



California-Hawaii Elks Association

March/April 2017  
Volume 64, No. 2

chea-elks.org

*Magazine*

Charisce Williams

CHEA/CHEMPI Executive Assistant

The 35 year story of a vital Association Employee • Page 9



## 2 The California-Hawaii Elk

### Following a Tradition Started in 1902 Pasadena Elks Entertain GER Michael F. Zellen Over The New Year



GER Michael F. Zellen and First Lady Donna

**Pasadena Lodge 672** continued its historic run, which started in 1902, of inviting the Grand Exalted Ruler and first lady to Pasadena over the New Year's Holiday weekend.

When this tradition was started it was quite an ordeal for the GER's, which in some cases, included train travel across the country to spend time with Elks in California.

GER Michael Zellen and first lady Donna were welcomed to Pasadena by Exalted Ruler Virginia Quintero and her husband Pepe, DDGER Clara Miller and her Esquire, Billie Jo Olson, DL Aron Andersen and his wife Cheryl, DL Robert Hollis-Brau and his wife Donna. Also included in the welcoming group were PGER Jim Grillo and his wife Lucia, Grand Lodge Trustee Hugh Scanlon and his wife Dale, CHEA President Lance Erickson and his wife Karen along with many other CHEA Elks.

The weekend itinerary included visits to a Rose Parade Float building facility, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, the Santa Anita Race Track, the Rose Parade, and a very exciting Rose Bowl Game.



**Thousand Oaks Lodge 2477** held their annual Veterans brunch which was followed by a flag retirement. As an added bonus the lodge met and participated with World War II Veterans J.T. Lee of the famous Tuskegee Airmen.

### CHEA Advisory Committee Past Presidents

Kenneth L. Moore • 1982-1983	Corona
Robert J. McLain • 1984-1985	Pasadena
Richard L. "Dick" Alves • 1986-1987	San Jose
Richard E. Owen • 1992-1993	Santa Maria
John A. "Jack" Parker • 1993-1994	Marysville
Anthony J. Mauro • 1995-1996	Hollister
Timothy C. Martin • 1996-1997	Clovis
Sim Nathan • 1997-1998	Redding
Frank G. Keller • 1998-1999	Corona
Louis J. Grillo • 1999-2000	Stockton
John G. Holt • 2000-2001	Burbank
John M. Carvalho, Sr. • 2001-2002	Sacramento
H. Eugene Chambers • 2002-2003	Needles
Doug Larsen • 2003-2004	Salinas
Lee Northcutt • 2004-2005	La Habra
Roy R. Newman • 2005-2006	Marysville
James S. Mason • 2006-2007	Gardena
Oren Richardson • 2007-2008	Coalinga
Jerry Rucker • 2008-2009	San Bernardino
Lee Karjola • 2009-2010	Eureka
Hugh H. Scanlon • 2010-2011	Glendale
Thomas S. Brazier • Honorary	Santa Cruz
Wayne Howard • 2011-2012	Honolulu
Art Echternacht • 2012-2013	Santa Ana
Richard L. McDonald • 2013-2014	Pittsburg
Floyd "Skip" Henke • 2014-2015	Santa Clarita
Donald D. Schultz • 2015-2016	Victorville

### CHEA West Central Coast District Homecoming of CHEA President

**Lance Erickson**  
and First Lady Karen



**Santa Maria Radisson Hotel**  
3455 Skyway Drive  
Santa Maria CA 93455

**March 2, 3 & 4th, 2017**

President's Message



Hello and Aloha to all Elks and their families.

As Karen and I continue to travel to all the districts, we cannot believe that the year is passing by so quickly! We are both thankful and honored for having the opportunity to visit numerous lodges and meet the members that work so diligently to accomplish their goals for the year.

We have met many new friends and have witnessed the dedication of all the volunteers who keep our organization running smoothly. I am convinced that our California-Hawaii Elks Association is the finest Organization in the United States!

As you read this message, we are very close to reaching our goal of plus one in Membership for the year. Membership\Retention is and will continue to be the life blood of our Organization. Our Major Project has done well this year and will finish strong. Our Veterans Program remains active as we continue to participate in stand downs, send supplies to our troops and visit Veterans in the various VA Hospitals. This year our Public Relations program, along with Lodge Activities, has grown. We have reached out to our communities through Social Media and continue to expand these endeavors throughout the nation. Let us not forget our highest virtue of every Elks Creed, "Charity." Our Elks National Foundation continues to help our students through Scholarships and continues to assist many of our Association's charities.

Karen and I are very proud of our Association Vice Presidents, (Shining Stars), who have supported us and traveled with us this year. Each one of them have represented your Districts in a professional manner.

We still have three more months of travel and adventures ahead. I am sure we will be welcomed with open arms and enjoy the warmth and hospitality that we have received from all the lodges this year. Thank you all, Karen and I look forward to seeing you at the State Convention in May.

Fraternally and sincerely,  
Lance Erickson, CHEA President

"MAKE ELKDOM SHINE"



A Few Words From Your New Editor

Ted Olsen, PER • Santa Clarita Elks 2379



Hello to all my fellow CHEA Elks,

I would like to say that I am honored to have been appointed the CHEA Editor by Executive Director Tim Martin and our CHEA Sponsors.

I have been encouraged to bring my graphic design background to our Association magazine and I will constantly strive to make each issue better than the ones that preceded it. With the help of your Lodge Public Relations Chairman, we can work together to do exactly that. If you have questions, please send them to [editor@cheamag.org](mailto:editor@cheamag.org) and I will receive them. I look forward to serving our Association for years to come.

(USPS 010-116)  
Periodical postage paid at Fresno, CA  
and additional mailing offices.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to  
The California-Hawaii Elks Association  
5450 East Lamona Avenue • Fresno CA 93727-2224

*Official Periodical of:*  
**The California-Hawaii Elks Association**  
Published 5 times per annum in the interest of  
California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc.

*Distribution:*  
**CHEA Lodges and all paid-up Members**  
For change of address, contact your Lodge Secretary.

Association Officers

- Lance Erickson ..... President
- Charles "Chuck" Nolan ..... First Vice President
- Frank Chicago ..... Secretary
- Dr. Ron Stillman ..... Treasurer
- Tommy Gee ..... Sergeant At Arms
- Lawrence DePaul ..... Assistant Sergeant At Arms
- James Warrick ..... Tiler
- Bill Woodard ..... Assistant Tiler
- Jay Dupler ..... Chaplain
- Fred P. Krinke ..... Organist

Association Vice Presidents

Fred Guerrero	Bay	David Seeley	Orange Coast
John Hardman	Central	Ben Ortega	San Gabriel Valley
Hollis Green	East Central	Jim Meyers	South
Keith Williams	Hawaii	Scott Ludwick	South Central
Craig Sunderland	Inland	Robert Pickett	South Central Coast
Ray Broussard	Metropolitan	Glenn Montague	South Coast
Matt Goddard	North	Robert Farrens	Southwest
Bill Faubel	North Central	Jim McCloskey	West Central
Vinny DeWitt	Northeast	Philip Daighon	West Central Coast
Sandy Gowan	Northwest		

Submission and Copy Deadlines

First Day of February, April, June, August and December.

**Copy:** Microsoft Word preferred. Article should be sent as an attachment to your email.

**Photos:** Digital (jpg) format, using a 5 megapixel (or higher) camera. If using a cell phone camera, please send "original size" photos. Photos should be sent as an attachment to your email.

**Send articles and electronic files to:** [editor@cheamag.org](mailto:editor@cheamag.org)  
*Hard copies of texts and photos are not accepted.*

**Editorial Guidelines:** [www.chea-elks.org/chea-magazine-2/](http://www.chea-elks.org/chea-magazine-2/)

Editor

Ted Olsen • Santa Clarita 2379

Publisher

Bays Printing • Fresno CA



## 4 The California-Hawaii Elk

### Association Trustees

Jimmie Spezia	Chairman
Jerry Landreth-Brusato	Vice Chairman
Timothy "Tim" Jaeger	Member
Tom Lemm	Member
Randy McClellan	Member
Thom Richardson	Member
Aron Andersen	Member
Leroy Bostick	Member
Noe Saenz	Member
Frank Chicago	Secretary
Dr. Ron Stillman	Treasurer

### Major Project Trustees

Ronald Mizuno	Chairman
Edward "Trill" Torrilhon	Vice Chairman
Richard McDonald	Secretary
Tony Markarian	Treasurer
Robert Hollis-Brau	Member
Lee Karjola	Member
Jay Larkins	Member
Timothy C. Martin	Advisor
Wayne Howard	Advisor

### Special Assignments

Barbara Knox	'17 Conv. Chairman
Charles "Chuck" Nolan	'18 Conv. Chairman
Robyn Sambenini	Bequests & Living Trusts
Robert Duitsman	CHEA Parliamentarian
Ted Olsen	Editor, The CA-HI Elk
Timothy C. Martin	Executive Director
Frank Farquharson	Blue Coat Chairman
Jerry Rucker	GL Convention Coordinator
Edward "Trill" Torrilhon	Historian
James S. Mason	Chairman Meetings Comm
Roy R. Newman	Vice Chmn Meetings Comm
Charles "Chuck" Nolan	Vice Chmn Mtgs Comm
Charles "Chuck" Nolan	'16 Mid-Term Chairman
Tom Gravink	'17 Mid-Term Chairman
Greg Metzgas	Pres. Achievement Award
Resolutions	CHEA Office

### Association Committee Chairmen

Debra Mello	Accounting Consultants
Robert Schrum	Americanism
Robyn Sembenini	Bequests & Living Trusts
Marty Mello	Business Practices
Raelene Pritchard	CHEA CLMS
Brad Smith	Drug Awareness
Hamp Hampton	Government Relations
John Albrecht	Hoop Shoot
Kevin O'Shaughnessy	Insurance & Safety
Richard E. Owen	Investments
Michael Mathers	Lodge Activities
Ron Mizuno	Major Project
C. Michael Melton	Membership/Lapsation
Robert Ostini	National Foundation
Kevin Correia	National Veterans Service
Gerry Gouveia	Piggy Bank
Wade Thorpe	Public Relations
Johnne Lennon	Ritual Contest
Ted Talbot	Ritual Training
David Coleman	Scholarship
Carlos Mariscal	Scouting
Debbie Hosted	Youth Activities

### District Leaders

Robert Cassetta	Bay
Robert Ostini	Bay
Richard L. McDonald	Central
Fred Bianchini	Central
Thom Richardson	East Central
Larry Torres	East Central
Wayne Howard	Hawaii
Vern Ungerecht	Hawaii
Donald D. Schultz	Inland
Dominic Rotell	Inland
Hugh H. Scanlon	Metropolitan
Floyd "Skip" Henke	Metropolitan
Paul Cole	North
John Knitter	North
Roy R. Newman	North Central
Marty Mello	North Central
Stephen Haydn	Northeast
Robert D. Souza	Northeast
Lee Karjola	Northwest
James "Jim" Olson	Northwest
Lee Northcutt	Orange Coast
Art Echternacht	Orange Coast
Robert Hollis-Brau	San Gabriel Valley
Aron P. Andersen	San Gabriel Valley
Jimmy D. Lowe	South
Tom Olsen, Sr.	South
William "Bill" Woodard	South Central
Curt Robbins	South Central
Donald R. Checchi	South Central Coast
Robert L. Duitsman	South Central Coast
William Wiscovitch	South Coast
Charles "Chuck" Nolan	South Coast
Jimmie Spezia	Southeast
Mike Tharp	Southeast
Randy McClellan	West Central
Jimmy Hancock	West Central
Tony Markarian	West Central Coast
Greg Metzgas	West Central Coast

## CHEMPI

(California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc.)

