



The California-Hawaii ELK



Elks Care
Elks Share



Official Periodical of the California-Hawaii Elks Association • 5450 E. Lamona Ave. • Fresno, CA 93727-2224

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www.chea-elks.org

March / April 2014

Letters from Grateful Parents and Preschool Directors

Dear Elks,

My daughter Tallulah has been seeing Judy Linda, Occupational Therapist, through the generosity of the Elks since the fall of 2009. The difference between my daughter then and my daughter now is almost an entirely different person.

Thank you so much!!! Sincerely,
Tallulah's Mom

*Sheila (Sheila McCarthy, Occupational Therapist) is a wonderful person. She was so helpful in all aspects for Sapphire. She showed and told me ideas to help Sapphire at home and gave me encouragement when I felt lost. We will always be grateful to Sheila and the Elks for their wonderful help. This program and physical therapy program is beautiful. My three children thrived because of both. Thank you, thank you.
We love you.

Teresa (Teresa Schachtel, Vision Screener) has helped so many children at our school whose parents would have not known that their child had a vision problem. It is a wonderful gift that the California-Hawaii Elks give to our families. Thank you so much!

Thank you for providing this free service. I was able to participate in the screening by putting the eye patch on each child. Wyomi (Wyomi Yonzon Yockey, Vision Screener) worked with each child to help them feel comfortable. I am looking forward to our next screening. Parents were very pleased to have their child participate in this vision screening in the familiar setting of their school.

Gage has greatly improved with each speech therapy session. Other people have noticed a difference. He enjoys his sessions with Hedley (Hedley Uetake, Speech-Language Pathologist) as she integrates games with his learning which makes learning fun for him. Hedley is great with Gage and she always takes the time to discuss his session and any concerns I have each time we meet.

I enjoy Denise (Denise Wilson, Physical Therapist) and she is very patient and friendly to my family. I've learned a lot from her and she is always willing to explain something that I don't understand. My daughter had a neck injury and without her help it would have never been resolved.

My son talks more each day and expresses himself more through words. He has also shown a love for playing board games, which I never knew. His speech is slowly improving and other people are able to understand what he's saying.

Linda (Linda Pinnell, Pediatric Vision Screener) is always very nice and kind to the children and staff. She sets up and gets started quickly. All the children felt safe and comfortable working with her. The children especially loved her books and her cool stickers! Thank you!!!

Pasadena Elks Lodge No. 672 hosts Elks for Rose Parade

The Pasadena Elks Lodge No. 672 was a gracious host to all the Elks who attended this once in a lifetime opportunity to see the Rose Parade. Grand Exalted Ruler Millard Pickering (Black Hat), PGER James Grillo, CHEA President Dick McDonald, and Claudette McDonald are shown enjoying the 125th Annual Rose Parade in Pasadena. It was a picture perfect day, with the temperature in the 70's. The Rose Parade floats and bands put on a great show for the thousands of spectators that lined the parade route. Following the parade, GER Pickering joined many other Elk dignitaries, their guests and thousands of others to watch the annual Rose Bowl football game.



Fremont Elks Lodge No. 2121 DAP contest winners

The Fremont Elks Lodge No. 2121 accepted Drug Awareness Program (DAP) contest entries from 212 students in seven Fremont Unified School District elementary schools. The theme of the contest was "Down with Drugs, Up with Awareness." All of the first place winners had their contest entries elevated to the Bay District level of competition and all four entries will be moved to the Association level of competition. In December, the contest winners were invited to a Friday night dinner at the Lodge during which the entries were displayed and gift cards, certificates and ribbons were presented.



Front row: Brandon I. Reganit (Yellow Shirt), Russell Scott (Blue Hoodie), Matthias Palmon (Green Hoodie), Jennifer Kim, Lily Garcia (Black Boots), Rachel Cheung, (Blue Sweats)
Back Row: Steve Kay (Lecturing Knight, Drug Awareness Chair), Gabrielle Malcampo, Riya Kataria, Diane Pryor-Stout (PER, Bay District Drug Awareness Chair)

Modesto Elks Lodge No. 1282 hosts Court of Honor

The Modesto Elks Lodge No. 1282 hosted an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for David Beall. The Lodge was pleased and honored to present him with a certificate from the Grand Lodge and an American flag. Local Elks, Boy Scout Troop parents and Troop Leaders from the Greater Yosemite Council joined Troop 51 to attend his Court of Honor. Exalted Ruler Brandon Clark and Scouting Chair, Samantha Geer congratulated David Beall on his great accomplishment.

Troop 51 recently served our Nation's Veterans by serving, busing tables and washing dishes at the Lodge's Veterans Remembrance dinner on Veteran's Day. More than 70 Veterans enjoyed a full turkey meal with all the trimmings free of charge. A hat was passed around and Troop 51 received a gracious donation of more than \$150 from those who attended.



L to R: Dr. William Bishop, Samantha Geer (Scouting Chair), Brandon Clark (ER), David Beall, Brian Hills, Cameron Smith, Donna Russell, Danita Thomson (Greater Yosemite Council of the Boy Scouts, Modesto, CA)

Victorville Elks Lodge No. 1877 visits hospitalized vets

On December 14, the Victorville Elks Lodge No. 1877 Veterans Committee made their annual Christmas visit to the California Veterans Home in Barstow. Six committee members attended the event with Santa giving out 200 boxes of chocolates to residents. The lodge also presented Target gift cards with a total value of \$500.00, three cases of bags of popcorn, and 27 DVD movies. The gifts were valued at a total of \$968.00.



Veterans home resident David Dees getting his box of chocolates from Santa (Drew Evans)

President's Message



Hello and Aloha,

Where has the time gone? It seems like just yesterday that we were in Anaheim, making plans for the coming year, and now we are making plans for our homecoming in Modesto. But, as we continue to travel throughout this great Association of ours, we are hearing good things about what has been happening in your lodges.

We have met Grand Exalted Ruler Millard Pickering's Elks National Foundation (ENF) fund raising goal of \$4.60 per member, and we are on our way to achieve my California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. (CHEMPI) fund raising goal. The 2013-2014 fraternal year is not over, so you still have time to meet the goals that you set for your lodge. You still have time to work on membership and lapsation. Concentrate on your lapsation objectives and contact those members who have not paid their dues. Call them or, better yet, try to meet them face-to-face. Find out why they don't want to continue to be a member and ask what you can do that will make them want to come back to your lodge.

As we look forward to the 2014-2015 fraternal year, we must continue to encourage our current officer corps and mentor the new officers whose terms start on April 1st, as all of them have a lot of work to do to support and grow our lodges.

As Claudette and I traveled up and down the states of California and Hawaii, every district and lodge that we visited gave us a very warm welcome. The members and officers that we met are wonderful and their hospitality couldn't have been any better. We have renewed old friendships and made so many new ones that we will remember this time forever. As I write this, we still have four months of our term ahead of us and we are looking forward to many more great experiences.

In closing let me say, enjoy your lodge! Go there and have a good time – after all, you joined for a reason. Don't forget my slogan: "ELKDOM, PASS IT ON." It's all up to you!

Santa Cruz Elks Lodge No. 824 honors public safety workers

The Santa Cruz Elks Lodge No. 824 held a "Public Safety Night" on November 21, 2013. Sixty public safety guests from Santa Cruz County Fire and Police agencies, Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communication Center, and our ambulance provider American Medical Response were honored.

The lively evening began with refreshments and the Pledge of Allegiance. A wonderful dinner of steak, chicken, pasta and salad was provided to all attendees courtesy of Elk members. Many of the public safety workers expressed their thanks to the Elks for recognizing their efforts and a good time was had by all. The Santa Cruz Lodge would like to thank all public safety workers for their service to our community.

Grass Valley Elks Lodge No. 538 hosts Veterans

On Veterans Day, 2013, the Grass Valley Elks Lodge No. 538 hosted 50 veterans and their families to a dinner at the lodge. All branches of the US armed services were represented. The eldest attendee was 91 years young and had served in the United States Army Air Corps. The youngest veteran in attendance was 41 years old.

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CHEMPI

(California-Hawaii Elks
Major Project, Inc.)

- ✓ 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

February 27 - March 1, 2014
Homecoming - Modesto

March 21-23, 2014
*Western Region Hoop Shoot
Las Vegas, NV*

April 17-20, 2014
*Hoop Shoot Finals
Springfield, MA*

May 1-5, 2014
*Utah Elks Association
Convention*

May 14-17, 2014
*CHEA Convention
Palm Springs*

Downey Elks Lodge No. 2020 treats kids to a trip to Disneyland

Last November, the Downey Elks Lodge No. 2020 accompanied six disabled children, their families and friends to a day of fun and laughter at Disneyland Park in Anaheim. Funding for the outing was provided by donations from lodge members who also volunteered to be chaperones for the day. The children were from the Rancho Los Amigos Hospital. The chaperones said, "just seeing the smiles on the kids faces when they were waiting to go on a ride, or buy themselves a treat at the candy store or gift shop is rewarding for any true Elk. This is a shining example of what Elksdom is really all about, giving a part of yourself to bring joy to someone's heart, whether they be a disabled child or an elderly disabled patient."

In other news, the lodge partnered with the Downey Chamber of Commerce to host a Veterans Day Celebration and Chili Cook Off. A portion of the funds raised from the event was donated to the Wounded Warrior Project, which was represented at the event by the "Rebuilding Warriors" and "Warrior Built." The former group provides service/companion dogs to active duty and discharged veterans; the latter group consists of amputee vets who build custom vehicles to help them readjust to civilian life.

