenstreit	Huntington Park	1938-39
*Elmer B. Maze	Merced	1939-40
*Robert S. Redington	Los Angeles	1940-41
*Donald K. Quayle	Alameda	1941-42
*Newton M. Todd	Long Beach	1942-43
*Clifford C. Anglin	Richmond	1943-44
*Stephen A. Compas	Huntington Park	1944-45
*Horace R. Wisely, PGER	Salinas	1945-46
*R. Leonard Bush, PGER	Westchester	1946-47
*Earl J. Williams	Oakland	1947-48
*Morley H. Golden	San Diego	1948-49
*Robert J. Craine	Hanford	1949-50
*Ben W. Osterman	Santa Ana	1950-51
*John B. Morey, PGT	Palo Alto	1951-52
*Vincent H. Grocott	Santa Barbara	1952-53
*Edward E. Keller	San Mateo	1953-54
*Robert P. Mohrbacker	Long Beach	1954-55
*Jim B. Nielsen, PGELK	Watsonville	1955-56
*Owen O. Keown	Santa Monica	1956-57
*John A. Raffetto	Auburn	1957-58
*Frank M. Linnell	Newport Harbor	1958-59
*Charles T. Reynolds	Vallejo	1959-60
*Guy A. Daniels	Redlands	1960-61
*Paul T. Wemple	Susanville	1961-63
*Vern R. Huck	Los Angeles	1963-64
*Henry J. Budde	San Francisco	1964-65
*Edgar Dale	Vallejo	Honorary

*Bruce H. Marsh	Inglewood	1965-66
*Gerald Strohm, PGER	Fresno	1966-67
*Marvin M. Lewis, PGER	Brawley	1967-68
*Norman S. Lien	Watsonville	1968-69
*Paul E. Haines	Pasadena	1969-70
*Ernest Olivieri	Sonora	1970-71
*Walter Schween, Jr.	Salinas	1971-72
*C. Wallace Erickson	Glendale	1972-73
*Yubi G. Separovich, PGELK	Sacramento	1973-74
*Dan Davis	Van Nuys	1974-75
*Rev. Msgr. George Scott	San Pedro	Honorary
*James E. Spence, Jr.	Oakland	1975-76
*Marvin M. Pike, PGELK	Torrance	1976-77
*Donald W. Luce, PGELK	Richmond	1977-78
*Dr. Robert G. Robb	Garden Grove	1978-79
Donald D. Dapelo, PGER	Coalinga	1979-80
*William D. Brunner	Redondo Beach	1980-81
*Leland J. "Butch" Simas	Santa Maria	1981-82
Kenneth L. Moore, PGER	Corona	1982-83
Elmer L. Lanini, PGT	Salinas	1983-84
Robert J. McLain, PGELK	Pasadena	1984-85
*Clifford E. Beatty	Chico	1985-86
Richard L. "Dick" Alves, PGEsq.	San Jose	1986-87
*Bernard E. McCune	Long Beach	1987-88
*Oscar W. Stutheit	Orange	Honorary
*R. E. "Bud" Cenis, PGELK	Bakersfield	1988-89
*Dr. Eugene P. Weigand, PGELK	Pasadena	1989-90
*Lynn Wood	Modesto	1990-91
William C. "Bill" Ijames, PGELK	Vista	1991-92
Richard E. Owen, PGELK	Santa Maria	1992-93
John A. Parker, PGT	Marysville	1993-94
*Rex E. Dondlinger, PGELK	Arcadia	1994-95
Anthony J. Mauro, GT	Hollister	1995-96
Timothy C. Martin, PGELK	San Bernardino	1996-97
Sim Nathan	Redding	1997-98
Frank G. Keller	Corona	1998-99
Louis J. "Jim" Grillo, PGER	Stockton	1999-00
John G. Holt	Burbank	2000-01
John M. Carvalho, Sr.	Sacramento	2001-02
H. Eugene Chambers	Needles	2002-03
Doug Larsen	Salinas	2003-04
Lee Northcutt, PGEsq.	La Habra	2004-05
Roy R. Newman	Marysville	2005-06
James S. Mason	Gardena	2006-07
Oren Richardson	Coalinga	2007-08
Jerry Rucker	San Bernardino	2008-09
Lee Karjola	Eureka	2009-10
Hugh H. Scanlon	Glendale	2010-11
Thomas S. Brazier	Santa Cruz	Honorary
*Deceased		

Concord Elks Lodge No. 1994 donates to "Toys for Tots"

The Concord Elks Lodge No. 1994 donated four large bags of toys to the USMC's "Toys for Tots" program. Ed Meindersee delivered the toys to Ed Sutton and Rhett Zuniga, representatives of the USMC "Toys for Tots" program. The toys were donated by Lodge members and their families. Ed's wife, Sharon, said that she is hoping to at least double or triple the donations in 2012!



On the Web?

The website is www.chea-elks.org
Then hit: Bequests/Living Trusts.
Become a Benefactor for the
BLT Commitment Trust.

Lapsation

By Richard Rueda, CHEA Lapsation Chairman



The first nine months are in the books. The Lapsation rate for all 19 Districts is 19%. There are three Districts with good Lapsation percentages for the first 7 months: Central District – 4%, Northeast – 5%, and West Central Coast – 5%.

On the other end of the spectrum, there are five Districts at 9% and others at 11%. The remaining Districts fall in the range of 6% to 8%.

We still have an issue with some Districts retaining delinquent members for as long as 18 months. There are 58 members that should have been dropped after one year. I will contact the District Lapsation Chairmen and see what I can do to help them with this problem. It is now time to address this issue and try to get it resolved.

I continue to feel that the Lodges and Chairmen are doing a good job this year. My goal is for all Lodges to be at 7% at the end of 9 months, and I believe that you are showing that this can be done. Please let them all know how much their help, and yours, is appreciated.

Palo Alto Elks Lodge No. 1471 holds their 88th bingo game at the VA Hospital

The Palo Alto Elks Lodge No. 1471 Veterans Service Committee closed out 2011 with their 88th bingo game at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital. 35 Veterans and family attended the 88th game. Besides serving refreshments, the committee donated \$100 in hospital canteen scrip to bingo winners and gave out as door prizes three watches, two personal CD players, five ball caps, a personal folding calculator, two drink cups, three Tee shirts, three traveling bags and a glove and scarf set.