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

**Please give generously  
to your Major Project!**

*"A coin a day so they can walk, talk, see and play."*

## CHEA President's Upcoming Visitation Schedule

### March 3-5

Homecoming  
West Central Coast District  
Santa Maria Lodge 1538

### May 4

Utah Elks Association  
Spring Meeting

### May 17-20

Association Convention  
Palm Springs

**Santa Ynez Valley Lodge 2640** partnered with United Blood Services to hold a blood drive for the community in January. The blood drive was held at the Veterans Hall in Solvang, CA.

**Hollister Lodge 1336** held its Annual Purple Pig Auction on November 19th with \$4,535 being raised for the Major Project.

**San Luis Obispo Lodge 322** provided holiday support for veterans of the Fresno VA Hospital & Community Living/Rehab Center. Each of the Veterans received clothing and a goodie bag with socks and toiletries. The veterans also received afghans, caps, puzzle books, and a variety of other items. In all, donations amounted to \$9,910.00. One of the veterans met by the Lodge members was a female paralympian who had traveled to seven different countries competing in the World Paralympic Games.

**Lompoc Lodge 2274** "Back to School" event furnished 70 backpacks filled with school supplies to help students start school with a positive attitude.

In other news, a "Happy Happening at the Lodge" was held for the Special Needs Community using their Beacon Grant. Lodge members and volunteers set up zones where mentors, coaches, and assistants were available to help everyone experience balloon art, D-J and dancing, games, along with Fire and Police Safety Demonstrations. In all everyone had an interesting and positive day.



## Elks National Foundation

By Robert Ostini • CHEA ENF Chairman



Elks National Foundation (ENF) is the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks commitment to Charity in support of America's Veterans, Youth and the Communities served by its Lodges. Membership in the Fidelity Club is our member's commitment to ENF.

At the outset of this year I set a goal to increase participation in the Fidelity Club by members of the CHEA. I can't say we are there yet and I'm hoping that you can help me out.

I have been traveling around the State and taking stock of the ENF subscription plaques in some of the older Lodges. When I started in the Elks the Lodge ENF Chair would carry a supply of ENF subscription forms and we would sign up to give \$10.00 or more each year. And each year the chairman would dutifully follow up to make sure we were reminded to send in our annual tithing. Members would get a name plate on the subscription or "Honor Roll" for their first \$100.00. As time went on a member got a Red ENF Heart added to their nameplate and the \$100.00 donations added up. I am pleased to say that all of the Honor Roll displays are impressive and many are quite crowded with little "Red Hearts".

Well times change and while many members still give to ENF in this manner, newer members may not be familiar with this practice and I got to view new Honor Rolls in different formats for the various levels of giving to ENF in some of the Lodges I visited. And so I would like to tell you about **THE FIDELITY CLUB**.

**Enrollment in the Fidelity Club allows ENF to automatically debit your bank account or charge a credit card on a recurring basis for a set donation amount. There are no checks to write or coupons to mail. It's safe, reliable, and allows the ENF to spend less time on administration and more time on our charitable mission. Save time, stamps and even check charges by joining the ENF Fidelity Club today.**

Regrettably they aren't issuing any more little "Red Heart" stickers. But after your first donation you will receive a Fidelity Sticker for your membership card and each year after that a new sticker with the number of years you have been a recurring donor. You can learn about additional benefits and enroll in the Fidelity Club at [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org). ENF now maintains an online Honor Roll and I look forward to seeing your name on that Honor Roll posted on the Elks National Foundation page at [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org).



## Community Investment Program Grants

By Janet Rasmussen • CHEA ENF Grants Coordinator



We have had good participation in the ENF Community Investment Program (CIP) from the Lodges of our great CHEA Association this year but we can still strive to do better. Thank you all for your community involvement and efforts.

Here is a quick synopsis of your lodges Grant participation:

- 63 lodges were approved for the Gratitude Grant
- 56 lodges were approved for the Beacon Grant
- 42 lodges for the Promise Grant
- 8 lodges were approved for the Impact Grant

Participation for the grants is growing. Now it's time to work with those lodges that may have applied but are not in compliance.

Have you visited CIP Central lately? This web page will help you stay informed. Visit this section on a regular basis for the latest on the Community Investments Program.

Grant status of your Lodge and Lodges in your state with a click of the mouse! The CIP Participation Report lets you see where Lodges are in the grant application process. It's as easy as a click on the URL set up at the site.

Every Lodge is eligible to apply for a Beacon Grant—don't miss out on this opportunity! Join in, and help your Lodge become a "Beacon of Hope" to your community. Beacon Grants are worth \$2,000! The 2016-17 Beacon Grant Final Report Forms are due by August 31, 2017. An editable copy of the 2016-17 Beacon Grant Final Report Form is available at the CIP site.

The 2016-17 Gratitude Grant Final Report Forms are due by August 31, 2017. An editable copy of the 2016-17 Gratitude Grant Final Report Form is also available online. Applications must be submitted before the project takes place. Applications close May 31, 2017. Funds must be spent by July 31, 2017.

Please call me or send me an email if I can be of assistance. I want to help your lodge succeed! **If you are not in compliance, take the time to call Grand Lodge and find out why. It will be time well spent and probably an easy fix.**



Temecula Valley Lodge 2801 held their annual Hoop Shoot Competition in December and recently invited the Hoop Shoot First Place Winners to the Lodge for a recognition dinner. "Spike" Lunn, Lodge Hoop Shoot Chairman, presented the winners with a shirt from the Temecula Valley Elks to wear at the District Hoop Shoot Competition.



## 6 The California-Hawaii Elk

### Membership

By C. Michael Melton, PSVP • CHEA Membership Chairman



As I write this in early February we stand on the brink of another year of plus membership in the State Association. However, we're not there yet. I encourage everyone to continue the effort to save delinquent members and to initiate every candidate you have in the pipeline by the last week in March. It would be heartbreaking to miss

a plus membership and have the candidates that could have made the difference left on the sidelines.

That being said I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the hard working and dedicated members who have shown such a great effort to boost their lodge and district membership numbers. I particularly want to say thank you to all the District Chairs, my Vice-Chair Bob Svedeen, and CHEA President Lance Erickson whose support has been constant and encouraging throughout the year.

Now it's time to look ahead. To all the incoming Exalted Rulers, I urge you to start NOW making your choices of the members you'll want on your Membership Management Team. That team should include you the Exalted Ruler, the Secretary of the Lodge, the Lodge Activities Chairman and the chairperson of the Public Relations Committee. In addition you should have an additional committee person for each one hundred members in your lodge. Begin studying the Membership manual and the other information available on the CHEA and elks.org websites. A well planned campaign with measurable goals and a fair division of labor will ensure a successful program with a minimum of stress for everyone. A team approach has proven to be the most effective and consistent way to manage lodge membership. Leaving it up to the Secretary or Exalted Ruler alone is a sure way to scuttle your chances of reaching your goal.

I intend to conduct a workshop at the CHEA Convention in Palm Springs this upcoming May and I hope that many of the incoming District Membership Chairs and Exalted Rulers will attend. I'm here as a resource for you, if you have any questions or issues concerning the program, do not hesitate to reach out to me. I'm listed in the CHEA Directory and am available to you at any time.



**Vacaville Lodge 2638**, in keeping with the Elks National theme of "Elks Care Elks Share", closed out 2016 with its 20th consecutive year of providing Christmas gifts and food for the less fortunate in the communities served by the Vacaville Lodge. This Christmas, the program known as Bob's Kids, provided 19 families with 97 family members individual merchandise gift cards along with a food gift card for each of the families. Additionally, 30 deserving senior citizens were provided with monthly city bus passes. The Vacaville Elks Bob's Kids program started in 1996 by helping a few local needy families with toys, clothing and food and has progressively grown since that time. Funding comes from Lodge members, their families, local Elks fund raisers and generous donations from Fentons Creamery and El Ranch Vasquez. In recent years, including 2016, Vacaville has applied for and received a Beacon grant for this program.

Just prior to the 2016 Holiday season, the Vacaville Elks applied for and received an ENF Promise Grant to support the Lodge's project of donating well over \$2,000 in school supplies to elementary schools in the Dixon and Fairfield School Districts.

**Fremont Lodge 2121** members in November worked in conjunction with Home Depot employees partnered to create, cleanup and improve common area gardens at the Livermore VA Hospital.

Twice a year, Home Depot's Team Depot takes on a community service project for which they provide all materials and tools needed. In looking for a non-profit to partner with on the Livermore VA Garden of Heroes project, the Fremont Elks Lodge was chosen because the lodge is committed to improving lives of veterans.

The project included adding mulch to pathways and around trees, the placing of garden art pieces near the entrance, the planting of flowers and fruit trees. Several benches were assembled, planter boxes built and an American flag was woven into the fencing.