Elks Care - Elks Share

Santa Clarita Elks Lodge No. 2379 presents Floyd "Skip" Henke for California-Hawaii Elks Association President for 2014-2015

Whereas, The officers and members of the Santa Clarita Elks Lodge No. 2379 do recognize and appreciate the leadership, accomplishments and dedicated service rendered by Floyd "Skip" Henke to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, the California-Hawaii Elks Association, the Santa Clarita Elks Lodge and other Elks Lodges in the Metropolitan District of the California-Hawaii Elks Association; and

Whereas, He has been a member of the Santa Clarita Elks Lodge since joining in 1991, he served as Lecturing Knight and continued through the Chairs and became Exalted Ruler in 1998, served as Lodge Trustee for five years, Ritual Coach, Chairman of the Past Exalted Rulers Association and was elected Honorary Life Member in 2013; and

Whereas, He was recognized by the Metropolitan District serving as Chairman of the Ritual Contest Committee, Ritual Training Chairman, Drug Awareness Chairman, Elks National Foundation Chairman, Auditor to the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2000-2001, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2004-2005 and currently serves as the District Leader for the Metropolitan District; and

Whereas, He was recognized by the California-Hawaii Elks Association serving as Association Vice President in 2001-2002, Assistant Tiler 2006-2007, California-Hawaii Elks Association Board of Trustees 2007-2009, California-Hawaii Elks Association Board of Trustees Chairman 2009-2010, California-Hawaii Elks Association Chaplain 2010-2011 and elected California-Hawaii Elks Association First Vice President 2013-2014; and

Whereas, He served his country in the United States Navy 1960-1966 as a Combat Aircrew Member on a P2V Neptune Patrol Bomber during the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, He became a Journeyman Electrician in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 11, in Los Angeles, and later worked for the Local Union as a Business Representative and Business Manager for 18 years. He later retired in 2006 after working for the Los Angeles Building Trades Council for eleven years; and

Whereas, His dedication to country, community and fraternity is equaled only by his dedication to and love for his wife, Karen, children Kathy, Eddie, Buddy and Keith, and Grandchildren, Ashley and Tucker; and

Whereas, His leadership dedication, and devotion to our Order has earned him the respect and gratitude of the members of the Santa Clarita Elks Lodge, the Metropolitan District and the California-Hawaii Elks Association; therefore

Be it resolved, That the officers and members of the Santa Clarita Elks Lodge No. 2379 are honored and privileged to present to the annual California-Hawaii Elks Association Convention session in May 2014 in Palm Springs, California, the name of our fellow member, Floyd "Skip" Henke, as a candidate for the Office of President of the California-Hawaii Elks Association for the 2014-2015 fraternal year.

San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge No. 322 presents ENF "Honorary Founder" award

The San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge No. 322 presented an ENF "Honorary Founder" award to Trustee Sid Stark, Jr. at our Initiation Ceremony on January 21, 2014. Sid is one of only four living members in the Lodge to reach this level. The Honorary Founder Award is given to a member who has reached cumulative donations of \$1,000 or more to the Elks National Foundation. ENF Chairman Gloria Smith and Esteemed Leading Knight Debbie Irish presented the award.

Vallejo Elks Lodge No. 559 honors high school athletes

The Vallejo Elks Lodge No. 559 held its 46th annual Coaches Night to honor 65 area high school athletes who have been named All League Players in their respective leagues. Over 200 athletes, coaches, parents and friends were in attendance for the dinner and presentation of All League Certificates. Exalted Ruler Don Waterbury and long time Vallejo HS Athletic Director, Coach Jack Renfro, made the presentations.

A special guest was Jay Dahl, who was involved with athletics at Armijo High School in Fairfield, CA., for 37 years. He coached basketball, golf, football, water polo and swimming. He also served as the athletic director and was the voice of Armijo football for 25 years.



L to R: athletes Sergio Toral and Joey Dodson (American Canyon HS), Jordon Boyd (Will C. Wood HS), Victor Montanez (Vintage HS), Frederick Douglas (Will C. Wood HS), Mason Cain (Vanden HS), Joseph Deltorchio (Benicia HS), Don Waterbury and Jack Renfro

Madera Elks Lodge No. 1918 honors three veterans

On Friday, December 27th, the Madera Elks Lodge No. 1918 welcomed home three young men who have been serving their country proudly in our armed forces. Brothers Christian and Joshua Jandro, and Ken Munoz were honored at a dinner at the lodge.

Army Specialist Christian Jandro had just returned home from his tour of duty in Afghanistan. His previous deployment was in Kuwait. This was Christian's first time home in almost four years. His mother, JoAnna Jandro, had only seen Christian once since he left for Afghanistan, and she was ecstatic to have her son home for Christmas. Joshua Jandro enlisted in the US Air Force earlier this year. He has been in M.E.P.S training in San Jose and will go to Lackland AFB near San Antonio, TX for basic training in security forces. Army Specialist Kenny Munoz has just finished a four-year tour of duty in the Army, and Sergeant Robert Ramirez, Jr. (US Army) recognized him for his service. In January, Christian Jandro left for Fort Carson in Colorado to await orders to go back to Afghanistan with the 4th Infantry Special Forces for his third tour of duty.

At this welcome home event, the lodge served spaghetti dinners to over 200 veteran supporters. Before the dinner was served, the Lodge was proud to initiate Christian and Joshua in a special initiation held at this event just for these fine young men. The event also raised over \$2,800 for the lodge's Veterans Fund.

Christian and Joshua's mother, JoAnna Jandro, thanked all of our veterans for their service. She thanked everyone who attended the event, and gave special thanks to the Madera South Special Needs Program for making all decorations, and to the businesses that donated the prizes for the silent auction.

Piggy Bank

By Bob Farrens, CHEA Piggy Bank Chairman



We had a great Mid-Term Conference. At the Piggy Bank Booth we raised over \$1,700 for the Major Project and answered many questions. A big "Thank You" goes out to all who stopped by and made a donation. I want to thank Steve Glazier, Diane Farrens, Mary Gouveia, and Vice Chairman Gerry Gouveia for all the work they did helping set up, staff, and pack up the Piggy Bank Booth.

Piggy Bank fund raising should be a lot of fun. It is not just the little Purple Pigs; it is holding fun fund-raiser parties at your Lodge, informational meetings, and dinners at restaurants where they can donate back to the Major Project. Cruises and trips can also be used to raise funds. Contact your District Piggy Bank Chairman for more ideas on fund raising.

One easy consistent way to donate is to go to the California-Hawaii Elks web site, www.chea-elks.org/recurring-donations and sign up for the recurring donation program.

Using Good Search is another easy way to raise money for the Major Project. Go to www.goodsearch.com and select the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project to be the recipient. 225 supporters who do searches using Good Search have raised almost \$1,000.

The Klamath River Fishing Trip raffle tickets are now available at your Lodge. The winner and guest will be treated to an exciting fishing trip next September. The proceeds go to the Major Project and are credited to your Lodge. You can't win if you don't get at least one ticket.

Please continue to turn in your Piggy Banks. All your donations, large or small, help our children to walk, talk, see, and play!

San Francisco Elks Lodge No. 3 raises money for community charities

The San Francisco Elks Lodge No. 3 started a new program this fraternal year to help drive membership while providing supplies and donations for our community. So far this year, over \$1,500 has been raised to help local charities and shelters. Members are encouraged to bring family and friends who might be interested in becoming an Elk!

November - Taco Tuesday raised \$115 for Westside Community Services who help at risk and vulnerable families in San Francisco. The proceeds went towards holiday gifts and everyday essentials such as diapers, baby wipes and formula.

September - \$150 was raised to benefit the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT), a community based training program dedicated to a neighbor-helping-neighbor approach. Over 45 attendees at the event contributed to the fundraising and each received emergency supply bags.

July - \$450 was raised in cash and supplies for San Francisco Foster Youth. SF Foster Youth works to improve the lives of foster children through services, events, training and family visits.

June - \$350 in donations were raised for La Casa De Las Madres. La Casa provides shelter and safety for women and families threatened by domestic violence.

May - \$475 was raised for the Boston Children's Hospital and One Fund Boston to assist the city of Boston in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombing.

In other news, on Wednesday, October 23, the members of the lodge turned out to watch baseball, play pool, enjoy good German food and dance to polka music. The fundraiser benefited the ENF Veterans' Fund by raising just over \$1,500 in donations.

Newport Harbor Elks Lodge No. 1767 recognized by the US Army

The Newport Harbor Elks Lodge No. 1767 received special recognition and a donation from the US Army 968th QM CO, in Tustin, CA. Commander Parker, US Army 968th QM CO, presented a check for \$100 for the Purple Pig and a plaque of appreciation to the Newport Harbor Elks Lodge No. 1767. The award was in appreciation for the service, dedication and support that the Newport Harbor Elks Lodge has shown to their military for the past several years. The presentation and check was a special honor for the Lodge to receive, and the plaque will be proudly displayed.

Sharron Dearborn, Lodge Secretary and Dave Rudder, PER and Americanism Chairman accepted the awards on behalf of the Lodge. The presentation took place at the Annual Army Christmas Party held on Saturday, December 7, at the Lodge.



Buena Park Elks Lodge No. 2046 welcomes Eagle Scout Nicholas Payne, now a Soldier

On Wednesday, December 18th, the Buena Park Elks Lodge No. 2046 had a surprise visit by Nicholas Payne, Eagle Scout and Soldier. Nicholas conducted an impromptu question and answer series about how he is progressing in his new career in the Army. Since we last saw him in June 2013, we had been wondering what had become of him. This was a perfect opportunity for him to bring us up to date. He has done exactly what he said he would do back in June. In August, he began sixteen weeks of Basic Training. Now, he is home on leave where he visits local recruiting offices and helps with the new recruits. He is enjoying a few days with his family for the holidays and then he will report to Fort Riley, KS, to join the 1st Infantry Division. Soon thereafter, he will be deployed to Afghanistan.

In 2001, Nicholas became a Cub Scout and, for 12 years, he earned his badges and kept advancing until he completed his Eagle Scout (Troop 440) requirements this past summer. His scouting experience will come in handy and will help him achieve any goal he sets out to accomplish with pride and confidence. He has learned the true meaning of service to his community. We are extremely grateful. The most patriotic thing a young man can do is to commit to serve our country. Let's pray for Nicholas and ask God to protect him from harm's way.