In a separate visit, the committee handed out Christmas bags and boxes of chocolates. The bags contained toilet articles, canteen scrip, an LED key ring and some candy. Santa gave out the bags while other members of the committee sang Christmas carols in the hallways. The committee visited the Spinal Cord Injury unit, the Traumatic Brain Injury and Poly Trauma wards, the PTSD group and hospital ward 4-C. The 24 remaining bags were donated to the hospital Chaplain to give to veterans who visit their office.



L to R: Janet Storz (VA Hospital staff), Gene Jones (veteran), Amanda Tumminaro (Lodge Veterans Service Committee member)

Santa Ana Elks Lodge No. 794 presents Arthur H. Echternacht for California-Hawaii Elks Association President for 2012-2013

Whereas, The officers and members of the Santa Ana Elks Lodge No. 794 do recognize and appreciate the leadership, accomplishments, and dedicated service rendered by Arthur H. Echternacht to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, the California-Hawaii Elks Association, the Santa Ana Elks Lodge and other Lodges in the Orange Coast District of California; and

Whereas, He has been a member of the Santa Ana Elks Lodge since joining in 1973, served as Inner Guard in 1987 and continued through the Chairs to become Exalted Ruler in 1992, winning the District and State Ritual Competitions, and was All-State, Most Impressive Exalted Ruler, and competed in Dallas, Texas, in the National Ritual Competition and served on the Santa Ana Elks Lodge Board of Trustees for three years and last year as its Chairman and was elected to Honorary Life Membership in 2003; and

Whereas, He was recognized for his abilities and dedication to the Orange Coast District as the Chairman of the Indoctrination Committee in 1993-1995 and Ritual Contest Committee in 1995 and as Chairman in 1998, and as Esquire to the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1996-1997, and as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee in 1998-2000, and as District Americanism Chairman in 2001-2002; and

Whereas, He was recognized for his service to the California-Hawaii Elks Association serving as Association Vice President in 2000-2001, and California-Hawaii Elks Association Sergeant at Arms in 2004-2005, and Association Drug Awareness Chairman in 2005-2007 as Drug Awareness "Rookie of the Year" in 2006, and California-Hawaii Elks Association Assistant Tiler in 2008-2009 and California-Hawaii Elks Association Trustee in 2009-2010; and

Whereas, He was District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2002-2003 and Santa Ana Lodge Advisor from 2003 to present and District Leader for the Orange Coast District in 2008 to present, and Chairman for the Grand Lodge Local Support Committee in Anaheim, CA in 2008, and elected as California-Hawaii Elks Association First Vice President in 2011-2012; and

Whereas, He is retired from his Law Enforcement career of over 40 years and has been a member of several Training Associations and teaching assignments at the Police Academy; and

Whereas, His record of dedicated service to his community, profession and fraternity is matched only by his dedication and devotion to his lovely wife, Shirley, son Art, two daughters, Terry and René, and their families; and

Whereas, His record of leadership, dedication, and devotion to our Order has earned him the respect, admiration, and gratitude of all Elks, especially the officers and members of the Santa Ana Lodge, Orange Coast District, and the California-Hawaii Elks Association; now, therefore

Be it resolved, That the officers and members of the Santa Ana Elks Lodge No. 794 are honored and privileged to present to the 2012 California-Hawaii Elks Association in San Diego, CA, the name of fellow member, Arthur H. Echternacht, as a candidate for the Office of President of the California-Hawaii Elks Association for the Fraternal year of 2012-2013.

Visit your California-Hawaii Elks Association website.
Awarded 5 stars by the Grand Lodge BPOE.
It's a site to see!
www.chea-elks.org

Drug Awareness

By Tim Jaeger, CHEA Drug Awareness Chairman



It has been very rewarding to see the increase in activity around the states of California and Hawaii. We had a record number of entrants in both the Essay and Poster contests with 12 of our 19 Districts and a large number of Lodges participating this year.

Participation in the Drug Awareness Program (DAP) is a great way to increase awareness of the Elks in general and highlight your local Lodge's participation in the community. I am hearing a very common theme from

Lodges who participated in this program. Many reported the appreciation the educators expressed at having the opportunity to involve their students in a contest such as this. Many of the Lodge chairpersons tell of schools contacting them when they hear about the poster or essay contest being presented to another school in their area.

Highlighting to your members that your Lodge is participating in on-going Drug Awareness and similar programs truly reinforces the good that Elks do in their communities. I try to attend as many of my Lodge's Indoctrination programs as possible—regularly I hear the two main reasons new members are joining is to “give something back” to the community and for the social interaction. When we can publish in our newsletters that we are working with schools, law enforcement agencies and others to help improve conditions for the local youth, their resolve to help others is partially met simply because a member is part of the Elks.

As you all know we have been losing membership for several years, one of the reasons cited is due to a lack of feeling that the Elks Lodge is truly making a difference. We can reverse this perception by simply “blowing our own horns” about the good work that is being carried out regularly. The more involved you get your members, the more they will feel like part of the effort. The more you communicate to them about the good work that the Lodges are doing the better they will feel about being an Elk.

To learn more about the variety of programs that are supported by the Drug Awareness Program, visit either the CHEA or National websites, both have good information and are great resources (www.chea-elks.org/drugawareness.html or www.elks.org/dap).

We are scheduled to hold a breakout session at the CHEA Convention in San Diego on Thursday, May 17th for anyone who is interested - including District and Lodge Chairpersons. We will also have a table set up at the Convention Center where you can browse the current Drug Awareness literature, get questions answered, or just stop by to say hello.

Remember the DAP is not an annual event, but rather a continual opportunity to improve your community and your Lodge. If you can make a difference in the life of even one child in your community we have succeeded.

Oceanside Elks Lodge No. 1561 visits hospitalized veterans

On November 28th, the Oceanside Elks Lodge No. 1561 visited veterans at the La Jolla VA Hospital. Not only did we play Bingo with these outstanding hospitalized veterans but we were able to deliver lots of goodies like: small shampoos, deodorants, socks, chips, cookies, fruit, cards, clothing, candy, magazines, and other much needed items.

The Lodge thanks all of the people who helped to assist in making this a fun filled evening and Merry Christmas for our veterans! Those who participated were: Carole Scarpelli, Rick Huff, Dan Bourg, Ellen Berman (from the VA Hospital), Sandee Murphy, Ruth Dube, Chuck Dube, Brad Wooton, Sandra Rothe and Warren Downs.

Lancaster Elks Lodge No. 1625 recognizes “Firefighters of the Year”

On Tuesday, January 3, 2012 the Lancaster Elks Lodge No. 1625 presented awards to outstanding firefighters from the city of Lancaster. During the Firefighter Awards Night, three very deserving firemen were recognized, but only two of the individuals were able to be present. Firefighter/Paramedic Ben Sheen was unable to attend due to a work related injury. When he is able to return to work, he will receive his awards.