On Christmas Eve, the Fremont Elks Lodge, in conjunction with Castro Valley VFW Post 9601, Castro Valley VFW 9601 Auxiliary, Castro Valley American Legion Post and Every Little Life Matters delivered gifts to 80 patients at the Livermore Veterans Hospital.

In other news, a \$2,000 Freedom Grant was awarded to the Lodge and is being used to deliver welcome baskets to veterans transitioning from homelessness into their own homes. The first seven baskets were delivered in early January. The laundry baskets contain supplies such as mops, sponges, brooms, kitchen, bathroom and laundry soaps and various other basic cleaning supplies that will aid in setting up and maintaining their homes.



**Oceanside "Hugs from Home" Elks 1561** a charity that is sponsored by the Oceanside Lodge. Director Sandee Murphy, and her volunteers send out care packages from products which are donated by the public, many of which are Elks, and organizations who support our activities and postage to deliver packages.

One of the many groups that we send packages to have sent us "Thank you" pictures so that we may see the gratitude that our military feels! Sandee Murphy wanted to thank the Elk members, her volunteers, the Western Eagle Foundation, the Civitans, VFW 7041, and all the ladies who make blankets, caps, wheel chair and walker bags. It is because of all of you that it is possible!

**A thank you letter was received from 1st Sgt. Elson L. Aviles from Alpha Battery, Landing Team 1/4, USS Makin Island.**

I wanted to take some time and thank you guys, the Hugs from Home Elks 1561. The Marines really appreciate the care package you sent us. It definitely brought a smile to them. A few of the Marines wrote letters. As soon as we get time we will be sending those off.



## Expanding Your Lodge's Visibility

Kira Wagner • Proud Member Mojave Lodge 2059

Your lodge and your members do a lot to support the Elks charities as well as your community activities. Wouldn't it be nice if more people knew just how hard you work?

CHEA has a Blog, a Facebook Page, a YouTube Channel AND a Twitter account. It's a high probability that your Public Relations Chair and other members who love to share the benefits of Elksdom, are missing opportunities to get the word out!

As the coordinator for all the CHEA Social Media channels, I take in submissions for the Blog and set them to post. From there the post is shared to our FaceBook page and beyond so that your success is amplified.

My inbox is empty. It could be because it's another of those "Best Kept Secrets". This is to help change that!

Your volunteer hours and community support are best shared in the stories that inspire and encourage others to take action, to be filled with hope and increase awareness of all that the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks does every day to make this world a better place.

The magazine is limited by the physical space – the internet is not! Encourage your best storytellers to send pictures and stories in greater detail to [cheasocialmedia@chea-elks.org](mailto:cheasocialmedia@chea-elks.org) and let's make 2017 the year that the best kept secret turned in to the most appreciated organization in your community!

Here are a few guidelines:

- 350-600 words (think editorial) more is ok so you don't have a "hard cut-off" line, but keep it interesting and reasonable as people won't read if it's too long.
- Pictures - We'd like at least 1, but 2 or 3 would be even better (please do NOT send high resolution images as they are slower to load on the web - aka think SMALLER file size – good ones from your phone work as you can choose the file size)
- If you have it - imbed code for a good YouTube video of the event
- If you have outbound links as reference, that's great too (aka some other group like Boy Scouts or VETS that were part of the event)
- If you have questions, please contact me at [cheasocialmedia@chea-elks.org](mailto:cheasocialmedia@chea-elks.org)

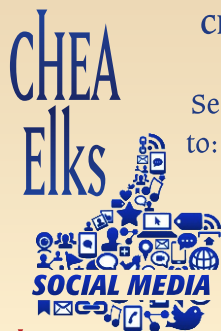
Here are the links to our accounts so please be encouraged to Like and Follow!

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaHawaiiElks/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/CalHawaiiElks>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/cheaelks>

**Blog:** <https://chea-elks.org/blog/>



CHEA Lodges & Districts join the  
CHEA Social Media community.  
Send your social media information  
to: [cheasocialmedia@chea-elks.org](mailto:cheasocialmedia@chea-elks.org)  
and we'll do the rest!

Keep Communicating!



Los Banos 2510 received word that Nicolas Oates (l) and Mark Barcellos (r), have each been awarded a \$2,000 CHEA Vocational Grants. Both young men are sons of Elks, they have spent their youth volunteering at a variety of Lodge functions and have a desire to become future Elk members.



Honolulu Lodge 616 attended the re-dedication ceremony of the United States Marine Corp Memorial at the USS Arizona Memorial Center, World War II Valor in the Pacific, National Park Service, located at the US Naval Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The memorial honors the 73 US Marines who were killed in action on-board the USS Arizona in defense of Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. They still remain entombed in the ship along with other military personnel. Only 15 marines survived that day of battle.

Steel from the bridge of the USS Arizona was actually used as the rebar on the 7,000 pound concrete memorial.

The renovation's Senior Executive Project Manager, and Elk 616 member John Scheleski coordinated and collaborated with the various National Park Service personnel, the Marine Corp League Aloha Detachment 363, various craftsmen to completely restore and display the memorial with honor and distinction.



Become a Recurring Donor  
it's easy to do - just go to:  
[chea-elks.org/major-project/donations/](https://chea-elks.org/major-project/donations/)





## 8 The California-Hawaii Elk

### Piggy Bank

By *Gerry Gouveia* • CHEA Purple Pig Chairman



Aloha and greetings, the results are in on the Leading Knights Challenge. We had dozens of Lodges competing this year and you raised some good money for the Major Project. We are up in participation this year over last year. The results will be announced at the Association Convention in Palm Springs. Steve Wagstaff held the day at

Chili's Fund Raiser for the Purple Pig again this year and the results were great, it keeps on improving year after year. The bowlers and campers have been busy and with all the events the Lodges are doing we should have a good year.

As you know, at each convention we ask for raffle prizes and baskets for the Purple Pig Booth. This helps out the Purple Pig with donations. You would not believe the amount of money we take in each and every convention so we are asking once again for the Districts to step up and donate one basket per District, that's 19 Baskets to raffle. So I challenge all you VP's out there to help support Lance in his efforts to top last year's total.

CHEA is working to help kids with disabilities through your contributions. Further, each lodge is working to ensure the future and well-being of our youth by being involved you prove that each year with your donations. Come to the Association Convention in Palm Springs, support the Purple Pig Booth and meet our Theme Child who will be presented at our Annual Convention on Saturday morning prior to our Exalted Ruler's March.



Elks Lodges working in conjunction with Chili's Restaurants throughout California, held a fundraiser for the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project Inc. This Chili's "give back" event was held on Tuesday, January 17th, 2017 from 11:00 AM to 10:30 PM. With each event day flyer presented at the time of purchase, Chili's donated 15% of their event day sales back to the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project Inc.

Total event sales in the amount of \$36,101.09 with the donation amount of 15% results in \$5,415.00 raised for Purple Pig. This year's top 3 Chili's restaurants were Manhattan Beach with \$2,200 in event sales, Escondido with \$1,857, and Torrance with \$1,400. The results of this event are the highest since I began this back in 2014 and I have to thank each and every one of you and your districts that participated, as well as Ted Olsen for the incredible cover of the CHEA Magazine. Chili's will be presenting the check to me at the Escondido Elks Lodge in February on a date not yet determined.

I was introduced to the Chili's Southern California Regional Director on the evening of the event and was proud to have been able to explain what the Elks are about and what this event was supporting. When he heard about what we do to help children he was very proud that Chili's was a part of it. There are some great things in the works being discussed with Chili's as we move forward.

Thank you again to everyone in CHEA for your participation!

Walnut Creek Lodge 1811 contacted the Martinez CA VA Hospital and became involved in the Homeless Veterans Program. Since September the Lodge has helped 19 homeless veterans. The first 5 got our welcome home packages that included dishes, cups, and flatware, for 4, bath towels, kitchen towels, kitchen utensils, as well as household cleaning supplies.

Donations of furniture followed, not new but in good condition. This has enabled our Lodge to help those veterans and others we expect to enter the VA Hospital program. The week before Christmas we got a female veteran with an eight year old child who was homeless and getting an apartment. Six days before Christmas we were able to give her brand new dishware, flatware, glasses, pots & pans, towels and bedding to go along with donations of a sofa, recliner, coffee maker, floor lamp and Christmas presents for the veteran and her child.



On Sunday, December 11, the Walnut Creek Elks celebrated their 31st Annual Hoop Shoot contest and awarded prizes to their top contenders in the Elks Hoop Shoot competition. In all, 185 children participated in the competition.



Redding Lodge 1073 held second annual Trunk or Treat event. The Elks DAP Chairman partnered with our Redding Emblem Club 515 DAP Chairman to co-sponsor the Trunk or Treat event. The event took place on October 30th in the lodges' dining room because of rainy weather. The weather actually turned out to be in our favor as the community participation was overwhelming. Instead of trunks we set up 24 tables. Over 300 children and their parents were treated to candy and a variety of DAP literature, Red Ribbons (with this year's theme "Just Say No" and the lodges name and number embossed on it), stickers, comic and coloring books from Elks and Emblem members dressed in a variety of Halloween costumes. Smokey and Sparky visited and were a huge hit. All had a great time; and we delivered our message in a fun manner.



## From Receptionist to Executive Assistant

*Charisce says to believe and work hard because dreams do come true!*

Since she was a little girl, her dream was to be a secretary. With stenography and secretarial training in high school and college she obtained the skills necessary to prepare her for a career spanning 43 years so far. In 1981 she landed at CHEA/CHEMPI as a "temp" receptionist.



Now as Executive Assistant (Tim Martin's "right hand"), Charisce Williams, says no two days are ever alike. Throughout the day she deals with a large amount of emails, troubleshoots computer issues within the office, deals with phone calls from our over 500 CHEA volunteers and 30 CHEMPI employees, answers questions the office staff may have and manages the daily inner workings of the CHEA/CHEMPI Administrative Office in Fresno.

Charisce says she loves the creative part of her job whether it is creating a PowerPoint presentation for convention, developing software script, writing articles/letters, website design or editing articles for The California-Hawaii Elk magazine. Another aspect she says she loves is "detail". She is the official "proofreader" in the office and has fondly been referred to as "eagle eye Charisce".