Elks National Foundation

By Tom Conlon, CHEA Elks National Foundation Chairman



Members, thank you for your generosity to the Elks National Foundation (ENF). Your donations continue to support our national programs, which keep us in the forefront as an organization that is known for its "Charity and Patriotism."

Today, the ENF not only supports our many youth and veteran programs, but also gives "cold cash" back to our local lodges to fund their charitable giving programs, thereby assisting our citizens who are in need of a "warm heart." This Community Investment Program offers different Grants to local lodges that qualify and apply. The Grant money is free, interest free, never has to be repaid, but just must be accounted for.

There seems to be some confusion about the grant program. Only 25% of the available grants have been awarded to CHEA Lodges. I suggest that each lodge appoint a Grant Coordinator to work with their Charity Committee. Together they can select projects to support. The coordinator will know when to apply, can oversee the grant application and write the final report, which is due at the conclusion of the activity.

There are three grants available that every lodge should be able to qualify for. The Gratitude Grant is awarded to lodges that meet the Grand Exalted Ruler's membership per-capita goal and must be used for local charitable activities. The Beacon Grant is awarded to lodges for a new project in the lodge or to support a continuing project from a previous year. It must be ongoing, led by Elks, strictly charitable to help those in need, and must be an activity, not a donation. Finally, Promise Grants encourage Elks to devote time to America's youth. This grant is available to the first 500 lodges that apply and host an Elks led youth event. Receiving these three grants will give your lodge an extra \$6,000 to use for charity. Very few applications are turned down and most refusals are due to insufficient information on the application. Let the Grant Coordinator do it.

There were five \$10,000 Impact Grants awarded to lodges in our Association in this past year. These grants are awarded on a competitive basis with all Elk Lodges nationally. They offer lodges a chance to serve the community in a significant way. Applying for and being awarded an Impact Grant is challenging. Take the easy money first then let the grant coordinator organize a committee to put together a plan of action to compete for an Impact Grant.

It is challenging and sometimes difficult to ask members to donate to the ENF. With everything else we do in life, from time to time we should try to do just a little bit more. You may remember that I have promoted the ENF Fidelity Club, which allows donors to contribute with an automatic, scheduled gift. This is an easy way to give \$5.00 per month or more. The amounts can be charged to your credit card or be taken as a direct debit from your bank account. Your Lodge Secretary or ENF Chairman can assist you with a confidential mail in form.

The Elks National Foundations continues to do more. With your continued help, we, as Elks, will continue to be recognized for our "Charity and Patriotism." Again—I Thank You!

Recent BLT Benefactors

Manny and Ardeth Lima, of the San Jose Elks Lodge No. 522 are the most recent Bequest and Living Trust (BLT) Benefactors. Their generous donation will continue to help us achieve a positive outcome in the lives of the children that we serve. We, as well as the children in our program, greatly appreciate their thoughtfulness. For more information on the California-Hawaii Elks Association Major Project Bequests and Living Trust Program, go to www.chea-elks.org then click on the "Major Project/Bequests and Living Trusts" link.

Arcadia Elks Lodge No. 2025 serves Christmas dinner to hospitalized vets

On December 18th, the Arcadia Elks Lodge No. 2025 held its annual Veterans Christmas Party at the Wadsworth Veterans Hospital located in West Los Angeles. The lodge treated the veterans to a holiday dinner consisting of ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetables and desert. The lodge served over 150 veterans during the event. In addition, the lodge handed out sweatshirts, socks, lap blankets, toiletries and playing cards to all the veterans in attendance.

On November 8th, in another veteran's related event, the lodge hosted its 15th annual Fall Veterans Dinner Dance. In attendance were 40 plus veterans from several of the local VA hospitals. The veterans were served a prime rib dinner along with a cash donation and a home baked cookie platter. They also enjoyed entertainment provided by an Elvis Impersonator, Sean Elvis Martin. The event was well attended.

In other news, during the November 19th lodge business meeting, ER Ron Johnson initiated seven new members. Six of these new members are his grandchildren. Even more amazing is the fact that the Lodge Chaplain, Brian Johnson, is a father of three and an uncle to three others.



Michelle Ritter (Veterans Chairperson), ER Ron Johnson (right), and two veteran's helpers at the Wadsworth Veterans Hospital

Lake Elsinore/Wildomar Elks Lodge No. 2591 donated to Little League program

Several concerned citizens in the Wildomar area are setting up a Wildomar Little League Baseball program. They requested assistance from the local community and the Lake Elsinore/Wildomar Elks Lodge No. 2591 learned about their funding request. At a recent lodge meeting, Bob Viscardi, the Lodge Bingo Chairman, presented the group with a \$1,000 check. This proves, once again, that "Elks care-Elks share."

In other news, the lodge held its 15th Annual Christmas Tree Lane at the lodge on Saturday, December 7. This event raises funds for scholarships for graduating seniors and other lodge charities. Eleven decorated Christmas Trees, each with a special theme, were available. As an example, one tree was called "Santa's Computer Room" and contained a computer, printer, desk, and software. It was sponsored by the Lodge Bingo group and decorated by volunteers. Each person attending the event received a free door prize ticket for items such as Subway Sandwiches, Pizza, Starbucks Coffee, or an Italian Dinner. The lodge also sold hamburgers, hot dogs, and French fries. A total of \$14,271 was raised by the event.

Membership

By Lance Erickson, CHEA Membership Chairman



As we continue into the 2014 calendar year, we also approach the final months in which we can increase our membership numbers and bring those who have not yet paid their dues back into our lodges. At the time of this report, we increased our membership by 2.8% or 2,384 new members. Delinquents have been reduced to 5.7% or a total of 5,002 members.

At our Mid-Term Conference, I had the honor to speak to many members who are constantly coming up with new ideas and activities to enhance our recruitment and decrease our lapsation numbers. Hopefully, many of you took some of those ideas back to your lodge and have implemented them. I discussed the fact that the lodges, which have formed teams this year, and have stayed the course, have been successfully increasing their membership. One District implemented the team concept in almost all of their lodges and increased its membership by 6.6% or 346 new members.

We may not have met our goals in 2013, but so far in 2014, we are making progress. We still continue to lose on average 2 to 3% of our members each year. It will take time to turn these numbers around, but it is still possible, by working as a team, for us to accomplish our goals. Membership continues to be the lifeblood of our organization. Letting the community know what we do is of prime importance. The more we work with the various entities throughout the community, the more our membership will grow. This can be accomplished by using the various Grants that are available from the Elks National Foundation. Thousands of dollars are available to assist us in focusing on our community and to help those in need.

As our new year approaches and as we form our new committees, it would be a great time to put together a Grant committee in your lodge. In closing, we are doing a good job, but we need to make a strong finish at the end of the Elk year. Think about whom you can recruit as a worthy member or, better yet, call an Elk friend that has not paid his/her dues and get them back before they get dropped. Help make your Lodge a +1 Lodge.

Lake Almanor Elks Lodge No. 2626 donates to seniors

On January 6th, the Lake Almanor Elks Lodge No. 2626 donated \$100.00 to the Wildwood Seniors Apartment and Recreation Center for their Movie Night, which is just one of the great activities Wildwood provides for seniors.

Coalinga Elks Lodge No. 1613 delivers dictionaries

Coalinga Elks Lodge No. 1613 Trustee Hollis Green and Esquire George Pryor handed out 600 dictionaries and drug awareness material to 3rd grade students at five different rural schools in the Coalinga Area.

Hemet Elks Lodge No. 1740 supports Kin Care

Two hundred happy faces, including 114 children, filled the Hemet, CA Elks Lodge No. 1740 on Saturday, December 7th for the 2013 Kin Care Annual Christmas Celebration. The children began the day with craft activities and after a lunch of chicken fingers, mini corn dogs, fruit cups, macaroni and cheese, cup cakes and ice cream, prepared by Lodge Chef, Tony Directo, the Kin Care Kids Corner Choir entertained the group with a lively presentation of "The Night Before Christmas." A magician, Mike Bailardo, amazed the gathering with his entertaining magic act. All of the children were on their feet to greet Santa Claus, who posed for pictures and presented each child with a gift and candy cane.

The event was presented by the California Family Life Center Kin Care program. Kin Care is a support program for grandparents and other family members raising relatives' children in an effort to keep families together. The Hemet Elks Golf Club held a tournament in September and raised \$1,745 for the Kin Care Christmas party, and another \$2,000 was donated by the Elks Grand Lodge in the form of an Elks National Foundation grant.



Kin Care's Community Resource Counselors, Kathy Williams and Rachel Babcock along with Kin Care Program & Development Director, Mary Jo Ramirez presented a plaque to Hemet Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler, Woody Dooks and his First Lady, Hazel Dotson, in appreciation of the Lodge's contributions to the Kin Care

San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge No. 322 cheered up veterans at Christmas

In mid-December, the San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge No. 322 brought Christmas cheer to several veterans who were spending their holidays in a rehabilitation facility. Eight lodge members and four relatives traveled a total of 317 miles to the Fresno VA GECU (Geriatric Extended Care Unit) where they donated three beautifully decorated artificial pre-lit Christmas trees. In addition nine poinsettias plants were donated and distributed throughout the facility. Total donation was valued at \$795.00. They also visited with eight veterans who enjoyed watching the activities.

In other news, the lodge hosted their 2nd annual "Operation Surf" tri-tip and chicken dinner for 22 soldiers (seventeen British, five Americans) who sustained amputation injuries to thank them for their service in Afghanistan. Total event attendance was 215, of which 93 were complimentary. Those included the staff, surfing instructors, and volunteers from "Amazing Surf Adventures" (ASA). The \$1,500 in ticket sales revenue was donated to help cover the costs of their surfing clinic. Each soldier received a goodie bag with jerky, almond brittle, chocolate, an American flag, a magnetic 2014 flag calendar, an "Elks 322 Support Veterans" pencil and an Elks Thank You card.



B.L.T.

On the Web?

The website is www.chea-elks.org
Then hit: Major Project/Bequests and
Living Trusts.