Firefighter/Paramedics Don McLaughlin and Mike Linch were in attendance with their families, and were joined by personnel from Fire Station 33. Battalion Chief Cliff Meredith and Assistant Fire Chief Gerald Cosey were present as well. Others in attendance were members of the Lancaster Elks Lodge, their spouses and many other deserving firefighters and their families from throughout the Lancaster area. The Lodge awarded Sheen, McLaughlin and Linch with a plaque, and they also received a scroll from both the City of Lancaster and Los Angeles County.

The members of the Lancaster Fire Department were guests for dinner prior to the program. Firefighter/Paramedic Christian Litz gave a presentation about the history of the Paramedic program from its inception in the late 1960's to the present. He also described the many changes the program has undergone over the years, including the training that is required in order to be certified.

The City of Lancaster was represented by Councilwoman Sandra Johnson. She was accompanied by her husband Marco who is a retired Firefighter from the City of Los Angeles. In her remarks, she expressed her appreciation for the Lancaster Fire Department. Supervisor Antonovich was represented by Norm Hickling.



L to R: Exalted Ruler Sandy Brown-Rotell, Don McLaughlin, Mike Linch and Jerry Mundell, Lodge Treasurer and event chairman

Sunnyvale Elks Lodge No. 2128 donates to their community

On December 15, 2011, the Sunnyvale Elks Lodge 2128 presented a Christmas donation of \$5,449.96 to Marie Bernard, Executive Director of Sunnyvale Community Services, which was founded in 1970, is an independent, nonprofit emergency assistance agency. Their mission is to prevent homelessness and hunger for low-income families and seniors that reside in the city of Sunnyvale, CA by providing financial aid, food, and other support to families and individuals that are facing temporary crises.

Scholarship

By Stan Malkin, CHEA Scholarship Chairman



Conflicting School Views

To paraphrase Yul Brenner in "The King and I", "Schools are puzzlement." On the one hand, we have researchers and writers lamenting the schools' cruelty and ineffectiveness, even preparing the institutions' obituary. On the other side, many Americans continue to view schools as a panacea capable of resolving most, if not all, of society's problems. A puzzlement indeed.

Nor is this puzzlement brought much closer to a resolution by educational research. Some of this research has pointed out the limitations of schools; other studies indicate that schools make an important difference in the lives of children. They have found out that, as peoples' formal education increases, they read more newspapers, books and magazines. Consequently, there is an increased awareness of domestic issues, foreign events, and popular culture. This research suggests that schools do make a difference.

Other educators stress the importance of the early formative years and suggest that the effectiveness of schools could be dramatically increased if schooling began at an earlier age.

Perhaps part of the answer to this conflicting point of view was provided by the noted educational historian Lawrence Cremin. Cremin suggests that schools be relieved of some of the heavy educational load placed on them. He believed that schools should no longer be viewed as the sole mechanism through which education is dispensed. And he points out that the church, the family, and the ethnic group all contribute to a child's education. Schools alone do not hold a monopoly on learning.

Cremin's argument points out the paradox of America's schools. Because so much is expected of them, schools are destined to fall short of success. But the very fact that so much is expected of them also demonstrates the deep confidence people have in public education in general and schools in particular. The unrealistic expectations held regarding schools are in themselves an expression of America's deep, abiding faith in the institution. Perhaps this is one reason why schools have withstood a withering rain of criticism and why many polls reveal that parents remain overwhelmingly satisfied with schools.

As you can now see, the purpose of schools is in the eye of the beholder. And there are many beholders. People expect schools to do everything from solving unemployment to developing humane and loving adults. Although schools fall short of meeting the numerous and often contradictory goals expected of them, they do remain a central and vital institution within our society.

Pasadena Elks Lodge No. 672 hosts GER for New Year's Eve festivities

The Pasadena Elks Lodge No. 672 hosted Grand Exalted Ruler David Carr and his wife, Penny, over the New Year's holiday. Exalted Ruler Denise J. Ryan, District Leader Aron Andersen and the Lodge's Officer Corps were on hand to host the GER for the weekend's activities.

On Friday, December 30, 2011, they were treated to a dinner in the Lodge's Fireside Room to kick-off the weekend's events. Many PERs from the Pasadena Elks Lodge, San Gabriel District Officers, District ERs and other Lodge Officers were present as well. CHEA President Wayne Howard and his wife, Coleen, joined in the festivities. On Saturday, December 31, 2011, Mr. and Mrs. Carr helped ring in the New Year at a dinner dance which was attended by many Lodge members, officers and guests.

Finally, on Monday, January 2, 2012, the GER and his First Lady attended both the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game. During his visit, GER Carr complimented the Pasadena Elks Lodge's leaders on the operation of the Lodge and on the many improvements that are underway to restore the building and to bring it up to current building codes.

Simi Valley Elks Lodge No. 2492 provides Christmas cheer to the community

The Simi Valley Elks Lodge No. 2492 partnered with the Emblem Club No. 484 to hold their yearly Christmas Party at the Lodge for the Simi Valley Recreation and Park District's Alternative Learning Group. About 100 guests were treated to dinner, dessert, dancing and gifts from Santa and a special visit from "Elroy T. Elk" who was referred to as "The Reindeer."

Exalted Ruler John D'Amico and the Lodge-sponsored Girl Scout Troop No. 60128 assisted in serving dinner, dessert and helped Santa and Mrs. Claus hand out gifts and pose for pictures. Elroy danced with guests and also posed for pictures.

"This event pulls the whole community together. It's a great night and everyone looks forward to it," said Margie Ramey, recreation specialist for the Recreation and Park District. "A lot of the guests, ranging in age from 10 to 80, live in group homes," she added.

In other news, the Lodge handed out baskets filled with a complete turkey dinner and candy to 85 families. Santa Claus handed out toys to the children who might not otherwise receive a holiday toy. He was assisted by ER John D'Amico and other Lodge members and their families, who volunteered to give their time to this community activity. The Lodge also donated enough food for 395 people living at the Tender Loving Care Hospice, Assisted Home Care Hospice, Salvation Army and Samaritan Center. Sharing the food, Christmas lights and smiles gave the Lodge special warmth that only charitable giving can bring. The Lodge also gave baskets to the community last November to share Thanksgiving with those less fortunate.