One of her biggest challenges is the variety and volume of information and work processed through the CHEA/CHEMPI office, coordinating, delegating and prioritizing issues with the five administrative staff so that the administrative office runs smoothly and efficiently every day. Taking care of the CHEA volunteers and CHEMPI employees are top priority for her and her staff. Working with the Major Project therapists and vision screeners is equally rewarding; from new employee orientation to administering the employee health plan, assisting with administrative support for the yearly Professional Institute and clients served by the Major Project.

Charisce says her favorite thing about the job is never knowing what the next day holds. She thrives on being busy and facing challenges head-on to find the proper solution. Whether it's searching for a new and upgraded laser color printer, reconciling end of year pension spreadsheets, preparing for convention or writing a proposal, she looks forward to every day as a new opportunity to accomplish something good. For example, when our United States vendor for the purple piggy banks handed out to new members by our Lodges was lost, she learned how to deal directly with our manufacturer in China to order the piggy banks. She oversees the ordering, production and travel from China through the United States customs to arrive accurately and safely in Fresno, a three to four month process!

A lot of things have changed in 35 years. When Charisce started in 1981, she took shorthand for the Executive Director and used electric typewriters and giant computers. Technology has enabled the administrative staff to grow with the increase in donations generated for the Major Project by the many new fund raising ideas over the years. Much of the work that was sent to outside printing companies is now produced in-house such as the Directory of Officers and Committeemen, color brochures and annual convention proceedings.



In her 35 years with CHEA/CHEMPI, she has worked for three Executive Directors, one Assistant Executive Director, eight managers and seen over 100 employees come and go. Being flexible has given her the opportunity to learn about the history of CHEA and CHEMPI and gain knowledge and experience in each of the administrative positions in the CHEA office being able to fill in when and where needed to keep the office humming along.

She also says working for an organization that helps disabled children is very gratifying and at the end of the day all CHEA/CHEMPI employees can feel gratitude in knowing they are part of a group of people dedicated to helping those less fortunate. Charisce loves her job and says it has been a pleasure and honor to work for the Elks of California and Hawaii!

## A Brief Note About One Of Our CHEMPI Kids

Maria is a very sweet 15 month old girl who happens to have Down Syndrome. Maria has a very bright future ahead of her. She has a very loving mom and dad and even a big sister. Maria's big sister Lesley is 10 years old and adores her little sister. As a physical therapist I go to Maria's home every week to work with her to get stronger and have better balance as she learns to walk. Every time when I arrive her sister Lesley greets me at the door and tells me all of the ways she has been helping her sister. One of her favorite things to do is to read to Maria. Lesley pays attention to all of Maria's therapy sessions so that she can be involved in her therapy all week long. One day I arrived at the door and Lesley handed me a sealed envelope. She said, "I have something for you". I opened the letter and read the sweetest note. It made me feel so proud to be part of The Major Project knowing that I was representing the Elks as a good role model and maybe even inspiring one 10 year old girl to be a therapist when she grows up.

Megan Macleod, Physical Therapist



## 10 The California-Hawaii Elk

### Youth Activities

By Debbie Hosted • CHEA Youth Activities Chairman



Happy Spring – Hopefully by the time you read this article Spring will be here and outside activities are back in full swing.

Our youth should be encouraged to join in outdoor activities – do you have room at your Lodge to have a soccer clinic, soccer game, volleyball or badminton?

Arts and Crafts activities on the patio if you have one – cover a picnic table with paper from a large roll and let them do a tablecloth design or a mural for a wall. Have the Drug Awareness coloring book there available for them to color.

Easter is coming, maybe some of the teens would like to help set up the baskets for the younger children for your Easter party.

Bake or buy cookies for a St Patrick's Day or Easter decorating afternoon.

If you have teachers or those in your Lodges that like to work with children – contact the schools and offer tutoring or homework help especially for those in after school programs. It could get a good working relationship with the school started or improved upon.

I have listed only a few ideas – talking with some of you at convention tells me you are thinking of your own creative and fun ideas for the Youth of your area. Please keep up the good ideas and interactions with the Youth of our communities.

We need to encourage our youth to learn and grow with the good values that we as Elks believe in and portray to others.



**Paradise Lodge 2026**, on December 2, a portion of Gratitude Grant was used to present two local organizations with money to support their holiday programs. The Family Resource Center was given \$200 and \$300 was given to the Paradise Police Officers for their "Shop with a Cop" program.

Pictured left to right is Vikki Isham chair, Cathy Christian committee member, Kelly Coty, Family Resource Center, Henri Brachais, Paradise Elks Exalted Ruler, Danielle Moskowitz Paradise Police Officers Association.

In other news, Paradise Lodge held their Hoop Shoot in early December in conjunction with the Paradise Parks and Recreation. Over 50 boys and girls participated.

### Drug Awareness Program

By Brad Smith, PDDGER • CHEA-DAP Chairman



I have often been asked what makes a person become a drug addict. I thought I would make this the thesis of this month's article. I know of no one who consciously made the decision to become a drug addict. Environmental influences are usually the underlying reason a person tries a dangerous substance. The opportunity to be a substance abuser is environmental. It can be the influence or social pressure of fellow classmates, parents, or contact with a pusher or user. The children whose parents are substance abusers are more likely to become abusers themselves than the children of the non-abusing parents. The perception is that it is OK because my parents do it or It's OK because everyone else does it. I just want to fit in with my friends. Icons such as Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, Whitney Houston, and others make it seem glamorous in spite of the fact that it killed them. These are psychological reasons to try an addictive substance. Whatever the reason, it soon becomes a physiological addiction.

What makes something addictive, as Ray Lazano put it, is the "pleasure button". Ray Lazano is an outstanding inspirational public speaker often sponsored by the Elks. Ray talks about "the pleasure button" when referring to the effects of controlled substances. This pleasure button is in fact the chemical effects the drug has on the body that make us "feel better". Controlled substances affect the neurotransmissions in several ways. The drug may stimulate the body to produce endorphins like dopamine. We shoot heroin to feel the "high". We snort cocaine to feel the euphoria. It is the "pleasure" that we receive when using a drug that starts us down the road to being addicted. The "feel better" is rather instantaneous. The drug hits the dopamine button, flooding our body with pleasure.

The "pleasure button" can be pushed by things other than drugs. Exercise is one example. Runners often seem to be addicted to running because they feel better after aerobic exercise. Their exercise has pushed the pleasure button by causing the body to release dopamine and other endorphins into the system. The problem with controlled substances is that they can supplant or replace the body's natural chemistry to the point that the body reduces or stops producing its own. Opiates are a good example of substances that replaces natural chemistry to the point that the body becomes addicted to the outside source. In other words, the body no longer produces enough natural chemistry, and as a consequence, relies on an outside source.

A person is addicted when their body requires the drug to feel "normal", and without drugs the body goes through "withdrawal". You can't function normally without the influence of the drug. Alcohol is a good example of a substance that takes a considerable amount of substance over time to cause addiction. However, once addicted, an alcoholic can't function normally without being under the influence. One of the most addicting substances is nicotine. Cigarettes and other tobacco products contain nicotine. Smoking substitutes such as electronic cigarettes also contain nicotine, and are addicting. A smoker doesn't feel good without a certain level of nicotine in their body. Withdrawal from nicotine is tough, just ask any smoker who has quit the habit. Cocaine and heroin users are more quickly addicted. There is no specific event or moment in time where someone becomes addicted. It could be the first time someone tries a drug or the hundredth time they try the drug. Everyone is different in that respect; however, everyone who uses an addictive substance will over time become addicted. No one is superman or superwoman.



## Public Relations

By Wade Thorpe • CHEA Public Relations Chairman



It is hard to believe another lodge year is coming to an end. The Public Relations Committee thanks all of the Elks that have sponsored a new member, chaired an event and publicized the good efforts done by Elks this year. Effective Public Relations and Marketing within our communities leads to increased membership. I want

to personally thank the 19 District Chairpersons that have been working hard for our committee; it has been my pleasure to work with all of you. As we are ending our year, it is important that lodge and district chairpersons finish out their year through mid-April, reporting March numbers.

This past January, Grand Lodge launched a new Lodge Brochure Program. Every lodge should have received the lodge brochure via email from Mike Gleason, GL Brochure Team. The brochure can easily be personalized for your individual lodge. The Brochure has Grand Lodge, and State Association programs in addition to your local lodge information. "When you hand these out to perspective members, it will let them know that they are not only joining your lodge, but they will have state and national affiliation with the nation's most patriotic, charitable organization in the country."

Entries for the Community Service & Image Brochure, Lodge Bulletin, and Single Best Event Brochure Contest were due in February. Winners will be announced at the Annual Convention in May. Judging for the Best Website Contest is underway and winners will be announced in October.

Please keep sending in those great newspaper articles about what your lodges are doing in your communities. As you are aware, growth in membership depends on getting the positive word out about what we do for our communities.



**Poway Lodge 2543** won first place with the float in the Poway Days Parade. The theme Literacy, Read, Lead, Succeed. The float was designed as a book, with one side of the book showing the theme, Lead, Read, Succeed and other side reflected that we are Elks and we care about literacy. As the viewers gathered to watch the parade the lodge provided free coffee and doughnuts and Elroy (Dotti Mock) handed out coloring books to the children. More than 5,000 persons attended the parade.

**San Fernando Lodge 1539** held its First Annual Toy Drive. A drive headed by a new member Ruben Cortez and Trustee Bob Paul turned out to be a great success. A day of music, food and fun was held with members and guests donating toys. We are very grateful to Toys R Us for their huge donation of toys and to merchants in the San Fernando Valley area.

Gifts were distributed to two Women's Shelters in the area. The children in the Children's Ward at Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys were excited to have received toys.



Delivering toys to the hospital were ER Bob Medellin and First Lady Mercy along with Leading Knight Jon Eaton and Loyal Knight Debbie Huntoon.

In other news, San Fernando Lodge members worked together with the Gamma Sigma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi International, in decorating, filling and personally delivering 38 gift bags to Veterans permanently residing at the Sepulveda VA hospital. Each "Thank you for your Service" gift contained a lap blanket and other items. It was truly a time of giving and recognizing the needs of our community and support of our Veteran's.