Become a Benefactor for the
BLT Commitment Trust.

A message from the CHEA First Vice President

By Floyd "Skip" Henke, CHEA First Vice President



Greetings and Aloha to California-Hawaii Elks Association members and guests. The new lodge year is fast approaching and Karen and I are looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and starting new friendships as we start our journey through California and Hawaii this coming year. The new year will start for us at the CHEA Convention in May in Palm Springs. This year the convention will be at the Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort and Spa,

71333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA. The dates are Wednesday, May 14 through Saturday, May 17, 2014.

The convention is open to all officers, members and guests. There will be informative meetings for Exalted Rulers, Leading Knights, Secretaries, Trustees and Members. Everyone can benefit from attending the meetings and workshops. If you take back to your lodge just one thing that helps or improves your lodge it will have been a successful convention for both you and your lodge. The highlight of the convention is the final session on Saturday morning. You will meet the Major Project's Theme Child and witness the Exalted Rulers Piggy Bank March. I urge all of you to attend this session to see firsthand the results of your hard work and dedication for our Piggy Bank. Remember, "A coin a day and they will walk, talk, see and play."

Don't forget that the convention is not all work and no play; there will be plenty of time to socialize and meet new people from the other lodges at the meetings and hospitality suites. This year we are fortunate to have our convention in the Palm Springs area, which is well known as America's Winter Playground. There are numerous golf courses, casinos, and great restaurants, along with many other great attractions such as the Tram Ride to Idylwild and the world famous "Integratron," which is just a few miles away in Landers. If you have never been to the area, plan on staying a few extra days for sightseeing and fun.

Karen and I look forward to seeing all of you in Palm Springs and enjoying a great convention in a wonderful location. Also, I hope to see many of you at the President's reception, which will be open to all in attendance at the convention.

Temecula Valley Elks Lodge No. 2801 honored scholarship winners

The Temecula Valley Elks Lodge No. 2801 honored six students and their families at a recent dinner. The lodge presented awards and certificates of achievement to the six winners of the lodge competition for the Most Valuable Student Scholarship contest. Each winner received a scholarship from the Temecula Valley Elks Lodge to help with college expenses. The first place winners received \$1,000; second place winners received \$750; and the third place winners received \$500. Scholarship applications were judged on scholarship, leadership, and financial need.

The three top young women were: 1st Place: Rachel Budd (Chaparral High School), 2nd Place: Kezia Cunalata (Murrieta Mesa High School), 3rd Place: Savannah Pham (Vista Murrieta High School). The top three young men were: 1st Place: Andrew Tran (Chaparral High School), 2nd Place: Richard Lee (Great Oak High School), 3rd Place: William Campbell (Linfield Christian High School).

In addition to the awards from the lodge, all six of the Lodge winners were forwarded on to the District for additional judging. At the District Level, again all six of the winners were in the top twenty-four winners for the District and were forwarded on to the State Level for the next level of judging.

The Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student contest is open to High School seniors who are American citizens. More information can be found regarding additional Elks scholarship opportunities at the national web site (www.elks.org) and on the California-Hawaii Elks Association web site (www.chea-elks.org). CHEA also offers scholarships for students with disabilities and for vocational/technical training.

South Coast District partnered with Chili's Restaurants in a Purple Pig fundraiser

In a unique partnership, lodges in the South Coast District worked in conjunction with Chili's Restaurants to sponsor a fundraiser for the Major Project. In two days, they raised \$850! Exalted Ruler Steve Wagstaff, from the Escondido Elks Lodge No. 1687, took the lead on the event. He began working on this idea with one of the managers at the Chili's Restaurant in Escondido. Then he started working with all three managers, including the general manager, and, finally, the San Diego area manager.

This "give back" event was held on January 13th and 14th, 2014. With each flyer presented at purchase, Chili's donated 15% of their event day sales back to the Elks for the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project. Over 280 people participated around the county. There are plans to make this an annual fundraiser for the South Coast District.

CHILI'S IS PROUD TO SUPPORT

The Purple Pig Campaign Sponsored By
The Elks Of The South Coast District
"A COIN A DAY AND THEY'LL WALK,
TALK, SEE AND PLAY!"

Let Chili's do the cooking while we support Elks Of The South Coast District at the same time. With each flyer presented on January 13th and 14th, 2014 Chili's will donate 15% of the event day sales back to this great organization.

The Elks Of The South Coast District Give Back Event is:
January 13th & 14th, 2014
from 11am to 10:30pm
only at:

All San Diego Chili's & Mission Viejo Locations
CA 91915-2025
www.chilis.com

We look forward to seeing you at Chili's!

more GIVING BACK happens here

Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley Elks Lodge No. 2444 greet Santa and Mrs. Claus

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived at the Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley Elks Lodge No. 2444 in "Big John," a shiny red fire truck courtesy of SVP Harvey Boelts and the Orange County Fire Authority. They were attending the lodge's annual Christmas party for special kids. To greet the distinguished couple from the North Pole (AKA Elks Ed and Pam Mackey), 175 kids, caregivers and Elks sang, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Every guest received a large holiday bag full of gifts. Lunch was served and a contingent of clowns entertained. The event is by invitation only. It is one of two annual parties sponsored by the lodge for the developmentally challenged.

CHEA Advisory Committee (Past Presidents)

Donald D. Dapelo (1979-80)
Kenneth L. Moore (1982-83)
Robert J. Mc Lain (1984-85)
Richard L. "Dick" Alves (1986-87)
Richard E. Owen (1992-93)
John A. "Jack" Parker (1993-94)
Anthony J. Mauro (1995-96)
Timothy C. Martin (1996-97)
Sim Nathan (1997-98)

Coalinga
Corona
Pasadena
San Jose
Santa Maria
Marysville
Hollister
Clovis
Redding

Frank G. Keller (1998-99)
Louis J. Grillo (1999-00)
John G. Holt (2000-01)
John M. Carvalho, Sr. (2001-02)
H. Eugene Chambers (2002-03)
Doug Larsen (2003-04)
Lee Northcutt (2004-05)
Roy R. Newman (2005-06)
James S. Mason (2006-07)

Corona
Stockton
Burbank
Sacramento
Needles
Salinas
La Habra
Marysville
Gardena

Oren Richardson (2007-08)
Jerry Rucker (2008-09)
Lee Karjola (2009-2010)
Hugh H. Scanlon (2010-2011)
Thomas S. Brazier (Honorary)
Wayne Howard (2011-2012)
Art Echternacht (2012-2013)

Coalinga
San Bernardino
Eureka
Glendale
Santa Cruz
Honolulu
Santa Ana

Indio Elks Lodge No. 1643 community activities

The Indio Elks Lodge No. 1643 was asked if they would organize a fundraising effort to purchase a second patrol dog for the Indio Police Department. The lodge decided to partner with the Citizens Helping Indio Police (CHIP) volunteer program and the Indio Police Department's Cadet program. The lodge decided to host an Indio Police Department Appreciation pancake breakfast. The ER appointed a committee of Elks and CHIP members who contacted several local businesses and restaurants to request donations. Enough food was obtained to not only have pancakes, but to have eggs and sausage as well. Surplus food donations were given to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission to help feed the homeless.

On the day of the function, the Cadets served nearly 200 meals with the assistance of lodge and CHIP members. The Indio Police conducted several demonstrations by both Zeus the patrol dog and a narcotic/gunpowder residue detection dog named Mikey. Over \$6,000 was raised during the event. It will cost around \$18,000 to purchase and train the dog.

One of their community partners, Elizabeth Floutsis and her staff at Farmer Boys Hamburgers in Indio went out of their way to make the event a huge success. While working with them, the Elks noticed that they could use a new American flag for their flagpole. Lodge member and Indio City Councilman Glenn Miller offered an American flag that had flown over the Nation's Capital, along with its certificate of authenticity.



Elizabeth Floutsis (on the left, holding the flag) and staff receive the flag from the event Chairwoman, Nellie Ortega, (in black)

Westchester Elks Lodge No. 2050 celebrated Veterans Day

On Tuesday November 12th, the Westchester Elks Lodge No. 2050 celebrated Veterans Day with guest speaker Doc Sachen (U.S. Army, 1st Armored Division). There was a brief history given of Veterans Day and Richard Magyar (U.S. Army) provided memorabilia that was hung on display for all to see.

In other news, on November 3, 2013, the lodge donated the use of the lodge to host the Westchester Playa Del Rey Holiday Home Tour, which raises money for the Airport Marina Counseling Services. The event raised over \$25,000 for their cause. Lodge members participated in the event, worked the event and helped to clean up afterwards. The Airport Marina Counseling Service (AMCS) is a nonprofit, community based mental health clinic that serves the LAX, South Bay and Westside areas of Los Angeles to provide affordable, community based mental health services, and to train mental health therapists.

In more news, the lodge members distributed 1,070 dictionaries to local third graders in the month of November.



L to R: Sam Mock (U.S. Army), Roger Lewis (U.S. Air Force), John Nasby (U.S. Air Force), Doc Sachen (U.S. Army), Richard Magyar (U.S. Army), Dan Baccelliere (U.S. Navy) and Tony Pacheco (U.S. Army)

David Oberheu passes away

The Association office has been notified that David Oberheu, a former member of the Grand Lodge Auditing Committee (2007-2009), has passed away. David was a Past Exalted Ruler of the Honolulu Elks Lodge No. 616 (1986-1987); the Hawaii District Association Vice President (1991-1992), and was the Hawaii District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler twice (1992-1993 and 1999-2000).

Burbank Elks Lodge No. 1497 hosts community service awards night

As part of its community involvement program, the Burbank Elks Lodge No. 1497 hosted its Fifth Annual Community Service Awards night on Wednesday, January 8, 2014. Local residents joined civic leaders from the city of Burbank for the awards ceremony. The Burbank Elks Lodge gratefully and proudly recognized four individuals for their dedication and commitment in serving the Burbank community.