Monterey Elks Lodge No. 1285 holds benefit for injured Marines

On Saturday, November 19, 2011, the Veterans Affairs Committee of the Monterey Elks Lodge No. 1285 hosted its first Bachelor Auction to benefit the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund. The evening's festivities included heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts, a live bachelor auction conducted by Veterans Affairs committee member Tim Buhl, an amazing silent auction and great music and dancing.

The event generated over \$7,700 for the Semper Fi Fund - an organization that grants financial aid to military men, women and families from every branch of the military. The evening's proceeds were 50% higher than the projected goal for the night.

14 THE CALIFORNIA-HAWAII ELK

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Latest Millennium Plus (\$20,000) Gold Pig Level Donors (December 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012)

Donor	Lodge
Ray Harrod	614

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Latest Millennium Plus (\$2,000) Purple Pig Level Donors (December 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012)

Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge
Marietta Petersen	6	Wayne Howard	616	Thomas E. Lemm	1959	Sylvia Warnes	2091
Carol E. Sawyer	266	Sandra S. Reid	1643				

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Latest Millennium Club (\$1,000) Donors (December 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012)

Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge
Donald K. Johnson	6	Eugenia "Genie" Montanye	439	Dick Hill	1289	Thomas Jay Coyne	2801
Michael E. Johnson	6	Donald "Don" Checchi	906	Sylvia Warnes	2091	Robert Walker	2801
Lawrence Rotharmel	6	Robert A. Pickett	906				

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Latest Century Club (\$100) Donors (December 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012)

Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge
Arnold Athey	6	Carolyn Horton (2)	906	Ronald & Nancy Hinman	1643	Don Andrews	2379
Wayne Bellows	6	Margy Pickett	906	Sandra Reid (3)	1643	Daniel Valdez (4)	2379
Stephen Clazie	6	Daphne Harmola	1015	Ken Sullens	1689	Pat Arbelbide	2389
S. Yvonne Correa	6	Tom Hinsch (2)	1015	Jerol Burns	1691	Steve Arbelbide (2)	2389
Bruce Eastley	6	Helen Marceovich	1015	David Johns	1691	Terry Bourne (2)	2389
Marilyn Facha (6)	6	Dean Seaquist	1015	Harlan Moore	1691	Dave Byard	2389
Frank Giarmona, Sr.	6	Marilyn Zecher (2)	1015	John Nelson	1691	Virginia Cosby	2389
Richard Gilmore	6	Redding PER Association	1073	Janice Sutherland	1691	Glenda Dutched	2389
Richard Hanson (2)	6	Harold Jacobson	1112	Lori Bryan	1712	Janet Janisch	2389
Johnny Henman	6	Richard Carstens (2)	1250	Ture Roslund (4)	1712	L.L.O.E.	2389
Marilyn Hooton	6	James McDonald	1250	Darel Walker	1712	Dart League	2389
Donald Johnson	6	Tom Allen	1282	Jeff Cobb	1786	Roy Lovejoy	2389
Michael Johnson	6	Marsha Andreae (2)	1282	Terry Bates	1799	Patty Trask (2)	2389
Janelle Lathrop	6	Ron Angin	1282	Jim Carney	1799	Steve Trayer (2)	2389
Sharon Maxwell	6	Goodtimers RV Club-Columbia	1282	Elk-A-Haul RV Club (2)	1811	Harold Tullledge	2389
Timothy Mullins	6	David Lucero	1282	Ed Kucera	1811	Del Turner	2389
Anita Neves	6	Dana McManus	1282	Darrell Webb	1811	Mike Wood (2)	2389
Ray Nielsen (2)	6	Wally Morrow	1282	Fred Cannon	1812	Richard Wurtz	2389
Marietta Petersen (3)	6	Robert Neal, Jr.	1282	Barry Dierkes	1839	Robert Yoast	2389
Lawrence Rotharmel	6	Hugh Page	1282	Norma Jean Clark	1905	Richard Anderson	2504
William Sampino	6	Bruce Porter	1282	Tom & Connie Ouellette	1905	Patricia Breault (4)	2504
Canaro Smith, Jr.	6	Allan Walker	1282	Carol Quan	1905	Glen Werling	2504
Rudy Toralez	6	Linda Welch	1282	Benjamin Verde	1905	Beryl White	2504
Dorothy Trapanese	6	Alvin Baudour	1285	Dale Vinson	1905	Richard Barcellos	2510
Carolyn Miller	266	Verita Brazier	1285	Henry Blecha	1913	Raymond Gomes	2510
Milt Grau	322	Emilio Cal, Jr.	1285	Thomas Lemm	1959	Bill James	2543
Gene & Julie McFarren	423	Angela Cardinalli	1285	Henry DiTomaso	1968	Zack Peralta	2543
Manny Lema	522	Ronald Giovannetti	1285	Wayne Faulkner	1968	Herman DeJong	2591
Patrick Taylor	522	Donald Miller	1285	Tom Drake	2026	Lake Elsinore Lodge Social Quarters	2591
Alex Camany	614	John Mulchaey	1285	Dick Williams	2045	Virginia Mulhern	2591
Jean Long	614	Gerald Neville	1285	John Seal (2)	2098	James Williams	2599
Stephen Basso	616	James Newton	1285	Gene Hendrix	2103	Robert Mehrling	2698
Mieczyslaw Dabrowski	616	Tom Brittan	1289	J. Martin	2103	Bert Agustinovich	2704
Mary Ann Kawakami (2)	616	Greg Brittner	1289	Shirley Reef	2103	Ed Roark	2704
Marian Rickard (2)	616	Don Colyar	1289	James Warrick	2103	Chuck Clark	2724
Anthony Young (2)	616	Marlena Crodgy	1289	Culver City Elks Kamper Klub	2190	Joseph Cooper	2733
Christel Yount	616	John Encinas	1289	Peter Marshall	2190	Larry Easterday (2)	2733
Maudine Carpenter	643	Dick Hill	1289	Jerry Shubb	2190	Hal Griffin	2733
David Heaukulani	759	Joe Mendicina (2)	1289	David Swoger	2190	William Presley	2733
Nick Accettura	888	Tom Veatch	1289	Lawrence DePaul	2243	Jerry Taylor	2733
Faygie Colton (2)	888	Narwhals Mating	1342	Gordon Willett	2248	David Tissue	2733
Clifford Kohler (2)	888	William Chambers	1436	Donald Palmer	2274	Susan Alpern	2801
Robert Nelsen	888	Fulton Picetti	1436	Laurie Ashley (2)	2358	Bob Johnson	2801
Bruce Sharrow	901	Calvin Landreth	1539	Ken Colbert	2358	Grady Little	2801
Theresa Beers	906	Ralph Garcia	1613	Marlene Haberland	2358	Bill VanMeter	2801
Don Checchi	906	Hollis Green	1613	Chris Perera	2358	Robert Walker (3)	2801
Kathy Checchi	906	Dino Uribe	1613	Bud Poole	2358	Walt Wilson	2801
Frank Frazier	906	Hugh Vierhus	1613	Bruce Simpson	2358		
Todd Hawkins (2)	906	John Young	1613	Pat Terrell	2358		
Will Hawkins	906	Sharon Kinsey	1625	Ed Van Matre	2358		

Clifford Beatty passes away

The Association Office was informed that Clifford Beatty, Past Association President (1985-1986), passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. A Memorial Service was held on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the Chico Elks Lodge No. 423. A graveside service followed as well as a reception at the Chico Lodge.