L to R: Elks Members Terry Wiltsey; Kenny Hamlyn; Edra Rowe, Veterans Chair; Mike Gallagher; Leon Martinez

**Canoga Park Lodge 2190** held its annual Veterans Christmas Project, which provided gifts and "goodies" to the Veterans at the Sepulveda VA Nursing Home on December 22, 2016.

Thirty seven Veterans were given a variety of gifts, eleven of the Veterans were hospice patients. Lodge members signed cards and wrapped presents for the Veteran on their gift card.

Lodge members, including our Veterans Chair, Edra Rowe, delivered the gifts to the Veterans at the Nursing Home. The veterans, some who are unable to have any family members visiting them, were happy and thankful for the gifts.



## 12 The California-Hawaii Elk



**Napa Lodge 832** conducted a toy drive for the local office of the California Highway Patrol and received over 500 new toys in time for the Christmas holiday. The CHP then held a toy giveaway day and distributed the toys to several hundred local youth referred by local agencies and several other underprivileged youth who visited the event. Pictured presenting the toys to the CHP are California Highway Patrol Public Information Officer Marc Renspurger and Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Lindsay Wanagel.



**San Rafael Lodge 1108** presented a community outreach program in late October, *"Drugs & Sex Trafficking in Marin: What You Need to Know Now & How You Can Help Protect Your Friends, Family and Community"* featuring exhibits, speakers, videos and a reception. Over 100 people from the community and schools attended, and 18 exhibitors: with information tables - local non-profits that treat or help those afflicted by drug or sexual abuse.

As part of Drug Awareness, the Lodge presented this program, featuring Sex Trafficking, as there is a direct connection between drug abuse and the sex trafficking crime. Criminals almost always use drugs to lure and control their victims, and victims use drugs to numb themselves to a horrific life they become trapped in. These are difficult topics to acknowledge, and they are present in almost all communities, affluent or not. The hope is by addressing them openly, and inclusively, we can all be more aware and connected, to help prevent future abuses, and provide victims with the community support they need and deserve.

Speakers pictured are: Sydney Fairbairn, Esq., PER (moderator), Vaughan Acton, Marin Co. Grand Jurist - Report: "Marin's Hidden Human Sex Trafficking Challenge - It's Happening in Our Backyard," Laurel Botsford, Volunteer Ambassador of Hope, Shared Hope International, Phillip A. Drum, PharmD of SAM (Smart Approach to Marijuana), Lynn Fox, PhD, SF State Prof. Emeritus, Chair of Drug Awareness Committee and expert on Adolescents & Drug Abuse, Mark Dale, Founder of Families 4 Safer Schools & Rx Safe Marin.



**Elk Grove Lodge 2577** made their annual Christmas visit and tour of the Mather Veterans Hospital Intake Unit. The Lodge Adopted the unit three years ago, and it is with great satisfaction that members of the Lodge can show moral support and comfort to the Veterans. A small artificial Christmas tree and candy canes were given to the Veterans on this visit. Regular visits are made to the facility and provide support items throughout the year.

The most satisfying moment of our visit was when we spoke with Charles L. Holtz and his wife Barbara. He told us that he was in the Navy and that he was on a ship that was sunk. We asked what ship and he said the USS Hammann. After the visit in the hallway one of our members said the USS Hammann was sunk at the Battle of Midway. It had a very active role in the war. It was in the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway. During the Battle of Midway it defended the USS Yorktown. After the battle, it escorted the crippled Yorktown when it was again attacked by Japanese submarines. On June 6, 1942 it was sunk and went down within minutes.

Pictured left to right Ralph Daniels, Barbara Holtz, Evelyn Pappa-McKenna and Charles Holtz.

**Grass Valley Lodge 538** "Nothin' but Net" free throw Hoop Shoot held December 11. Thanks to our Elk volunteers for their enthusiastic participation. Together they contributed 51 hours toward this very fun event. The Lodge appreciated Union Hill School permitting us to use their gym – it was a great day. Our Lodge Contest Winners were: Benjamin V (Boys 8-9), Jacob H (Boys 10-11), Danae K (Girls 12-13) and Elliott T (Boys 12-13).

At the District Hoop Shoot Contest, Elliott T again won in the Boys 12-13 Contest. He will be continuing to compete in the Nor Cal Contest in Sacramento. We'll be there cheering him on.

Elliott comes from an Elk family, Dad and Grandfather are Elks from Susanville, his parents have just relocated to our area and we look forward to Elliott returning to our Hoop Shoot contest next year.





**Calpine Lodge 2432** had a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. The lodge hosted more than 300 guests of all ages to a breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Photos with Santa were taken. There were numerous crafts for the children as well as a gift bag of candy and toys. This was made possible with a Promise Grant from the ENF.

**Torrance Lodge 1948** in their 9th year of participating in the Dictionary Project delivered over 2,900 dictionaries to 35 elementary schools.

In other news the Torrance Lodge provided food boxes for 55 families. Lodge and Ladies of the Elks members donated food and money to make sure each family received their special gift in addition to the food.

**Lake Elsinore/Wildomar Elks Lodge 2591** held its 18th Annual Christmas Tree Lane at the lodge. Carol Warren, Chairperson, and her volunteers were in charge of the event which took place on Saturday, December 3. Ten decorated Christmas Trees, with varying themes sponsored by several groups, were placed in the lodge room with presents. Some of the themes were "Movie Night" sponsored by the Elks Ladies, "American Home" by The Mixed Nuts Camper Club, "Santa's Computer Room" by Lodge Bingo, as well as others.

Tickets for the "Raffle of Trees" were sold. Santa and Mrs. Claus (Arnie and Collen Yarchever) and their Elf (Kathy Marold) were there to delight the children. Many other prizes were given away to the many members in attendance.

Past Christmas Tree Lanes have contributed over \$200,000 to graduating High School Seniors attending college, trade or technical schools. This year \$14,789 was raised by the Christmas Tree Lane.



**Lake Almanor Lodge 2626** on January 19th presented a short history lesson and questions on the states and their capitals to the 5th grade class of Chester elementary school. Each child was given a quarter book with starter quarters to fill these albums. Left to right: Dave Aitken committee chairperson, Mrs. Tantardino teacher, Bill Mahaffey PER, Wes Scott Esquire and 19 very happy children with a little more knowledge of our great country.

In other news, the Lake Almanor Elks made house visits in December to 14 families with the help of Santa Claus who delivered food and presents to 26 children in the area.

Also in December, with money raised through fund raising events, the Lodge awarded Chester Helping Hands a check for \$500 to help families in the Lake Almanor basin that are in need of food during the winter months.



**Petaluma Lodge 901** awarded Jennifer Pritchard of the Petaluma Police Volunteer Program Coordinator a certificate of appreciation at a fund raising breakfast held by and at the Petaluma Lodge in January. The Lodge donated \$1000.00 dollars to the community program.

Donations received from fund raising efforts help the Petaluma Police Volunteer program with services, supplies, and overhead in putting on outreach programs. Monies are used to ensure that services and goods provided to the public are always free and accessible to everyone.

Pictured left to right: Jennifer Pritchard award recipient, Ted O'shea ER, Robert Meyers Lodge Secretary and retired Highway Patrol officer and also one of the many police volunteers.



# 14 The California-Hawaii Elk

## CHEMPI Latest Millennium Plus Level Donors • (December 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017)



Charlie Buel • Oceanside 1561  
Tom McAllister • Walnut Creek 1811  
Joan Anderson • Corona 2045  
Charlie Fleskes • Santa Clara 2347



Samuel Aucoin • Honolulu 616  
Sharon "Shari" Larkin • Santa Monica 906  
Charles Follett • Glendale 1289  
Charlie Buel • Oceanside 1561  
John Ziemkiewicz • Indio 1643  
Benjamin Verde • Palm Springs 1905  
Michael Mathers • Fullerton 1993  
Joan Anderson • Corona 2045  
Grant Easton • Charming 2103  
James J. Williams, Jr. • Clovis 2599



## CHEMPI Latest Millennium Level Donors • (December 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017)

Samuel Aucoin • Honolulu 616  
Malcolm Barcase • Honolulu 616  
Steve Buttress • Riverside 643  
Don Checchi • Santa Monica 906  
Frank Frazier • Santa Monica 906  
Margy Pickett • Santa Monica 906  
R.A. Pickett Santa Monica 906  
Bernadette Birt • Alameda 1015  
Martin Lanfranco • San Mateo 1112  
Hugh & Dale Scanlon • Glendale 1289

Jim Farrand • Ontario 1419  
Charlie Buel (3) • Oceanside 1561  
Maxine Elin • Gilroy 1567  
John Ziemkiewicz • Indio 1643  
Sharron Dearborn • Newport Harbor 1767  
Tony Messina • Newport Harbor 1767  
Nicholas Fleming • Walnut Creek 1811  
Tom McAllister • Walnut Creek 1811  
John Story • Walnut Creek 1811  
Cynthia Todd • Walnut Creek 1811

Mike & Tina Lee • El Cajon 1812  
Robert W. Griffith • Garden Grove 1952  
Patrick Tone • Huntington Beach 1959  
Ross Graves • Redwood City 1991  
Bob Harraka • Fullerton 1993  
Derrol Hammer • Tracy 2031  
Stan Morri • Tracy 2031  
Joan Anderson (3) • Corona 2045  
Peggy Leonard • Corona 2045  
Annette Luckow • San Clemente 2068

Grant Easton (2) • Carmichael 2103  
William G. Williford • Carmichael 2103  
Ian Lanouette • Fremont 2121  
Lori Prince Clark • Encinitas 2243  
Elli Platz • Roseville 2248  
Charlie Fleskes • Santa Clara 2347  
Charles Roady • Oceano-Five Cities 2504  
Bob Ring • Elk Grove 2577  
Lance Erickson (2) • Atascadero 2733