The honorees were: Christian Diaz (Burbank Police Officer of the year), Eric Rowley (Burbank Fire Fighter of the year), Kreigh Hampel (Burbank City Employee of the year, Public Works), and Jill Tobin (Burbank School Teacher of the year)

Exalted Ruler Bob Ramsey PER presented them with American flags. The event co-chairman, PER Ken Pajan, presented them with Certificates of Appreciation, and event co-chairman, Lodge Secretary Harvey Ryun, presented them with their Awards. Members of BSA Troop 210 served dinner and performed the opening flag ceremony.



L to R: Harvey Ryun, Christian Diaz, Bob Ramsey, Kreigh Hampel, Ken Pajan, Jill Tobin, and Eric Rowley

The Elks Luncheon Club donates to Boy Scouts of America

The Elks Luncheon Club had some special guests at their Christmas party: Councilman Ralph Franklin from the City of Inglewood and David Jones, Scoutmaster of Troop 636, also in the City of Inglewood. They were invited to receive a financial donation on behalf of Troop 636.

The Elks have supported the Boys Scouts of America since 1926 when the Honolulu Elks Lodge No. 616 took over sponsorship of a Troop in Hawaii after their sponsor failed to pay the Troop fees. The Elks now sponsor Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scout Troops across the nation.

The Boy Scouts of America have an award that recognizes Elk members who have demonstrated a long time commitment in support of Scouting. This award is named after Marvin M. Lewis, an Eagle Scout, who was the Grand Exalted Ruler (National President) in 1982. The Marvin M. Lewis Award is awarded each July at the Elks National Convention to recognize eight Elk members for their dedication to Scouting. It is a very prestigious award.

The Elks Luncheon Club is a group of lodge members and their guests from all over California. They meet on Fridays in Pasadena for lunch and fellowship. At their annual Christmas party, they also had a toy drive for the children who are hospitalized over the Christmas holidays at the Huntington Memorial Hospital.

Vista Elks Lodge No. 1968 hosts Christmas party for special needs children

On Friday, December 20, 2013, the Vista Elks Lodge No. 1968, hosted their 39th annual Christmas party for 450 special needs children. Most were pre-school age and elementary students from the California Avenue Special Needs School that serves fourteen schools in the area. Music, entertainment, snacks and a bag of goodies were provided. Santa Claus and his Elves presented a gift to each child. Teachers from the school volunteered their time to serve as leaders and chaperones and also assisted parents with supervision. PER Mike Olson and his wife, Sharon, co-chaired the event. Many Elks and Emblem Club members assisted them. Lodge members donated over \$3,300 to fund the event.



L to R: Cheyenne Olson, Terri Albritton (Adapted PE teacher), Mike Olson, Tammy Hollins (Adapted PE teacher), Sharon Olson, and Sierra Gregory with Santa Claus (Elk Tim Soboleski)

Why wasn't my photograph included?

A note from the Editor

Sometimes a photograph isn't included because there isn't room. Generally, there are other reasons not to include a photo. **The biggest factor is the quality of the picture.** Pictures taken with a cell phone are often of poor quality – perhaps good enough to email to someone or post on a web site, but often these are not good enough to be considered for publication. Please refer to my editorial guidelines at <http://www.chea-elks.org> (click on “CHEA Magazine” at the top). Please note that I prefer to have electronic photographs, not hard copy prints. Also, do not embed your photographs inside your word document, but send them as a separate attachment to the email.

Sometimes the photo is just too blurry, is poorly composed (subjects are too far away), the lighting is poor (too dark, too light), or the camera has put a date stamp in the picture. Also, it is important that the photo illustrates the story that your article is describing.

Photos taken with a digital camera (or cell phone) need to have the settings adjusted so that the photo is of the highest quality. The camera should have at least a 4 megapixel capacity (the more, the better). Check your camera settings – look for a setting that will give the greatest number of pixels (must be greater than 1,500 x 900 pixels, or dots per inch, but the more, the better). Good quality digital cameras can be found for well under \$100 these days.

If I publish a photo with an article, I will only publish ONE photo. I'd rather YOU choose that photo, not me. So, please just send me the ONE photo that you feel best illustrates your story. If you send me half a dozen pictures of your event and expect me to choose one, it may not be the one that you'd have chosen.

Paso Robles Elks Lodge No. 2364 helps save the Cayucos Pier

Members of the Paso Robles Elks Lodge No. 2364 recently held a benefit chicken dinner to help "Save the Cayucos Pier." Howard Wood, President, and committee Chair, Jerry Summers, presented a check for \$1,500 to several members of the Cayucos "Save the Pier" committee. Summers stated that he and many residents of Paso Robles had happy childhood memories of days spent on the pier fishing. Lodge members heartily agreed and pitched in to support this cause.



ER Howard Wood and Jerry Summers with "Save the Pier" committee members

Tracy Elks Lodge No. 2031 honors Eagle Scouts

The Tracy Elks Lodge No. 2031 honored two new Eagle Scouts from Troop 525. The Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on December 8th. Chris Costa did his Eagle Project at Emeritus Place in Tracy. It involved creating a planter garden in a large courtyard at Emeritus Place. Chris not only designed the project, but he also had to redesign it when he received word that they were undergoing their own landscape changes.

Jake did his Eagle Project at Discovery Charter/Millennium High School in Tracy. His Eagle Project was a landscape beautification project at student drop off/pick up area in front of the Discovery Charter School. He designed this large landscaping project to be functional and rugged for this heavily trafficked area.

Santa Clara Elks Lodge No. 2347 recognizes veterans

On November 8, 2013, the Santa Clara Elks Lodge No. 2347 truly paid tribute to all our Veterans. Boy Scout Troop 394 presented the Flag and led all guests and members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our guest speaker was a WW II Veteran, Victor Schimmelfennig, who told of his many encounters. We recognized all veterans present who stated their branch of service and spoke a bit on which war/conflict they served in.

Grover Wolk, Fourth Year Trustee, did an excellent job paying tribute to "The Soldier" and Pat Sisco, our Lodge Veteran Chairman, spoke on what the Lodge has done and continues to do for our local Veterans. Sharon Kaye did a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner and closed the program by leading us in God Bless America.

Sunnyvale Elks Lodge No. 2128 supports vets and their community

The Sunnyvale Elks Lodge No. 2128 hosted its annual veterans Thanksgiving Dinner for the residents of the Menlo Park Veterans Hospital. Members of the local Air National Guard 129th Logistics Readiness Squadron and Vehicle Maintenance at Moffett Field in Mountain View joined our guests. These young men and their families live locally and stand ready to support all search, rescue and security operations.

In other news, the Lodge donated the use of its facilities to the Sunnyvale Community Services annual Christmas auction. The auction proceeds (over \$50,000.00 raised) support food, clothing and holiday toys for needy families residing in Sunnyvale. Sunnyvale Community Services is an independent, nonprofit emergency assistance agency, whose mission is to prevent homelessness and hunger for low-income families and seniors facing temporary crises.



Merced Elks Lodge No. 1240 donates to the Children's Tumor Foundation

The Merced Elks Lodge No. 1240's Golf Club donated \$4,000 to the Children's Tumor Foundation. The funds were raised by having a golf tournament in honor of Dakota Anderson, who is the daughter of Michael Anderson, a member of the Lodge. In addition to the donation, the Golf Club gave tournament participants an insight to the challenges faced by the children and families who are affected by neurofibromatosis (NF). The Merced Elks Lodge Golf Club thanks everyone who donated his or her time and money to make this a very successful event.

In other news, five members of the Merced Elks Lodge Veterans Committee are members of the Merced County Veterans Council Honor Guard. The Honor Guard provides military burial ceremonies for deceased Veterans throughout the Merced area. They travel 92 miles twice monthly to provide services at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, as well as performing ceremonies at local cemeteries. They average 120 ceremonies a year and travel some 2,000 plus miles performing Military Honors for our deceased Veterans. Honor Guard Captain Ken Wenrick said that they are honored to perform Military Honors for the deceased member's family. The Honor Guard members each have over 20 years of military service and are life members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They also volunteer for numerous activities at the Lodge. Ken Wenrick, PER Len Samuelson, Ernie Conner and Billy Moore are on the bingo committee. PER Jack Kelly is the Major Project chairman. The Merced Veterans Committee is the embodiment of our motto that so long as there are veterans, they will never be forgotten.

Chula Vista Elks Lodge No. 2011 assists wounded warriors

The Chula Vista Elks Lodge No. 2011 presented 24 cash commissary cards totaling \$1,200 to Virgil Whitehead who is the Coordinator for the Wounded Warrior projects (Camp Pendleton, Balboa, and Twenty Nine Palms in California, and the Marine Corps base in Hawaii). These facilities are currently working to rehabilitate and assist over 500 soldiers. The lodge's Victorian Country Christmas event funded the donation.

The lodge also presented a check for \$1,000 to Carolyn Thomas and Corporal Marcus D. Chischilly, who is a decorated Marine. He lost his left leg in an I.E.D. explosion while fighting in Afghanistan. Cpl. Chischilly has earned 12 medals and ribbons for his service including the Purple Heart Medal. This check will be used to help soldiers get home for Christmas and to provide special requested toys for their families.

Our grateful thanks go out to all our service men, wounded warriors, and veterans for putting themselves in harm's way to protect those who are oppressed and to keep our freedoms secure. The lodge's Victorian



Committee Chair Kim Coronado, Corporal Marcus D. Chischilly, Marine Corp League Coordinator Carolyn Thomas, and ER Ashley Munoz

Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley Elks Lodge No. 2444 member donates book sales proceeds

Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley Elks Lodge No. 2444 member, Andy Costello, has published a novel and is donating proceeds from book sales to the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project. It is a 243-page mystery thriller called "The Mount Clare Murders" and is published in paperback.

Costello, a thirty-three year member of the Elks said of the book, "I'm thrilled to be able to contribute something to CHEMPI for handicapped kids. That wonderful charity supports therapists throughout California and Hawaii who are working daily with hundreds of hearing and sight impaired children. They also work with children with other physical handicaps."