Modesto Elks Lodge No. 1282 sponsors Hoop Shoot

Trent Mallonee, took 1st place (ages 10-11) in the Central District contest (21 out of 25 shots). Trent took 2nd place in each of his previous two competitions at the District Shoot.

Elk Grove Elks Lodge No. 2577 has a young soccer champ

The Elk Grove Elks Lodge No. 2577 participated in the recent North Central District Soccer Shoot competition. Capriana Viano-Nitschke, representing our Lodge in the "girls under 8 years old" category, was advanced from the local Soccer Shoot to compete in the District Soccer Shoot. Capriana subsequently overcame all of her competition as she moved on to compete in the California and Hawaii Soccer Shoots and won the Association Soccer Shoot with a perfect score of 45 in the 5-goal competition. Capriana is the daughter of Rich and Carol Viana-Nitschke of Elk Grove.

In other news, the Lodge helped provide meals, employment opportunities and other resources to displaced veterans through the "Hunger knows no Holiday" program. Bill Tomlin, a network architect with Frontier Communications of Elk Grove, obtained help from his employer and partnered with the Campbell Soup Company office in Sacramento to offer this assistance to several displaced veterans through the program. Several dozen people, young and old, received assistance. One participant was even able to secure employment. The Lodge is working to "get the word out" to the community that they are here to assist our veterans in any way possible.

The Lodge's Bingo Committee donated \$500 to "Cases for Cheer." The money will be used to buy fabric material for "Cases for Cheer," a non-profit organization that is dedicated to helping cancer patients. Their mission is to bring cheer to cancer patients one at a time. They make colorful handmade pillowcases for the patients to use when they go for treatments or hospital stays. The pillowcases are given to the patients, at no charge, through cancer centers, hospitals, hospice programs, or personal referrals. These bright and colorful pillow cases bring cheer to all who accept one. A special pillowcase was presented to Lodge member Diane Najar's husband, Bill. The Lodge's Ladies Auxiliary (the "Antlerettes"), holds sewing bees periodically to create the pillowcases. Last year, "Cases for Cheer" donated more than 840 pillowcases. For more information go to <http://casesforcheer.blogspot.com/>.



David Southard passes away

David W. Southard passed away on January 21, 2012. He was the CHEA Official Photographer for many years and retired from that position in 2008.

Elk Grove Elks Lodge No. 2577 and Starbucks donate coffee and cookies to deployed veterans

At Elk Grove Elks Lodge No. 2577's recent Spaghetti Night, ENF Chairman Don Kammerer presented Staff Sgt. Jonathon Batchler with over \$1,800 worth of Starbucks Coffee. The Lodge had recently received a \$2,000 ENF grant. When Don visited a local Starbucks, the manager, Stephanie Heckenlaible, and employee, Ashley Perez, decided to go a step further. Although the Lodge had only purchased \$1,000 worth of coffee for the troops in Afghanistan, Starbucks Coffee donated over \$850 worth of additional coffee. This was a donation from Starbucks and their customers. Staff Sgt. Jonathan Batchler, and his Unit, the 319th Signal Battalion of the US Army Reserves, will deploy to Afghanistan soon. Sgt. Batchler thanked us and explained that coffee is not a luxury, but a "tool" the troops really need. The balance of the ENF grant is being used to purchase Girl Scout Cookies which will be sent separately to the troops.

In other news, on January 18, 2012 the Lodge presented the Galt/Elk Grove Young Marine COBRAS with a check in the amount of \$350. This donation came from the Lodge's bingo fund and will go to help cover the expenses for Young Marines to attend summer camps and leadership schools. The Young Marines is a youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through completion of high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on character building, leadership, and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines is the focal point for the U.S. Marine Corps' Youth Drug Demand Reduction effort.



L to R: Starbucks employees Ashley Perez and Stephanie Heckenlaible with Staff Sgt. Jonathan Batchler and Don Kammerer.

Encinitas Elks Lodge No. 2243 helps veterans and their community

Last fall, the Veterans Village asked the Encinitas Elks Lodge No. 2243 to create seven dinner baskets for Thanksgiving. The Veterans Village is a home for displaced veterans and their families.

The Lodge responded very quickly to meet that need for these homeless veterans. When Christmas approached, the Lodge was contacted again. But, this time, they were not only asked to put together more food baskets, but also to donate Christmas gifts for these needy families.

Both efforts were a resounding success. Thanks to the generosity of the members, the Lodge had enough food left over to make a donation to the local Senior Citizens Center.

Santa Barbara Elks Lodge No. 613 recognized 7 Eagle Scouts in 2011

Seven Boy Scouts of Troop No. 37, which is sponsored by the Santa Barbara Elks Lodge No. 613, received their Eagle Scout rank in 2011. These seven Scouts donated 1,466 hours of their time to complete their Eagle Scout Service Projects.

Connor Proctor improved the McKinley Springs Campground in the Los Padres Forest by replacing the watering tank, the picnic table and the wilderness toilet (169 hours). William Proctor installed a wilderness toilet at the Sycamore Campground in the Los Padres Forest (568 hours). Tyler Casper built a bicycle shed at the Garden Preschool (125 hrs). Kyle Kovacs constructed and delivered ten Bat Boxes to the Santa Barbara City Parks Department (144 hrs). Galen Collins refurbished the horse corrals at the Santa Barbara Humane Society (243 hrs). Tyler Nicholson renovated the announcer's booth at the Goleta Valley South Little League Field (115 hrs). James Deacon built three picnic tables for Fairview Farms (102 hrs).