## CHEMPI Latest Century Club Donors (\$100) • (December 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017)

William Tennis Out of State Donor  
Hilary Magan 3  
Marci Norkin-Schoepel 322  
Chico Elks Bridge Club 423  
Chico Elks Craft Ladies (2) 423  
Conrad Grinkiewicz 423  
Terry Horne (2) 423  
Gil Houston 423  
William Price 423  
Ed Aasted (2) 613  
Sally Reagan 613  
Emmy Lou Armstrong 616  
Richard Dangler (5) 616  
Liane Davidson 616  
Elks 616 Hula Share (2) 616  
Elks 616 Saturday Yoga (2) 616  
Frank Farm, Jr. 616  
Stanley Lum (5) 616  
Laura Lundy (5) 616  
Gladys Oshiro 616  
Michael Pesek 616  
Bert Takushi 616  
Roy Tanabe 616  
Kathrine Wada 616  
Norman Wood 616  
Mary Zwiep 616  
James R. Evans, M.D. (5) 672  
Kate Flannery (5) 672  
Neil Yeager 672  
Marlem & Helen Mason 794  
Mary Rudd 824  
Bonnie Baldwin 906  
Don Checchi 906  
Dee Derrett 906  
Sheryl Fink 906  
Delores Gonzalez 906  
Mark Hasson (3) 906  
Betty Ho 906  
Carolyn Horton (2) 906  
Shari Larkin (3) 906  
Barbara Lewis 906  
Mike Mansoor 906  
Abrey Myers (2) 906  
Audrey O'Donnell 906  
Margy Pickett 906  
Rosie Rangel (2) 906  
Jane Roszchart (2) 906  
Tom Roszchart 906  
Santa Monica Elks PER Association 906

Irma Santiago 906  
Steve Schechter 906  
Les Villados (2) 906  
Alan White (2) 906  
James Hill (2) 966  
Lynn Glick (2) 1015  
Lee Watson (6) 1015  
Ronald Zampa (2) 1015  
Steven Flader 1073  
Jerry Sanchez 1073  
North Bay Lighting & Elect. Supply 1108  
Martin Lanfranco 1112  
Lawrence Bowers 1240  
John Carlisle 1240  
Ken Henn 1240  
Butch Hinson 1240  
John Lennon 1240  
Rich Lewis 1240  
Fred Casey 1250  
Andrew Christ 1250  
James Owens (2) 1251  
Susan Relva 1251  
Dave Noland 1259  
Glendale Elks Lodge 1289  
Rick Barnes (2) 1289  
Greg Brittner (5) 1289  
Doug Burgener (2) 1289  
Walter Colburn 1289  
Paul Coulter 1289  
Charles Follett (5) 1289  
Sterrett Harper 1289  
David Kakita 1289  
Karl La Masa, Jr. 1289  
Robert Lee (4) 1289  
Thoralf Sandaker (3) 1289  
John Saunders 1289  
John Shelton 1289  
Thomas Veatch 1289  
Sylvia Elerick (2) 1328  
Al Fredrickson 1328  
Mary Garcia 1328  
Fred Mascorro 1328  
Rita Rodriguez 1328  
Tricia Vargas 1328  
Jim Farrand (2) 1419  
Sean Hurley 1419  
Butch Johnson 1419  
Donald Logan 1419  
David Olson (2) 1419

Bruce McPhetridge 1420  
Shelley McPhetridge 1420  
Redgie Fleeman 1430  
Robert Haynes 1430  
Cindy Luff 1430  
Leo Soto 1430  
Lily Klauer 1436  
Glen Koehl 1436  
Ed Pratt 1436  
Diana Smith (2) 1436  
Walter Thomas (3) 1436  
George Tombe III (5) 1436  
John Lowmyer (2) 1471  
Virginia Proceviat (7) 1471  
Robert Wardell (2) 1471  
William Brogan 1475  
Craig Coleman 1475  
Cynthia Corrales 1475  
Jose Diaz 1475  
Sue Edwards 1475  
Dale Fairchild 1475  
Matthew Ferrero 1475  
Wayne Fish 1475  
James McAnena 1475  
Orange Roamin' Elks 1475  
Gary & Joan Panther 1475  
Danny & Linda Salas 1475  
Dean "Dino" Smith 1475  
David & Gail Tarquin 1475  
Al Walraven 1475  
Michael Williams 1475  
Jon Eaton 1539  
Barbara Herczak 1539  
George Herczak 1539  
Ash Joshi 1539  
Gary Rowe 1539  
Larry Brager 1567  
Kirk Wallace 1587  
Ronald Hinman (3) 1643  
Kathy Connor 1740  
Charles Adkins 1767  
Karen Allison 1767  
David Armstrong 1767  
Monte Beard 1767  
James Bennett (3) 1767  
Rick Blake (3) 1767  
Patricia Conroy (2) 1767  
Timothy Covert (3) 1767  
Sharron Dearborn (4) 1767

Robin Kelley (2) 1767  
Tony Messina (3) 1767  
Jeffrey Ruzicka (2) 1767  
George Shaffer (2) 1767  
Les Shelly (2) 1767  
Diane Tagami 1767  
Ivar Vasco (3) 1767  
Jay Zaidenberg 1767  
George Waters 1786  
Black Bear Diner (2) 1811  
Tom McAllister (5) 1811  
John Story 1811  
Walter Vogan 1811  
Diane Wrobel (2) 1811  
David Orland (5) 1900  
Benjamin Verde 1905  
Gary Winters 1905  
Mitchell Chang (4) 1919  
Janie Duarte 1919  
Theodore Yamada 1919  
David Bates 1952  
Robert "Bob" Burks 1952  
David Coombs 1952  
Winnie Coombs 1952  
James Faulkner 1952  
Donald Gurney (5) 1952  
Skip Racke 1952  
Carol Snyder 1952  
Robert Underwood 1952  
Robert White 1952  
Bob Beatty 1959  
Manny Gomez 1959  
Fran Green 1959  
Joan Mitchell (2) 1959  
Bob Scopel 1959  
SOB Motorcycle Club 1959  
Glenn Tarvis 1959  
Patrick Tone (7) 1959  
James Isham 2026  
Vikki Isham 2026  
Steve Lobdell 2026  
Gerald Butchko 2031  
Ray Din 2031  
Derrol Hammer (5) 2031  
Stan Morri (5) 2031  
Marlene Reeves (2) 2031  
Ira Windham (2) 2031  
Patrick Akes (2) 2045  
Joan Anderson 2045



## CHEMPI Latest Century Club Donors (\$100) • (December 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017)

Lory Calsing (2)	2045	David Bell, Jr.	2230	Wayne Figueredo	2389	Richard Barcellos	2510
Robert Calsing	2045	George Carvalho	2230	Larry Larson	2389	Blanche Jorge	2510
Ed Garland (2)	2045	Jerry Gompers	2230	Lorene Munoz (4)	2389	Herman DeJong	2591
Debbie Just (2)	2045	Richard Hurd	2230	Samuel Taylor	2389	Paul Henkels	2591
Diane Keller	2045	Homer Lackey	2230	Bobby Yoast (2)	2389	Joseph Penwell	2591
Frank Keller	2045	Raymond Monmaney	2230	Tom Ziech	2389	James J. Williams, Jr.	2599
Peggy Leonard	2045	Katie Mortensen	2230	Karl Beierschmitt	2444	Pat Glodowski (2)	2638
Bruce McLain (2)	2045	Wade Richardson	2230	Stephanie Bongartz	2444	Ignacio Lavalle	2638
Anita McMillan (2)	2045	Carl Romero	2230	Jennie Buford	2444	Dave Navarro	2638
Curt McMillan	2045	Rune Anderson	2243	Jamie Camunas	2444	Doris Rowe	2638
William Shaw	2045	Jon Donahue	2243	Mrs. Hugh Curran	2444	Roberta Stokes	2638
Constance Stevens (4)	2045	Fred MacKenzie (2)	2243	John Gordon (2)	2444	Eric Johnson	2639
Mike Stevens (3)	2045	Larry Marquand	2243	David Hart	2444	Bert Agustinovich	2704
Jesse Vargas	2045	Lolita Noga (4)	2243	Stephanie Hoon	2444	Debbe Blake	2704
Katie Miller	2050	Jane Wagner	2243	Kathleen Krieger	2444	Bradley "Herb" Cline	2704
Tim Mahoney	2103	Michael Dreiling	2248	Michael Long	2444	David Eby	2704
Grant McEldowney (2)	2103	Robert Hartley	2248	Victoria Long	2444	Walt Newmann (2)	2704
Richard Ransom	2103	William "Bud" Herring	2248	Jay Mills	2444	Arlas "Artie" Parker	2704
Jerry Devries	2121	Cindy McKim	2248	Susan Murray	2444	David Pyle	2704
Milton Nolan	2121	Kris McKim	2248	Gail White	2444	Louis Riccardi	2704
Al & Debbie Rizotto	2121	Elli Platz (2)	2248	Herb Jellander	2477	Warnie "Ed" Roark	2704
David Shideler	2121	Lanelle Rogers	2248	John Balster	2504	Rodney Shafer	2704
Peter Marshall	2190	Michaelle Bagneski (2)	2274	Dale Gregory	2504	Susie Shappell	2704
Eckwood Solomon III (5)	2190	Ardie Bates (5)	2389	Donald Reese	2504	Diane Snow	2704
Nancy Andress (2)	2230	Veronica Figueredo	2389	Charles "Chuck" Roady	2504		