The books are available at the Elks Lodge in Mission Viejo for the special fundraiser donation of \$10.00, or they may be shipped for an additional \$2.95 to cover postage.

Paso Robles Elks Lodge No. 2364 delivers dictionaries

The Paso Robles Elks Lodge No. 2364 recently delivered 400 dictionaries to area third graders. Students are permitted to keep this dictionary as their personal property. The Dictionary Project at the lodge was partially funded by a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

Lancaster Elks Lodge No. 1625 served veterans and children

The Lancaster Elks Lodge No. 1625 was proud to host their 5th Annual Veterans Pancake Breakfast Saturday morning, November 16th. Over 140 veterans and their families were treated to breakfast as a show of appreciation for their service to our country. This popular local event brings veterans and their families together in brotherhood and camaraderie, often in touching scenes of recollections and comfort. Lodge volunteers and members of the Antelope Valley chapter of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets proudly served the meal. Area businesses and private individuals helped to sponsor this event, raising \$1,000 towards helping fund other Veterans Lodge programs. In addition, residents of the local "Pete" Knight Veterans Home were recently welcomed to the Lodge for their Veterans Day Fish Fry.

In other news, the lodge was pleased to host its annual Children's Halloween Party benefiting the local community on Thursday, October 31st. This popular local event welcomed over 300 costumed children and parents who were entertained by a life-like haunted house featuring "live actors." The ladies of Antelope Valley Emblem Club No. 76, friends of the lodge and volunteers, many in costume, assisted the children in playing games of skill and amusement. Hot dogs, hamburgers and refreshments were served free to attendees twelve years of age or younger. Many parents expressed gratitude for the lodge's party and took a break from the rigors of "trick-or treating." The lodge has enjoyed presenting this event for over 40 years, thanks to a great community response and many volunteers.

Chula Vista Elks Lodge No. 2011 collected Toys for Tots

During November, the Chula Vista Elks Lodge No. 2011 collected two large boxes of toys to support the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" Drive. Two Marines were standing in the foyer greeting people during our Victorian Christmas Event along with Cheryl Perez of the Marine Corps League. The Marines picked up the two boxes of toys along with \$450 in monetary gifts with grateful thanks to our Elks Lodge for our support.



Cheryl Perez of the Marine Corp League, Marine Cpl. Seth Wisniewski and Navy Corpsman HM3 Rahsaan Marshall

14 THE CALIFORNIA-HAWAII ELK

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Latest Millennium Plus (\$20,000) Gold Pig Level Donors (December 1, 2013 - January 31, 2014)

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>
John & Barbara Collens	1712

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Latest Millennium Plus (\$5,000) Copper Pig Level Donors (December 1, 2013 - January 31, 2014)

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>
Robert Harraka	1993	Bob Ring	2577

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Latest Millennium Plus (\$2,000) Purple Pig Level Donors (December 1, 2013 - January 31, 2014)

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>
Dale Scanlon	1289	Charles & Millie Fleskes	2347
Robert Harraka	1993		

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Latest Millennium Club (\$1,000) Donors (December 1, 2013 - January 31, 2014)

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>
Ray J. Nielsen	6	John Beck	614	Lee Purdy	1740	Charles E. Grant	2121
Marietta Petersen	6	Don Colyar	1289	Marge Pecore	1905	Bruce Hedlund	2121
Canaro C. Smith, Jr.	6	Mick Mistretta	1328	Jack Young	1905	Don Ireton	2248
Rebecca Hammermann	218	Richard L. McDonald	1474	Robert Harraka	1993	Robert Ring	2577
Margaret Lockhart	218	John Purdy	1740	Paul A. Schlotfeldt	2091		

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Latest Century Club (\$100) Donors (December 1, 2013 - January 31, 2014)

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Lodge</u>
Richard Engelhardt (2)	3	Miles Silberstein	616	Dick Hill	1289	John & Sandy Roberts	1799
Ronald Brusato	6	Roy Tanabe	616	Bob Keller	1289	Veterans of Foreign Wars	1799
S. Yvonne Correa	6	Joan Marin	643	Al Kepler	1289	David Stenger	1811
James Dominguez	6	Grace Borodovsky	672	Ken Lewis	1289	Betty Arnds (5)	1905
Nora Durbin	6	David R. Jones	672	Dale Scanlon	1289	Don Bush	1905
Richard Allen Hanson	6	Robert Shimamoto	759	Larry Bibbens	1298	Bob Coyne	1905
James Houpt	6	Kathy Vrablick	783	Jim Pyle	1298	Marge Pecore	1905
Les Johnson	6	Robert Zwarg	783	Mike Wiebe	1298	Rick Bruce	1959
Michael Johnson	6	Peter Ehrman	824	John Fata	1328	Tammy Butler	1959
Sharon Maxwell	6	Karl Philipovitch (2)	824	Jim Justus	1328	Sam Campolito	1959
Timothy Mullins	6	Faygie Colton	888	Pat Macy	1328	Shirley Davis	1959
Anita Neves	6	Anthony Fiori	888	Mick Mistretta	1328	Jimmy Holstein	1959
Ray Nielsen	6	Larry Hancock	888	Rose Pacheco	1328	Robert Cassetta (2)	1991
Marietta Petersen (5)	6	Clifford Kohler (2)	888	John Rodriguez (2)	1328	Robert Bosch	2026
William Sampino	6	Richard Lubner	888	Ernie Sanchez (2)	1328	Major Price	2026
Billie J. Skarles	6	Robert J. Nelsen	888	Rheta Scott	1328	Dennis Timmer	2026
Canaro C. Smith, Jr.	6	Patrick Riley	888	Gonzalo Villanueva	1328	Steven Hawthorne	2091
Dorothy Trapanese	6	Dorothy Bellina	906	James Cody	1342	Paul Schlotfeldt	2091
Walter VanCleave	6	Gwen Zeller	906	Jerry "Gene" Day, Jr.	1342	Karen Viera (3)	2091
John Economou (2)	168	Ron Anderson	966	Joyce Taylor	1378	Robert Corazza	2095
Carol Carson	218	James Knigge	966	Sheryl Holloway	1430	Sandra Corazza	2095
James Hairrell	218	Loren McAnelly	966	Howard LaPierre	1430	Geraldine Endicott	2095
Arvella Hood	218	Robert Rados	966	Jwanita Alexander	1436	Dennis Tavernelli	2095
Bill Keller	218	Donald Chase	1015	Michael & Karen Costa	1471	Marlin Gautier	2103
Margaret Lockhart	218	Karol Pessin	1015	Ann Morey	1471	Barbara Kutscher	2103
Stephen Roberts	218	Patricia Swezey	1015	Richard McDonald	1474	Bob Lowe	2103
Eberhard Schwierzke	218	Lee Watson	1015	Richard Simpson	1475	Rita Lowe	2103
Ray Touchstone	218	Delfin Medina	1108	Frank Bozzo	1567	Jeffie Moffet	2103
Robert Ulm	218	Richard "Doc" Carstens (3)	1250	Wayne Miles	1567	Bruce Hedlund (3)	2121
Thomas Watson	218	Fred Casey	1250	Sonora Emblem Club No. 124 (2)	1587	Patricia James	2121
George Whitman	439	Linda Pitts	1251	Ron & Nancy Hinman (3)	1643	Cathy Ledbetter	2121
Tom O'Flanagan	518	Earl Conro	1259	Sandra Reid	1643	Joe Ledbetter	2121
Ralph Zerweck (2)	522	Juanita McDaniel	1259	Stuart Foster	1691	Les Mensinger	2121
Rick Dombrowski	583	Rob Mobert	1259	Candice Gibson (3)	1712	John Mikel	2121
Redlands Elks Rovers RV Club (2)	583	Dave Noland	1259	Marie Bolstad (2)	1728	Susan Peters	2121
David Hashim	613	John Wheeler	1259	John Purdy (2)	1740	Debbie Rizotto	2121
John Beck (3)	614	Dennis Barrett	1285	Rose Shaw	1740	Francis Rose	2121
Joseph Grebmeier	614	Eric "Juani" Fincke	1285	Rudy & Rita Jenkins	1786	Les Lamoreaux	2190
Tom Mill	614	Bruce Gordon	1285	Dick Pence	1786	Gerald Gompers	2230
Robert Arkus	616	Frank Goulart	1285	Robert Rist	1786	Ray Monmaney	2230
Mary Hammond	616	Gerald Neville	1285	Luke Weinrich	1786	Michael Sullivan	2230
Patrick Keliinui (2)	616	Kathleen Randazzo	1285	Dale & Mary Dorman (2)	1799	Troy Asher	2248
Deborah Knight	616	Howard Tsuchiya (2)	1285	Dale Dorman	1799	Mel Borden	2248
John Laufer	616	Rick Barnes (2)	1289	Mary Dorman	1799	Michael Dreiling	2248
Ronald Y.K. Lee	616	Greg Brittner (2)	1289	Hayday Farms	1799	Rosie Dreiling	2248
Michelle Manna (2)	616	Don Colyar (9)	1289	Johnson Refrigeration, Inc.	1799	Don Ireton (5)	2248
Dan Mindich	616	Gary Dabbs	1289	La Casita Dos (2)	1799	Charles & Carol Jacobs (5)	2248
Gladys Oshiro	616	Michael Goosman	1289	Mallett & Sons Trucking	1799		
Aspy Palia	616	Hans Hiel	1289	Palo Verde High School (2)	1799		

Continued on Page 15

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Latest Century Club (\$100) Donors (Continued from Page 14)

Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge
Cindy McKim	2248	Ken Marks (7)	2379	Christine Stabile	2492	James Williams	2599
Kris McKim	2248	Karen Steutz Garland (2)	2444	Frank Brown	2591	Jack Dusek	2616
Walter Pierson	2248	Lorene Tierney	2444	Mary Ann Kuk (5)	2591	Cheri Mattes	2616
Ellie Platz	2248	Hartley Hermansen	2484	Joseph Penwell (2)	2591	Margaret Ungerecht	2616
Gary Platz	2248	David Coleman	2492	John & Linda Perona	2591	Joseph Tripodo	2638
Silver Williams	2248	Dale Harwood	2492	Terri Goscinski	2599		
Brad Foxworthy	2314	Joe Lansden	2492	Fran Musetti	2599		

Elk Grove Elks Lodge No. 2577 visits hospitalized veterans

On December 11, 2013, members of the Elk Grove Lodge No. 2577 visited the Mather Veterans Hospital in Sacramento. The Veterans Intake Unit has 60 beds and on that day it had 43 veteran patients undergoing various medical procedures. We delivered 60 small trees, candy canes and a card that said "Thank You for your service." We also gave them a Christmas card that was written by second grade students at the Franklin Elementary School. We visited with as many of the veterans as their condition allowed. This was a very heart warming day for us. We went there to make their day better, but their smiles and "thank you" made our effort worthwhile. The Lodge plans to "adopt" the Intake Unit and provide assistance.