Top row (L-R): Connor Proctor, William Proctor, Elmer L Jones, Jr. (Scout Master and Lodge member), Tyler Casper, Kyle Kovacs

Bottom row (L-R): John Deacon, Scout Assistant, Galen Collins, Tyler Nicholson, James Deacon, Ed Martin, Lecturing Knight

Lake Elsinore Elks Lodge No. 2591 joins community parade

The Lake Elsinore/Wildomar Elks Lodge No. 2591 members took part in the city of Lake Elsinore's "Put the Unity in Community Parade" on Saturday, November 19th. Nearly 100 community groups, organizations and schools took part in this annual parade. Lodge members and Boy Scout Troop No. 322 decorated a float that depicted a grandmother reading to a group of scouts. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and Lodge member Mary Ann Kuk, who pulled "Flamboyant Pig" on a wagon, collected donations for the Elks Major Project. "Flamboyant Pig" is a large piggy bank that survived the fire of 2007 that destroyed the old Lodge building. A total of \$423 was collected for the Purple Pig.

In other news, the annual "Christmas Tree Lane" fund raising event was held on December 3rd. Ten trees - each with a specific theme such as "Toy Tree," "Computer Tree," "Patio Tree," etc. - was decorated with coupons with a total value of \$1,000 to \$1,500. Tickets to win a tree were a dollar apiece, with discounts for multiple ticket purchases. Free tickets were also distributed for door prizes. Proceeds from the ticket sales were to be used for the Lodge's charities and scholarship awards. \$13,600 was collected for these charities!

Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge No. 2477 delivers groceries to the community

At 9:00 a.m. on September 17th, the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge No. 2477 started loading up packages for Christmas Basket deliveries to low income seniors courtesy of Jim Porter, Lodge Trustee and Sherri Jones of United Parcel Service.

Over \$5,400 worth of groceries, which included a turkey, staples and gifts for the children, were delivered to 60 seniors and 73 families. The monies raised from the Lodge's Charity Ball, Christmas Tree lot and member donations helped pay for these charitable deliveries. "Elroy the Elk" was on hand to help with the deliveries and bring cheer to the recipients.



UPS drivers Jim Porter (3-year Trustee) and Cherry Jones, Leo Rodriguez (Leading Knight) and "Elroy the Elk"

Temecula Valley Elks Lodge No. 2801 presents a "Quilt of Valor"

At a recent dinner at the Temecula Valley Elks Lodge No. 2801, Nancy Cook, a member of the Hemet Elks Lodge No. 1740, presented a patriotic quilt to Sergeant First Class Joel Farrens, who has returned from his third tour of duty in Iraq.

Nancy is part of a program called "Quilts of Valor," that makes quilts for military members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan as a way to thank them for their service to the country. The program was started at Hemet in 2009 by Jeannie Lowe and Nancy Cook. They have completed over 40 quilts and have more that are ready to finish. They have given away 26 quilts.



L to R: Angela Stevanus (Exalted Ruler), Tresha Farrens, Joel Farrens and Carter, Diane Farrens, Bob Farrens, Nancy Cook.

Americanism

By Tom Conlon, CHEA Americanism Chairman



For the past two years I have served the Association as Chairman for Americanism. My Chairmanship will cease at the Association Convention in May. It has been an interesting experience - one I am pleased to have had. While not all of my goals for the year have been met, I am sure that there are more Elks flying the flag 24/7 as indicated by the number of certificates that have been presented. Furthermore, there was a very good turn out again this year of students participating in the Americanism Essay Contest. Those were two of my primary goals for the year.

We are in the thick of the Presidential primary season, so it won't be long until some of us will take our place behind the curtain and cast our vote for the Presidential Candidate of our choice. We, as Americans, call it a privilege to be able to cast our vote. In some European countries, it is mandatory to vote - and you may only vote for the party's designated candidate. I was appalled when told this by my co-workers from Europe. They ask, "Why vote?" as they don't really have a say in the outcome.

Therefore, as we head into this election year, I will remind you of another goal of the Americanism Program. Encourage your non-registered friends to register and then vote in the next election and continue to vote in all subsequent elections. It is easy to register - it takes less time than to stop at the store and buy a loaf of bread. If you wish, you can request an absentee ballot to fill it out while sitting in the comfort of your favorite chair and vote by mail.

Let's face it, there is a tremendous amount of uncertainty in the world today, and the same can be said for our country. Leadership is the most important ingredient for the recipe of Freedom. Our Veterans have contributed to America's Freedom and we continue to win. Without strong leadership, the opposite can be true.

So, again, encourage your non-registered friends to register and to vote. Then cast your vote for the candidate of your choice.

Are you flying the flag today??

Ontario Elks Lodge No. 1419 holds Law Enforcement Night

Law Enforcement Night was held at the Ontario Elks Lodge No. 1419. Nine officers were recognized at the event. The honorees were from the following organizations: the CHP, Chino PD, Rancho Cucamonga PD, Chino Hills PD, Claremont PD, Montclair PD, Upland PD, Ontario PD, and Pomona PD. Each Officer received an "Officer of the Year" Plaque, enjoyed a dinner for themselves and their families, and had a chance to win a gift card from businesses in the community. We admired the acts of heroism demonstrated by the recipients. Along with the Officers, "Willow," a K-9 hound dog also received a special plaque.

Alhambra-San Gabriel Elks Lodge No. 1328 celebrates Veterans Day

The Alhambra-San Gabriel Elks Lodge No. 1328 celebrated Veterans Day with a Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance. The Lincoln High School ROTC presented and posted the colors in a moving ceremony, and international musician James Parra gave an emotional rendition of the Missing Man Ceremony. As part of their admission fee, the attendees were asked to bring a new sweatshirt to be distributed to the homeless Veterans of Los Angeles.

Garden Grove Elks Lodge No. 1952 holds Christmas Party for needy children

The Garden Grove Elks Lodge No. 1952 held its annual Christmas Party for the needy children of the Garden Grove area on Sunday, December 10, 2011. Some 125 kids (from 6 months to 17 years of age) and their parents were treated to a super lunch and entertainment. Boy Scout Troop No. 111 served the lunch and helped with the clean up. Santa Claus (PER Nelson Burke) arrived at 3:00 p.m. and handed out presents to all the kids. Miss Garden Grove and her teenage assistant helped Santa distribute the gifts. Each child was given a ticket for a chance to win many additional prizes, including 6 bicycles. Family pictures with Santa were taken and will be sent to them. Needless to say, everyone had a great time and went home very appreciative of what was done for them. PER Burke (Santa) said of the event, "We do so much for the community all during the year, but Christmas time with the kids is one of the most special times of all."