## California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Recurring Donors

David Podger	3	Dave Wells	1240	Michael Silva	1811	Martin Barros	2011
Josh Hachadourian	3	Frank Gutierrez	1250	Kevin Wrobel	1811	Janet L. Byrd	2011
Marilyn Hooton	6	Robert Ostini	1251	Patricia I. Hamilton	1812	Phillip W. Byrd	2011
Judi Traci	6	Mark Porter	1251	Ron Harden	1812	Sharon Cannon	2011
Max Burnett	168	Jan Lee	1298	Susan Jimenez	1812	Francis J. Glenski	2011
L. Butch DePaul	168	Melanie McKimmons	1298	Stacy Mackey	1812	Roy Jenness	2011
Lynn DePaul	168	James Ferris	1378	Donald Sauter	1812	Ashley Munoz	2011
Donal Frigerio	168	Jackie Orovecz	1427	Richard Yeager	1812	Christine Nelson	2011
Florence "Flo" Gandolfi	168	Shelly Gonzales	1443	Donald D. Schultz	1877	David Plotke	2011
Kathleen Kutler	168	Robert Bagwell	1474	C. Michael Melton	1917	John Hardman	2031
Karen Lakey	168	Richard D. Enea	1474	Jose Justiniano	1948	David Dickey	2046
Gary Marinelli	168	Dennis Linsley	1474	James G. Anderson	1952	William G. Williford	2103
Mary Ann Marinelli	168	Kathleen Linsley	1474	Randall N. Eldridge	1952	Janice L. Brown	2117
Margaret "Peg" McDonald	168	R.C. "Stoney" Bourke	1475	Emily L. Hsu	1952	Ian Lanouette	2121
Glenn Montague	168	Matthew Ferrero	1475	Donald Larry Hudson	1952	Don Luepnitz	2142
Chuck Nolan	168	Sean Gambil	1475	Karen Lewin	1952	J. Martin Borden	2230
Matthew Pires	168	Aranda Jung	1475	Jose A. Lopez	1952	Steven Dale	2248
Frank Chicago	218	James Jung	1475	William "Bill" O'Hearn	1952	Leroy Bostick	2358
Nadine Steel	218	Colin Smith	1475	Lance Slimmer	1952	Ted Olsen	2379
Deborah Ross-Moonelo	522	Greg Peale	1497	Thomas E. Lemm	1959	Terry Gicking	2477
Sally Reagan	613	Karen Feldpouch	1538	Richard Tanguy	1959	Greg Metzgas	2477
Aron Anderson	672	Warren H. Downs	1561	Carol Beckwith	1968	Beverly Burns	2484
Jerome Paul	672	Carole D. May	1561	Henry "Hank" DiTomaso	1968	Robert "Bob" Burns	2484
Charles Rowe	672	Sylvia Spiva-Schramm	1561	Kathleen Harrod	1968	Larry L. Fink	2543
Lisa Fleury	759	Linda Tucker	1636	Jim Byerrum	1993	Marilyn J. Fink	2543
Steve Belcher	824	Marsha J. Franklin	1687	Dan Casey	1993	David W. Mullett	2543
Robert Nichol	836	John E. Harry	1687	Judy Givens	1993	Janet Rasmussen	2543
Jerry Hansen	901	Steven Wagstaff	1687	Richard Green	1993	Michael T. Roberson	2543
Donald Checchi	906	Richard Blake	1767	Alan Kelley	1993	James Williams	2599
Frank Frazier	906	Ray Prettyman	1767	Michael Mathers	1993	Bridget Smith	2616
Robert A. Picket	906	Kaye Brandos	1804	Diana Mondragon	1993	John R. Smith	2616
Margaret Pickett	906	Carl Becker	1811	Trudy Nuzum	1993	Tom Warren	2639
John Eitel	1108	Nicholas Fleming	1811	Robert Hollis-Brau	1996	Dave Hosted	2698
Robyn Sembenini	1108	Gerry Gouveia	1811	Willie S. Koskela	1996	Debbie Hosted	2698
Joe Tato	1108	Chuck Jackson	1811	Ben Ortega	1996	Lance Erickson	2733
Dr. Donald Gumm	1240	Edward C. Johnson	1811	Laurie Ayala	2011		



Monterey Lodge 1285 proving that ELKS CARE, ELKS SHARE, presented a check for \$3000 in early December to the Salvation Army Monterey Peninsula Corps, during the 30th annual Share Your Holiday event sponsored by KSBW-TV, serving Monterey, Salinas and Santa Cruz, CA. In total, KSBW raised \$177,457 raised for Central Coast residents in need. President & General Manager, Joseph W. Heston. "Today's results are truly gratifying. We are all humbled by the generosity of the Elks and all of our viewers."

L-to-R on-air are KSBW Sports Director Dreu Blackwell, Elks' Past Exalted Ruler Leslie Field, and long-tme Monterey Elks volunteer, Jackie Phillips.





**Huntington Beach Lodge 1959** awarded the local fifth grade children of Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley school districts, in late October, Red Ribbons with the pledge that the children take saying no to drugs, and to encourage their friends to "Say No to Drugs" and also to provide support to others who use drugs and to become educated on the dangers of drugs and provide this information to their community.

Pictured from Oak View school, from L-R HB Elks PER Greg Neneman, Oak View Principal, Rosa Mendieta, Oak View students, HBPD Police Officer Juan Munoz.

In other news, the Lodge held it's Christmas Basket program for the 40th year, chaired by Ron Courreges and once again surpassed previous efforts and extended its giving to many families in the area. This year the Lodge provided 100 baskets to local families in need as well as active service Veterans from the Los Alamitos Joint Services Station. Two local high schools, Huntington Beach and Edison were given \$5000.00 in Gift Cards to Target and Smart & Final. An additional \$750.00 in Smart & Final Gift Cards were given to Huntington Beach High to help replenish their Student Store, this great service provides students and families in need with additional food services.

Each Christmas Basket was filled with approximately \$100.00 in a variety of food and a Gift Card for a turkey and in many cases unwrapped toys.

Additionally, \$1000 in Gift Cards from Smart & Final and two trucks full of food were provided to the Huntington Beach Youth Shelter.

Year after year, Ron and his team embody the very best of the spirit of Elkdom, sharing Brotherly Love and Charity throughout a very grateful community. The lodge members and many guests from the community came out in force to make sure that this fine service continues to serve as many as possible.

**Oceano-Five Cities Lodge 2504** Operation Mobility Freedom is a major fundraiser to purchase an all-terrain tracked chair for a severely disabled veteran to enhance their life. The Mobility Chair is a very capable machine that gives the veteran a sense of stability and provides them the confidence when exploring the outdoors. The Veterans Committee is proud to be part of this Lodge, and wants to thank everyone who has supported them. The \$14,000 purchase price was raised very quickly.

**Petaluma Lodge 901** hosted "Holiday Fest" Concert of the Schools. Music was provided by Petaluma High School Jazz ensemble, Petaluma Junior High Choir and the Petaluma High School Choir. Over 200 Elks and members of the community attended the event. Next year's event plans to have more schools from throughout the city perform. The Elks working in conjunction with "Keeping Music in the Schools" a local non profit worked to raise money to keep music programs funded in the Petaluma City School system. This year, "Keeping Music in the Schools" raised \$60,000 to distribute between the different Petaluma Schools.



**Garden Grove Lodge 1952**, Walter Mahler, 99 years young and a Veteran, received a handmade quilt from Barbara Winkler. Barbara is the SoCal Coordinator for Quilting Honor and Comfort to those Touched by War. She was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award on Saturday, January 20, 2017. This presentation is the 10th of the year. Over all this group has had in excess of 600 hundred blankets awarded to Veterans so far.

**Fullerton Lodge 1993**, recognized and honored a local family that had recently adopted five special needs children, some with significant disabilities, from Ukraine. The family was given a gift card for \$1,050 to purchase bunk beds and mattresses. The family was also presented with the Lodge Special Child pin, commemorative plaques, flowers and other gifts.

The Lodge also hosted a "Special Child" Christmas Party for challenged children in December. About a dozen special needs children, and their siblings, received gifts from Santa, all donated by Lodge members, who just happened to stop into the Lodge while trying out his new sleigh. Mrs. Claus read stories to all the children. Over 150 people took part in the party which included lunch, singing, face-painting, a photo booth, as well as taking photos with Santa and Mrs Claus.

**Yucaipa Lodge 2389**, with assistance from Boy Scout Troop 4 and the Yucaipa Outreach Project, made Christmas more joyful for five Yucaipa families. With the Lodge being awarded a Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation, more than 20 members from the Elks Lodge purchased food baskets and Christmas presents for five families selected by the Yucaipa Outreach Project.





**Redondo Beach Lodge 1378** has been proud to host one of the largest United States Army Recruiting Battalions in the nation. Throughout the 2016-2017 fraternal year, this Lodge has donated their facility to the Los Angeles 'Rough Riders' Battalion for their special events.

During the year, over one thousand service men, women and dignitaries have dined in the Redondo Beach Park Ocean View Dining Room. It all began July 13, 2016, when after the Change Of Command Ceremony in Veteran's Park, approximately 250 servicemen and dignitaries had lunch and played ping pong inside the Lodge.

Exalted Ruler John R. Aube' was asked to appear at a July 29th U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Los Angeles Community Outreach meeting. After a short speech, the Exalted Ruler was presented with a plaque of appreciation.

The charitable outreach has continued with the U.S. Army since, which have held three more events at the Lodge. Exalted Ruler said, "It was one of my proudest accomplishments in my year." "These are the brave men and women that keep us safe in the preservation of our great nation. The relationship between the U.S. Army Los Angeles Recruiting Battalion and the Redondo Beach Elks will continue for years to come".



**West Covina Lodge 1996** had a Purple Pig Charity Fundraiser in August. It was chaired by Dana Williams, PER and Robert Leon with assistance of many members. Robert Leon fund raised with Purple Pig cutouts. He challenged many members to purchase Purple Pig cutouts in various monetary donations some reaching a generous \$100, and strung them throughout the lodge. It was a successful night reaching a thermometer goal of \$2500 for the Purple Pig Project.



**San Gabriel Valley District** hosted the Elks District Hoop Shoot on January 21st at the City of Azusa Memorial Park. Six participants from four lodges advanced to the Southern California Elks Hoop Shoot, to be held February 4 in Torrance. The four winning lodges were Alhambra-San Gabriel Lodge 1328, Duarte Lodge 1427, Pasadena Lodge 672, and West Covina Lodge 1996. All participants and their families were treated to lunch. Pictured with the winners are Chuck Rowe, Alex Kokshanian, Craig Walker, Julie Garcia-Walker, Hoop Shoot Chairman, John McEntire, Nancy Kane, and Vince Fazio.



**Orange Lodge 1475**, Michael O'Donoghue, an Orange Elks member and past Scout Master for the Orange Elks Lodge Boy Scout Troop 1475, presided over the Court of Honor for Daniel Joseph Miller. Daniel is the twelfth Eagle Scout from our troop since 2006 and there have been four sets of brothers awarded this high honor.

The Eagle Scout Court of Honor is the highest honor the Boy Scouts of America offers. Daniel received many congratulation letters from people all over the United States, a U S flag flown over the capital and a certificate from the Orange Lodge and the Grand Lodge.