L to R: PER Bob Samaniego, Esquire Ralph Daniels, PDDGER Angelo Sannino, and PER Mike Sabo

Nevada City Elks Lodge No. 518 raised money for cheerleaders

The Nevada City Elks Lodge No. 518 hosted a fundraiser for the NU (Nevada Union) Miners Pee Wee Cheerleading team. They took first place in their first competition, and were invited to perform at the National Cheerleader Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. A spaghetti feed and silent auction was held to help send the team to Las Vegas. Over 150 people attended the event.

In other news, the lodge hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner for the local veterans in the community. The dinner was attended by 175 veterans and their families. A full Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings was provided at no cost to the vets. Steve Woolsey, Chairman of Veteran Affairs and Chaplain of the Lodge, gathered much of the food needed for the dinner from local merchants who wanted to honor our vets. All branches of the military were represented.

Walnut Creek Elks Lodge No. 1811 hosted a unique Hoop Shoot event

In December, a Hoop Shoot awards presentation was held at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge No. 1811. The awards ceremony was conducted by 24 lodge volunteers before an estimated 125 people. The audience witnessed a free throw shooting display by Connor Moses (age 15), a four-time lodge champion and two-time national finalist, and Mariya Moore (age 17), a three-time Lodge champion and a four-year varsity starter at Salesian High School in nearby Richmond. Mariya, as a sophomore, and again as a junior, led her High School team to the California Interscholastic Federation state championship game. The 2013 game saw her set all-time records for the most free throws attempted (20) and most free throws made (17) in a girls championship game.

Preceding the trophy presentation to the new lodge champions, Connor and Mariya conducted a ten shot free throw contest against one another. The crowd applauded after Mariya beat Connor by making all ten of her free throws. Connor scored eight out of ten attempts. After the brief competition, Connor and Mariya assisted in the trophy presentations.

The lodge has been well represented in the Hoop Shoot competition since 1998. It has had 14 California State Hoop Shoot champions, and seven national finalists, with approximately 1,600 kids participating each year in the Hoop Shoot since 1986.



Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley Elks Lodge No. 2444 delivers dictionaries

Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley Elks Lodge No. 2444 has completed distributing dictionaries to third graders in the Saddleback and the Capistrano Unified School Districts. The two Districts have 4,179 third grade students in 48 schools. PER Pat Martino, the project chairman, said, "Describing and presenting the dictionaries in person to the third graders at the various elementary schools is very rewarding. Each year our kids seem to be smarter than the year before. We hope they utilize these dictionaries throughout their future academic careers."

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Recurring Donors

Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge	Donor	Lodge
David Podger	3	Frank Frazier	906	Michael Silva	1811	Christine Nelson	2011
Marilyn Hooton	6	Joseph Tato	1108	Kevin Wroble	1811	Hector Cazares	2011
Pat Gandolfi	168	Robert Ostini	1251	Drew Evans	1877	James Thacker	2011
Kathleen Kuttler	168	James Ferris	1378	William "Bill" O'Hearn	1952	William G. Williford	2103
Karen Lake	168	Dennis Linsley	1474	Karen Lewin	1952	Janice L. Brown	2117
Gary Marinelli	168	Kathleen Linsley	1474	Lance Slimmer	1952	Terry Gicking	2477
Margaret "Peg" McDonald	168	Amanda Smith	1475	Laurie Ayala	2011	Steve L. Smith	2477
Glenn Montague	168	Matthew Ferrero	1475	Martin Barros	2011	Cynthia Kassel	2543
Chuck Nolan	168	Philip Moore	1475	Janet L. Byrd	2011	Paul Kassel	2543
Hugh Van Doren	168	Colin Smith	1475	Phillip W. Byrd	2011	Linda Tucker	2543
Jerome Paul	672	Karen Feldpouch	1538	Debbie Hosted	2011	Neal D. Wagerle	2591
Lisa Fleury	759	Steven Wagstaff	1687	Ashley Munoz	2011	Sonny Pineda	2599
Jerry Hansen	901	Edward C. Johnson	1811	David Plotke	2011	Dave Hosted	2698
Donald Checchi	906	Chuck Jackson	1811	Cynthia "Cindy" Wise	2011	Lance Erickson	2733

Huntington Beach Elks Lodge No. 1959 hosted a Pinewood Derby

The Huntington Beach Elks Lodge No. 1959 hosted the Pinewood Derby for Cub Scout Pack 435. They were assisted by Boy Scout Troop 274, which is also sponsored by the Huntington Beach Elks. Cub Master Don Murphy of Manhattan Beach, CA started the Pinewood Derby in 1953. Each Cub Scout is given a block of wood, 4 nails and 4 tires with which to build his car. They must meet strict length and weight guidelines to be "legal" to race. They are raced on an inclined plane that is 42' long and average in "scaled speed" of 170 mph to 200 mph. The modern tracks are mostly extruded aluminum with high-tech electronic systems in which the results can be instantly transferred to the nearest screen. The races top speed was a remarkable "scaled" speed of 208.2 mph.

The winners were: Ben Hickman (Tiger Cubs), AJ Kuebrich (Wolf Cubs), Ryan Hansen (Bear Cubs), Christopher Gomez (Webelos 1st year), and Ethan Klaus (Webelos 2nd year). In order to determine the "Best of the Pack", the top three finishers of all the above ranks competed: fifteen contestants in all. The top three finishers in the Grand Prize Race: 1st place: Bear Cub Ryan Hansen with an average speed of 205.3 mph, 2nd place: Bear Cub Zachary Duncan with an average speed of 202.2 mph, and 3rd place: Tiger Cub Ben Hickman with an average speed of 201.6 mph.



"Best of the Pack" (L to R): Zachary Duncan, Ben Hickman, Ryan Hansen and Cub Master Peter Rasoe

Garden Grove Elks Lodge No. 1952 brings gifts to needy families

The Garden Grove Elks Lodge No. 1952 hosted nearly 200 needy recipients at their long standing annual "Children's Christmas Party and Luncheon." Aiding the many Garden Grove Elks members who participated were the Garden Grove Elks Clowns, the Garden Grove High School Choir, Boy Scout Troop 111, Miss Garden Grove with Miss Teen Garden Grove and their Courts. Various area school administrators selected the recipients.

The program started with six songs by the Garden Grove High School Choir including some audience participation by the kids and families. Soon afterwards, the guests and casts were treated to a pizza lunch prepared by the Garden Grove Elks Chef Pedro (always an incredibly excellent pizza). To accompany the pizza were soft drinks, ice cream and cookies. Soon after the lunch was served, the guest of honor, Santa Claus, played by Nelson Burke (past president of the "Real Bearded Santa's Association" and Past Exalted Ruler of the Garden Grove Elks Lodge) arrived in full regalia with sacks of gifts for the kids and the families as well. Santa's helpers, led by Leading Knight Randy Eldridge, used a lottery system for passing out the many gifts including six new bicycles and hundreds of stuffed animals and toys to the children.

The families of the children also received many gifts including ten \$100 gift cards and six \$25 grocery gift cards. The gift cards were purchased from funds personally donated by members of the Garden Grove Elks Lodge.



A lucky little girl and her older sister win a new bike, with Elks Nelson Burke (Santa) and Leading Knight Randy Eldridge

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

Inland District Hoop Shoot

The Inland District (ten lodges) held the District Hoop Shoot contest. Armen Arutyunyan made 23 out of 25 free throws to take the top honors in oldest boy's age group. That kind of performance is needed to get to the regional and national competition levels. Each of these winners will go to the California-Hawaii Elks Association Hoop Shoot competition in Paramount, CA on January 25, 2014. Winners from that contest will advance to the National Finals on April 12 and 13, 2014 in Springfield, MA. The "Hoop Shoot" is the largest and most visible of the many youth activities sponsored by the Elks Lodges. Millions of participants and their families are involved in every year's competition nationwide.



Front Row (L to R): Paula Kennedy (Big Bear Lake, Girls 10-11 age group), Clarisse Angeles (Lancaster, Girls 8-9), Isabella Galvan (Lancaster, Girls 12-13), Jaxon Bailey (Ridgecrest, Boys 10-11), Diego Ochoa (Victorville, Boys 8-9), and Armen Arutyunyan (Victorville, Boys 12-13). Back Row (L to R): District Leader Dominic Rotell, PDDGER Mel McCubbin, ER Ken Dalpiaz, and Hoop Shoot District Chairman, PDDGER Fred Whitnack from Ridgecrest Elks Lodge No. 1913.

Gardena Elks Lodge No. 1919 held children's Christmas Party

On December 15, 2013 the Gardena Elks Lodge No. 1919 held its annual Children's Christmas Party. During the party, the children had several areas where they could make crafts. There was also a very large table where they could decorate their own cookies and/or cupcakes. Lunch of hot dogs and macaroni and cheese was served with either hot chocolate or apple juice. All this activity kept the kids busy while they waited for the big moment when Santa would arrive. Santa arrived at 12:30 p.m. with lots of toys, cookies, stockings and s'mores for each child. Everyone enjoyed the day. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles were there to see the kids have fun.



Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley Elks Lodge No. 2444 campers donate to charity

The Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley Elks Lodge No. 2444 "Run-A-Ways" campers club once again chose to forego their annual gift exchange in favor of making donations to South County Outreach in Lake Forest. \$700 was collected at the club's annual Christmas party for that worthy charity. The Elks Lodge Bingo Charity Committee donated an additional \$300 to round up the donation to \$1,000. Seventy gift cards in \$15 and \$20 denominations were also purchased and presented to Norah Dopudja, the Director of the South County Outreach Operations by past "Run-A-Ways" Wagon Masters Pat Martino and Andy Costello. The gift cards were placed in gift baskets for distribution to needy families.

Director Dopudja said, "These gift cards are really appreciated by the teenagers in our families. Toys and dolls are often donated and given to the small tots in the family, but the teenagers seem to get overlooked. These gift cards can be used by the teenagers in the family if they want to



Pat Martino and Norah Dopudja

Carmichael Elks Lodge No. 2103 delivers dictionaries

Members of the Carmichael Elks Lodge No. 2103 and a few of their spouses passed out 762 dictionaries, Drug Awareness coloring books, and "Fantastic 4" bookmarkers to third grade students of eleven schools in the Carmichael area.



Hemet Elks Lodge No. 1740 WWII veterans ride in parade

Among the WWII Veterans riding the trolley in the Hemet, CA Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7, 2013, were four members of the Hemet Elks Lodge No. 1740. The Elk members on the Trolley were: 85 year old Walt Hampton, who was a Seaman 1st Class in the Navy; 89 year old Gordon Hall, who was a 1st Class Petty Officer in the Navy; 85 year old Joe White, who served in the Navy and Air Force and was a Senior Master Sergeant; and 90 year old Marvin Funk, who was a Seaman in the Navy stationed in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked.



San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge No. 322 volunteers ring bells

San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge No. 322 members Al Amaral, Bill Smith, Patrick Pitterelli, Pam Cabak, Cathy Matthews, Jackie Mansfield, Ed Wright, Bernice Casperson and Kristin Anderson all rang the Salvation Army Bell in Front of Ralph's Marketplace on December 11, 2013. Once again, our Elk volunteers from the SLO Elks Lodge give their time and talents to our community.



Chula Vista Elks Lodge No. 2011 soon to complete 9,000 dictionary deliveries

Chula Vista Elks Lodge No. 2011 will soon complete deliveries of 9,000 dictionaries! They recently finished delivering dictionaries to children in ten schools in the National City school district, and, when they are done with San Ysidro and Imperial Beach school districts, they will reach the 9,000 mark. National City was so grateful that several VIPs from their area attended and helped distribute the books. Then they came to a lodge meeting and presented us with a proclamation.

Orange Elks Lodge No. 1475 donates Christmas baskets

At Christmas, around the Orange Elks Lodge No. 1475, the acronym "E.N.F." means "Extra Nice Feeling!" This year, the ENF (Elks National Foundation) Committee Chairmen, Jim Jung and Colin Smith, organized another successful event. The lodge members donated \$5,400 for the Christmas basket program. Member Paul Roper donated all of the produce for the baskets and member Jason Wilkerson donated the 200 boxes.

The Kitchen Crew prepared a spaghetti dinner for 208 Lodge members, family and friends. After dinner, 200 Christmas baskets were packed for selected families in need in the city of Orange. The baskets included everything for a wonderful Christmas dinner and a \$15 market gift card.

Several dinners were left over and delivered to the Homeless Veterans Manor House in Santa Ana. The unused produce was given to Mary's Kitchen in Orange, which feeds homeless people. Forty-seven lodge members, their family and friends met at the lodge on a Saturday and delivered the baskets. The best part of the day was seeing the reactions of the families who received the baskets!



L to R: Zach Duncan, Linda Emond, Keith Emond and Rochelle Biafore

San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge No. 322 hosted the WCC District Soccer Shoot

San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge No. 322 hosted the West Central Coast District Soccer Shoot. Approximately 66 contestants, parents and volunteers attended. PER Olivia Morales District Soccer Chairman presided over the event.

San Luis Obispo Lodge volunteers: ER George Barnes, Jr., Tracey Truttman, Robert Macias, Bernice Casperson, Johnny Costa, Jeff Dalley, Debbie Irish, Bill and Gloria Smith. Santa Maria Lodge No. 1538 volunteers: PER Bryan Feldpouch, Karen Feldpouch, ER Myrl Wallace, Steve McGehee, Eddie and Maria Navarro. Simi Valley Lodge No. 2492 volunteers: PER Hector Morales, PER Olivia Morales. Paso Robles Lodge No. 2364 volunteer: PER Tom Silva. Atascadero Lodge No. 2733 volunteer: Darin Giessinger.

Carmichael Elks Lodge No. 2103 brought Christmas gifts to hospitalized vets

On December 13, 2013, members of the Carmichael Elks Lodge No. 2103's Veterans Committee delivered over 200 Christmas gifts to veterans in the Yountville Veterans Home of California. Lodge members donated the gifts. This is the eighth year that the Carmichael Elks Lodge has participated in the Yountville Veterans Home Christmas Project.

Members of the Veterans Committee also participated in the Christmas Party for Sections F and M. We provided Christmas goodies and Santa handed out the gifts to the residents of those sections.



Veterans Committee members James Singleton, Weldon Ward, Mike McGill, Dale Wiest (Chairman), Robert (Woody) Woodard, Martha Reynolds, George Blount and Santa (Wayne Willis). Section F residents are Bob Forster (Air Force), Marjorie Nelson (Army) and Frank Spitts (Navy)

Hilo Elks Lodge No. 759 works with youth

On January 5, 2014, two members of the Hilo Elks Lodge No. 759, PSVP Miles Nakatsu (Hawaii District Scouting Chair) and Lisa Fleury recognized Eagle Scout Adam Onishi. Adam received a special certificate of recognition from the lodge. In other news, volunteers from the lodge, assisted by Hilo High School and Waiakea High School Key Club members, and youth participants held their annual "Hoop Shoot" contest.



L to R: Miles Nakatsu, Adam Onishi and Lisa Fleury

Paso Robles Elks Lodge No. 2364 gets "eyeballs" on the Elks logo

The Paso Robles Elks Lodge No. 2364 recently installed a flag retirement center on the corner of 13th and Paso Robles Street in Paso Robles. This is a great way to get the public's "eyeballs" on the Elk logo and maybe encourage local citizens to think about joining the Order.

Karl Williams of North County Welding fabricated the station and Dennis Mack of Paradise Printing did the signage. The purpose of the station is to receive used flags so that they can later be honored with a proper retirement. The Veterans Committee uses the flag retirement ceremony as a way to teach proper flag etiquette and respect for what it symbolizes.



L to R: David Kudija, Howard Wood, and Karl Williams

Hesperia Elks Lodge No. 2646 helps school children

The Hesperia Elks Lodge No. 2646, with the help of the Beacon Grant, was able to provide warm winter jackets and a pair of shoes for 60 underprivileged children in the Hesperia School District on November 26th, 2013. The School District supplied the names and sizes of the children from ten of our fifteen Elementary Schools. The parents and children were able to come to the lodge to be presented with their jackets and shoes as well as enjoy some dessert refreshments and take pictures.

In other news, the lodge presented Drug Awareness material and a check for \$200.00 to the Juniper Elementary School during the assembly they held for Red Ribbon Week.



Exalted Ruler Toby Venable and his wife Mary with some of the children picking up their jackets

Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady Visit Hawaii

The Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Millard Pickering and First Lady Suzanne Pickering, of Sapulpa, OK arrived at the Honolulu International Airport on January 2nd. Several members of the Hawaii Elks greeted the GER and First Lady at the Honolulu International Airport.

They spent the next four days on the island of Oahu. They visited the USS Arizona Memorial, laid wreaths at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, toured the island, and visited the Honolulu (No. 616), Pearl City (No. 2669) and Kailua (No. 2230) Elks Lodges. The GER's official dinner was held at the Pearl City Lodge on Saturday, January 4th.



L to R: Exalted Ruler Pete and Patti Machado (Pearl City), GER Millard Pickering and First Lady Suzanne, PGER Jim Grillo and Lucia Grillo (Stockton, CA No. 218), PDDGER Coleen Howard (Honolulu), PSP Wayne Howard (Honolulu) and PDDGER John Brown (Hawaii District PR Chairman, Kona Elks Lodge No. 2616). Not shown are PER Colette Aoki (Kona) and DDGER Chuck Minnich (Pearl City) who also greeted the GER

Calpine Elks Lodge No. 2432 donates \$1,000 to EPCAN

Exalted Ruler Steve Hagen of the Calpine Elks Lodge No. 2432 is shown presenting "checks" totaling \$1,000 to Joyce Sears of the Eastern Plumas Community Action Network, EPCAN. The funds were a combination of donations from the Lodge's Lady Elks, Bingo, and the Lodge itself.

Joyce indicated that they would go towards the purchase of Christmas Baskets of turkey or ham with all the trimmings to be handed out to needy families.



Lodi Elks Lodge No. 1900 launches bingo games

The Lodi Elks Lodge No. 1900 played their first BINGO game on December 3rd. Lots of prizes and cash were given away, not to mention that the lodge made money for its local charities. Rodney Arnold, the lodge's bingo chairman, was very pleased to give Corrine Schmidli her winnings as the very first winner of the lodge's new bingo games. PDDGER Nuel Henderson proudly observed the transaction.

In other news, the lodge passed out over 100 dictionaries to students at two elementary schools, Oak View Elementary in Acampo and Woodbridge Elementary in Woodbridge. The children were very happy to have a dictionary that they can keep, and which will help with their studies throughout their elementary school years and beyond.



L to R: Rodney Arnold, Corrine Schmidli, Nuel Henderson