PER Nelson Burke (Santa) surrounded by the Lopez family of Garden Grove

Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley Elks Lodge No. 2444 donates to OC Outreach

Every Christmas season, the "Run-A-Ways" camping club of the Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley Elks Lodge No 2444 makes a donation to a local charity. The donation is made instead of a gift exchange among members. This year the campers raised \$420, which they used to buy Wal-Mart gift cards. Wagon Master Pat Martino and member Andy Costello presented the cards to Ken Carpenter, Client Services Volunteer for Orange County Outreach.

Carpenter said of the gift, "Every year the small children get toys and families get food, but somehow the teenagers seem to be overlooked. This is a great gift for them. The gift cards will be placed in holiday food bags and specially earmarked for the teenagers in the family." With a smile Carpenter added, "Maybe they will buy a CD for themselves or even a gift for someone else, which makes it even nicer."

The Run-A-Ways are one of the many clubs within the Elks Lodge that make additional donations to their favorite charities throughout the year. Martino said of his club, "Every year, the Run-A-Ways raise over \$4,000 for charities, mainly for handicapped children. For group members to add this extra Christmas gift to what they already give throughout the year, demonstrates their special character of giving."

Pasadena Elks Lodge No. 672 donates to three local charities

On January 24th, the Board of Trustees of the Pasadena Elks Lodge No. 672, under the leadership of ER Denise J. Ryan, PER Ken Jury, Trustee Chairman, and Louis Gutierrez, Second Year Trustee, awarded three local charities grants to assist in their various endeavors to help those in need in the Pasadena area.

The first grant was given to Pearl Turpin of Financial First, an organization that teaches foster children being emancipated from the foster system on how to handle the various financial duties they encounter when they reach their eighteenth year. This organization meets a need that is often not met by the foster homes, and these children, including those in foster group homes, are often lost after they leave the system, having no skills to do such ordinary things as managing checking accounts.

The second grant was given to the Catholic Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization which works with children who need mentoring by individuals with good values. It was accepted by Mercedes Mantilla.

The final grant was distributed to the Pasadena Conservatory of Music to help provide scholarships to worthy music students who could not otherwise afford their training. After entertaining us with what she learned during her years studying classical guitar, Deanna Romo, a senior at Alhambra High School and a 2 1/2 year student in the Guitar for All program at the Conservatory, accepted the grant on behalf of the Pasadena Conservatory of Music.



L to R: Louis Gutierrez, Deanna Romo, Denise J. Ryan

A letter from a grateful Mom

I can't thank you enough. My son needed several different types of therapy to help him. My husband and I regularly had to choose...what can we afford now?

We were originally told our son would "never be potty trained, never have conversational speech." We didn't listen. Call it denial if you want, but, after years of therapy, we were finally at the point of possible independence. Without you guys coming and "fine tuning," Ben would not be able to be independent in school. You helped him write, type, organize...all of the things that you have to be able to do to be without an aide.

We were tapped out and could not afford to pay for anything else for Ben. We'd used our equity, savings, credit, everything. So thank you! Ben is a success! Everyone was wrong...one of those rare moments when a mom gets to say, "I told you so!" (With a huge smile on her face!) Keep doing what you are doing. Maybe it's not so dramatic as Ben's success, but even a little makes a huge difference for these children.

Westchester Elks Lodge No. 2050 helps needy children in their community

The Westchester Elks Lodge No. 2050 helped children in need during the holiday season. Lodge members provided food and fun at the annual "Autumn Fest" at Imperial Pau's school for severely mentally handicapped children. This is the 15th year that the Westchester Elks have been celebrating with Imperial Pau's students, staff and the children's families. Over 300 attended, to enjoy a barbecue, face painters and a clown who created balloon figures for the kids. Imperial Pau is located in Hawthorne, CA.

In other news, the Lodge sponsors the "Heartfelt Foundation" and provided the venue for their "Holiday Spectacular" event. Over 1,100 kids were invited and bused in to the Lodge from East Los Angeles. The children came from The Salvation Army agencies, Maternal and Child Health Access, One Voice, the Avalon Carver Agency and from skid row in Compton. The children ranged in age from infants to 18. Over 200 volunteers helped make this a special day with arts and crafts, games, face painting, a petting zoo and horse rides. Each child had their picture taken with Santa Claus and they also received a toy. A band played while all the attendees enjoyed a taco stand, popcorn, hot dogs, snacks, candy and drinks. The leftover food was donated to the Newborn Christian Fellowship in Boyle Heights. The Heartfelt Foundation is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to serving and assisting people in any form of need.

Vista Elks Lodge No. 1968 holds Christmas party for 500 children

On December 16th, Vista Elks Lodge No. 1968 hosted their 37th annual Christmas party for 500 special needs children. Some 300 pre-school age and elementary school students were invited from the California Avenue Special Needs School that serves 14 schools in the area. Another 100 children were from other schools or were brought to the event by their parents. The attendees enjoyed music, entertainment and a meal that was served by Lodge members and Emblem Club members. Santa Claus distributed a gift and a stuffed stocking to each child. Teachers from the school volunteered to serve as chaperones and provide supervision.

In a separate event, another party was held for 100 special needs adults at the Sierra Vista High School. The Honorable William Ijames, PGELK, has chaired this event for all 37 years. He is retiring as chairman this year and will be replaced by Mike Olson, PER.

Members of the Lodge contributed over \$4,000 to make this event possible. Lee Anderson, the principal of the school, said, "This is a significant, joyous event for these children. For many, it is the only opportunity they have to participate in a party, see Santa Claus, and get gifts. The volunteer energy that makes this event possible is awesome. Our hearts and thanks go out to all the Elk Lodge members."



L-R: Tom Smith (ER, PER), Sandy Thomas, William Ijames, Adam Bruhl, Teri Albritton, Andrea Gonzales, and Tammy Hollix. Other than Tom and William, all are special needs teachers.

Association President Howard visits the East Central District

The California-Hawaii Elks Association President Wayne Howard and his First Lady Coleen recently enjoyed a visit to the East Central District. The First Couple had an opportunity to visit several Lodges in the District and they also enjoyed a guided tour of the Lemoore Naval Air Station.

The Lemoore Naval Air Station is the largest Naval Air Station on the West Coast and it is the home base of the United States Navy Pacific Fleet's F/A-18 aircraft.

Wayne and Coleen were accompanied by several Elk members of the East Central District. The visitors were met at the main gate by their tour guide, Petty Officer Ramos, and escorted to the VFA-122 flight line to view the latest of the US Navy's fighter airplanes. The control tower was the next stop. Wayne and Coleen were invited inside the tower to watch takeoffs and landings, and to observe the aircraft traffic on the ground. Then they visited the radar room, where several Air Traffic Control personnel were monitoring the hundreds of airplanes that were in the control tower's airspace. This was the most interesting part of his visit.