In other news, the Orange Lodge served turkey dinners for the homeless. On Monday of Christmas week, members of the Orange Elks show up at Mary's Kitchen to prepare turkey dinners with all the "fixins" for the homeless people and those in need. This was the twelfth year doing this and nine members showed up at 6:30 am to cook the sixteen turkeys while eight of our members prepared the rest of the dinner inside. The dinners with all the trimmings fed over 150 people.

Additionally the Lodge distributed Christmas Baskets, over \$9,000 worth of gift certificates and twenty-seven bicycles to local area residents.



## 18 The California-Hawaii Elk



**Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley Lodge 2444**, for the third year in a row, were invited to the Orange County Rescue Mission's House of Hope for single mothers with children. This year the lives of 39 mothers and their children were again brightened as the Elks aided in their tree decorating ceremony and brought gifts and cheer to this wonderful group of people. Past Exalted Ruler Derek Randles and House Committee Chairperson, Stephanie Bongartz, created this event at the House of Hope three years ago in conjunction with Elks National Foundation (ENF) which sponsored the event with a Gratitude Grant. The House of Hope has 15 rooms with 45 beds, providing mothers with children the ability to re-enter the work force transitioning them from being recently homeless to a stable housing environment. Randles said of the event, "The Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley Elks have a strong bond with all the residences within the Orange County Rescue Mission group and we are honored to be able to help."

Leading Knight Mike Long and member Donna Pettipas watched intently as kids climbed the ladders to the TOP of the 17 foot Christmas tree – each trying to outdo the others. Then Santa and Mrs. Claus (Elks member Pam Mackey and husband Ed) made their appearance. Every family had a chance to sit with Santa while Elves assured that every child received a special gift from the jolly man. Family gift pictures were taken by Lodge photographer Loyal Knight Mike Klinger, and Dennis Lumley and quickly printed and distributed by Past Exalted Ruler Pat Martino and member Jim Wessling.

Pictured above is Leading Knight Mike Long steadying the ladder as Children decorate the tree and Santa arrives.



**Van Nuys/Reseda Lodge 2790** Radio Players put on a special presentation of "A Christmas Carol" in December for over 80 guests to raise more than \$600 for our Christmas Baskets.



**Kern River Valley 2358** held a fund raiser for the Major Project in January. The Lodge had a dinner and Action Auction to raise money for CHEA Major Project. Over all the dinner and auction raised in excess of \$3,500.00. Homemade cakes were some of the items auctioned off for dessert.

Shown above is a cake made by Lady of the Elks member Lindsey Russell.

In other news, using an ENF Beacon and Gratitude Grant, the Lodge delivered food, clothing and toys to 73 families during the Christmas Holidays. The Christmas Basket program is an annual event for the Lodge, the Beacon Grant allowed us to target 25 families who survived the devastating Erskine Fire.

Also the Lodge held a Children's Christmas Party for approximately 130 youngsters who got to sit on Santa's lap and were given a toy and a snack "goodie" box.



**San Bernardino Lodge 836** Exalted Ruler Kathy Callihan and co-chairmen John Branton and Ed Callihan presented a check for \$11,200.00 to the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital for their annual "Make-a-Difference" Project. Accepting the check was LUCH Specialty Team Center for Pediatric Diabetes, Head Nurse Jacki Blake, who indicated that the funds would be used to send their patients to a special camp for children with diabetes.



**West Covina Lodge 1996** during each Christmas holiday season adopts a local Wounded Military Family. This year was no different. Under our ER Mario Arellano, Elk members Steve and Susie Martin led the Lodge in gathering generous donations to bring holiday cheer to two well deserving families.

This year, the families chosen were both Marines who were Purple Heart recipients.

First, Gunnery Sgt. Rodriguez and his wife have two daughters, a 5-year-old and a one year old. Gunnery Sgt. Rodriguez was wounded in Afghanistan years ago and is still struggling with medical complications from the shrapnel metal that damaged his leg. A very proud Marine that feels he is letting down the Corps by not being with his company. We provided the family a new car seat for the baby, a bike, and a scooter for their oldest daughter. We provided both girls with new jackets, clothing and some toys. We also gave the family a new television and gift cards to help with their financial needs.

The Lodge also assisted Lance Cpl. Danielle Pothoof. She recently had part of her leg amputated after years of complications. Her original injury was in 2011. She has a 4-year-old son that wanted Santa to bring him a trampoline for Christmas. We had the trampoline shipped to their house along with some other toys. We gave her a gift card to an electronic store so she could purchase an updated computer.

The Lodge feels fortunate to be able to help these fine young men and women who have given so much for their country.

**Arcadia Lodge 2025**, hosted a Prime Rib Dinner for 40 Veterans from Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Hospital, 60 plus Lodge members and guests. In addition to the dinner, the Veterans were treated to a night of musical entertainment, goodie bags of cookies and other favors. The Arcadia Fire Department brought along their Hook-and-Ladder Rig to welcome the Veterans to the festivities.

In other news, Lodge Members prepared and served breakfast to the Eagle Boy Scouts and Gold Star Girl Scouts that would carry banners indicating the Award Winning floats in the Annual Rose Parade on January 2, 2017. About 80 Scouts, Scout Leaders and Rose Parade Officials attended this annual breakfast event. In addition, the Lodge presented \$300 to each of the Boy and Girl Scout Troop.



**Westchester Lodge 2050** volunteers joined the wreath laying ceremony for National Wreaths Across America Day at the Los Angeles National Ceremony on Saturday, December 17, 2016. Wreaths Across America, a non-profit organization formed in 2007 as an extension of The Arlington Wreath Project, has over 1,100 participating locations in all 50 states, and 24 National Veteran Cemeteries on foreign soil. The mission is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom. The event is held simultaneously across America with a short ceremony followed by volunteers placing wreaths at the sites of our fallen soldiers. The Lodge donated 50 wreaths to the cause.

Also in December we adopted three local, needy families for the holidays. Members bought food and gifts and the Lodge donated a cash gift card to each family that was purchased with a Gratitude Grant.

Finally, each year our community newspaper, The Argonaut, compiles a list of our local favorites and publishes them in their 2016 Best of the Westside Edition. Our lodge has been voted **2016 Best Community Social Club**. What an honor it is for The Good Time Westchester Lodge!



**Victorville Lodge 1877** participated in the City of Victorville Christmas Parade on December 3rd. Members decorated the cars and float with the motto Elks Care, Elks Share to illustrate our giving back to our community.

Pictured above on the fire truck is Exalted Ruler, Ralph Wareing along with some of his grandchildren.

In other news, Santa was present at the Lodge Children's Christmas Party to present gifts to all children in attendance.





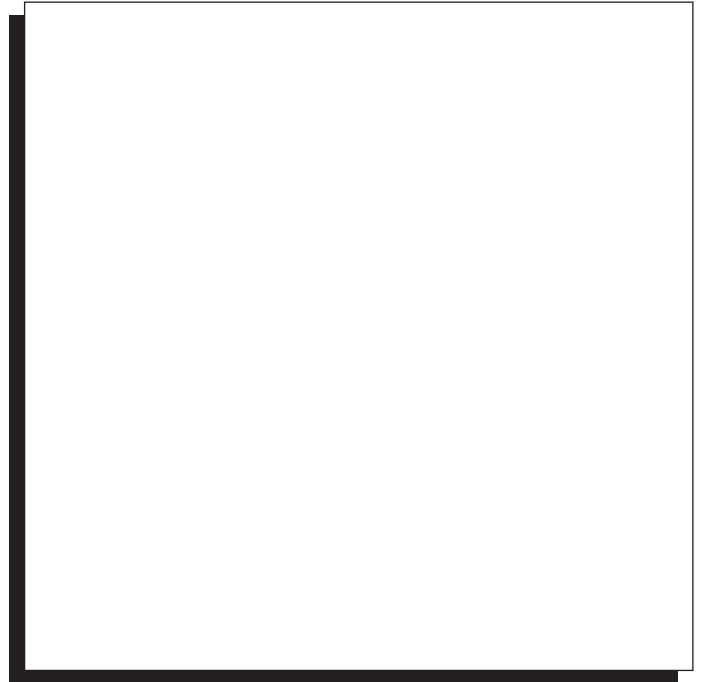
**Santa Clarita Lodge 2379** held its Annual Children's Christmas Party on December 11th culminating with the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Claus. There were nearly 150 members, guests and children in attendance. Every child in attendance received a gift from Santa and each child also had the opportunity to sit with both Santa (Harry Pennington, PER) and Mrs. Claus (California, Nevada, Hawaii State Association of Emblem Clubs Past State President, Simone Swanson) who sat in front of a giant red sleigh filled with gifts. Chairman Ray Paladini and wife Stella along with their children, grandchildren and many lodge members, also welcomed 40 developmentally disabled adults from nearby L.A.R.C Ranch. After nearly two hours of greeting the attendees, Mr. and Mrs. Claus departed to many smiles, cheers, and waves and headed back up North!

In other news, the Lodge held an "All You Can Eat" Rib Fest Lodge Fund Raiser in late January. Starting with over 300 pounds of pork ribs, about 120 Lodge members and friends were treated to an evening of very good food and dancing to the Keyboard Kowboy. In all more than \$2,400 was raised for the Lodge.



**Salinas Lodge 614** proudly sponsored a photographic display "Remembering our Fallen," California members of the Military that have lost their lives since United States was attacked on September 11, 2001.

The memorial was created to remember our fallen in the war on terror. The display helps us remember their names, families and the price they paid for us to live in freedom! For more information on the display or to arrange to host the display, please contact them on the internet at [rememberingourfallen.org/california](http://rememberingourfallen.org/california)



**Newport Harbor Lodge 1767** in late November, held its annual "Spirit of America" event honoring military men and women along with their families. The families were treated to a BBQ and buffet served by Lodge volunteers. Additionally, there was a huge inflatable slide, a variety of games and a very popular craft tent for the children. Harbor boat rides were available for everyone. In all, it was a busy, feel-good day for the military families and volunteers.



In other news, the Newport Harbor Elks hosted the Elks Hoop Shoot Contest. Held at the Ensign High School Gym in Costa Mesa, the kids were excited and especially liked the colorful basketballs. This was Jeff Rizocla's first time chairing the contest as he and his Elk volunteers enjoyed working with the children at the Hoop Shoot event. Pictured above are this year's winners.