The group joined the Command Master Chief Petty Officer of the base for lunch to conclude the tour. It was such a pleasure to see firsthand and up close the professionalism of our servicemen and women. We thank Miss Larson of the Lemoore Naval Air Station's Public Affairs Office and Petty Officers Dublin and Ramos.



L to R: Petty Officer Ramos, Larry Faust (East Central District DDGER), Barbara Faust, Stella Conro, Earl Conro (East Central District Vice President), Coleen Howard and Wayne Howard pose in front of an F/A-18.

Pittsburg Elks Lodge No. 1474 enjoyed a dinner served by the Boy Scouts

The Boy Scouts from Troop No. 159, in Antioch, CA, served a dinner to the members of the Pittsburg Elks Lodge No. 1474. In turn, the Scouts received a free meal and were graciously rewarded by the Lodge members. The members of the Boy Scout Troop are: Johann Banta, Daniel Frise, Ryan Harrington, Drew Irwin, Jason Pitak, Jeremy Rutman, Dirk Tolson, Christopher Tong, Nick Weld, and Ian Yates. The Scout Master Mike Weld, Assistant Scout Masters Curtis Frise, Dan Harrington and Charlie Pitak supervised the event.

Kailua Elks Lodge No. 2230 distributes dictionaries, sponsors "Hoop Shoot"

The Kailua Elks Lodge No. 2230 distributed over 250 dictionaries to appreciative third graders this past December to seven elementary schools on the Windward side of Oahu. The Lodge's Dictionary Project Chairman, Helen "Lani" Medeiros, reported, "It was a lot of fun and the kids were very grateful and appreciative." The schools receiving the dictionaries were: Blanche Pope, Waimanalo, Waiahole, Hauula, Kaaawa, Ahuimanu and Kahaluu Elementary Schools.

In other news, the Elks "Hoop Shoot" competitions took place on the windward side of Oahu at Kaneohe District Park in November 2011 with 29 shooters, boys and girls ages 8-13. The Kailua Lodge hosted and sponsored the event. The top shooters in each of three age categories went on to compete in the island side Hawaii competitions.



Lani Medeiros (left rear) and Sharon Chee (right rear) with children at Blanche Pope Elementary School in Waimanalo

Fullerton Elks Lodge No. 1993 visits Long Beach VA Hospital

Fifteen members of the Fullerton Elks Lodge No. 1993 visited the Long Beach VA Hospital on December 12th. The members were there to participate in Bingo games and other activities with these veterans, many of whom had suffered significant injuries. Lodge member Steve Vartanian called the Bingo numbers while other Elks assisted the 50 veterans, who were able to leave their beds, to be sure they marked their scorecards accurately.

Veterans would holler "Bingo" with enthusiasm. As money was won with each Bingo game, Frank Rodriguez, a Marine veteran who had lost a leg, said, "This is serious stuff." Vartanian commented, "It is an honor to host, spoil and visit with the veterans. They come ready to have fun, win and just be spoiled for a short while. I always leave filled with pride to have been able to help them enjoy the day."

The money was donated by the Elks so that the veterans would be able to purchase Christmas gifts for their families and friends. Snacks and drinks were also served. Santa Claus delivered much needed pajamas, T-shirts, sweaters, shorts and socks to the vets as well.

Lodge member Jackie Kilpatrick said, "It felt so good to help these wounded veterans and to see those great smiles on their faces." Jackie sat with Beauregard Green, an Army veteran, who added, "I am having a wonderful time and I'm appreciative to the Elks for coming to visit me this season."

Petaluma Elks Lodge No. 901 hosts children's Christmas party

On December 4th, special guests arrived at the Petaluma Elks Lodge No. 901. Thanks to the hard work of Randy Logan and his crew of Elves, the children had a wonderful Christmas Party. Over 100 boys and girls joined their parents for an afternoon of merriment. They had fun at a crafts table, either making Christmas ornaments or Christmas cards, assisted by Santa's Elves.

The kids enjoyed food, posed for pictures, joined a sing-a-long, and visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Over 25 Lodge volunteers assisted in the preparation and service of the food and helped with the rest of the afternoon's activities. Santa brought wonderful presents for all the children, but he also delivered a very important message. In addition to "Ho, Ho, Ho," Santa told all the children to say "No, No, No to Drugs." Each child received a Drug Awareness coloring book and bookmark. Santa ensured that the message "I Choose Not to Use" was sent that day to help promote the Elk's Drug Awareness Program (DAP). The DAP educates our nation's youth about the dangers of illicit drug use.



La Habra Elks Lodge No. 2095 donate toys to Marine families

The La Habra Elks Lodge No. 2095 donated toys to the families of Marines from Camp Pendleton who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. The project, developed by Ken Petri, is a way to support the Marines who do so much to see that underprivileged children receive toys at the holidays. The toys that La Habra Elks provide go to the children of the Marines themselves, who cannot be with their families for Christmas. The toys, which filled a six by twelve foot trailer, and were valued between \$10,200 to \$12,000 dollars, were delivered to the Marine HQ building at their Southern California Marine Base.

Orange Elks Lodge No. 1475 helps "Mary's Kitchen" feed the homeless

Each December, members of the Orange Elks Lodge No. 1475 arrive at 6:30 a.m. one day and prepare turkey dinners in the Lodge's kitchen facilities. These dinners are destined to be served to the homeless who come to Mary's Kitchen for a meal. This is the seventh year that members from the Lodge have donated their time to this effort. Eleven of the volunteers cooked 26 turkeys that were provided by the Lodge's "Tuesday Night Meal Deals" cooking crew and seven others helped prepare all the "fixins." Mary's Kitchen feeds the homeless and those in need. These complete turkey dinners fed over 200 people. According to Lodge member and Mary's Kitchen volunteer, Sue Siegal, Mary's Kitchen has seen a big increase in the number of meals served.

In a separate event, the Lodge prepared Christmas baskets after a Friday night dinner. After enjoying a spaghetti dinner with 211 members and guests, Lodge members packed 204 Christmas baskets for selected needy families in the City of Orange. The baskets included everything that would be needed for a wonderful Christmas dinner. Toys for the children were also included. Then, on Saturday, 54 Elk members, family and friends met at the Lodge to pick up and help deliver the baskets. Members of the Lodge donated nearly \$3,000 and the produce to prepare these baskets for this annual Lodge charitable Christmas event.

