

Will

2025 Theme Child
Story on Page 6

CHEA CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025-2026 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN DIRECTORY

The Directory will be available FREE on the website, after May 19, 2025, and all Lodges will receive a letter soon with the website location and password. You may pick up a hard copy of the Directory in the Anaheim Marriott, Marquis Ballroom, Northwest, for only \$5.00 by 1:00 p.m. on Friday in the Association Office. After the Convention the cost for the Directory will be \$8.00.

EXALTED RULERS

Turn in your Lodge ERM check, Piggy Bank Donations, BEFORE Saturday of Convention. Please don't wait until Friday to turn in your hospitality suite money. All money must be turned in by 1:00 p.m. on Friday to the Association Office. **All checks must be made out to CHEMPI.**

CHEA OFFICE HOURS: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7th
7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 8th
7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9th

PIGGY BANK DONATIONS

Please REMEMBER that all donations turned in on Saturday, May 10th at the Exalted Rulers March will be entered into the 2025-2026 Piggy Bank Year.

THEME CHILD PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

The 2025 Theme Child "Will" will be at the Annual Association Convention at the CHEMPI booth located in the Anaheim Marriott, Marquis Ballroom, Northeast, so that you may take photos on:

Friday, May 9th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. then from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Saturday, May 10th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. then from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

WOULD YOUR DISTRICT OR LODGE BE INTERESTED IN HOSTING AN ASSOCIATION CONVENTION?

Association Conventions are only booked into 2028! If your District or Lodge would be interested, please contact the Chairman of the Meetings Committee, Art Echternacht, saddger02@att.net.

Please review the Requirements for Hosting a Convention on the CHEA Web Site - www.chea-elks.org, on the banner click on Meetings, on the drop down menu click on Association Convention and then in the upper left corner click on Requirements to Host a Convention.

Santa Maria Lodge 1538 had one of the BBQ teams help feed over 2,000 First Responders, including inmates from the California Mens Colony, who were working on the lines fighting the recent Los Angeles Fires.

Garden Grove Lodge 1952 partnered with **Santa Ana Lodge 794** to participate in the Elks third year with Orange County Grip Youth Enrichment Soccer Program, in which we provide lunch for approximately one-hundred thirty students and thirty staff. The OC Grip Program (Orange County Gang Reduction and Intervention Program) was developed to prevent targeted at-risk minors from joining criminal street gangs and to enable them to graduate from high school free from destructive criminal behavior. OC Grip is a collaborative effort with the goal to prevent minors from joining criminal street gangs. The OC Grip program operates in over sixty schools within Orange County.

Honolulu Lodge 616, presented a check of \$15,000 to Hui Huliau Hou to support their Certified Technology Technician program. A program which is career focused computer training for high school seniors in the Waianae area.

Redondo Beach Lodge 1378 used its Gratitude Grant to donate to two \$1,000 checks to each Project Needs Food and Shared Bread Food Pantry.

Riverside Lodge 643 Charity Golf Tournament had the community come together to support local Veteran Charities. A special thank you to the Golf Club Committee, along with all sponsors, volunteers, and participants who made this year's tournament a success.

Gilroy Lodge 1567 hosted three fifth grade students from Rucker Elementary School and one sixth grade student who attends Solarsano Middle School along with their families and their teachers at the Lodge for the Americanism Essay Contest Family Night Award Dinner. The students were invited to the podium, to read the essay they wrote based on this year's Americanism Essay theme of "What does Patriotism Mean to Me?" to over sixty guests at the Lodge social night. All essay writers received a Certificate of Participation for their essay in the contest. The teachers were also presented with a soccer ball for their class by Angela Moore, Exalted Ruler.

FIRST TIME IN SANTA MARIA

PRORODEO

SANTA MARIA ELKS RODEO XTREME

BULLS

Wednesday, May 28th Only!

5 FULL DAYS OF RODEO ACTION

Be a part of Santa Maria Style Excitement!

Fans experience PRCA Bull Riding, Tie-Down Roping, Steer Wrestling, Saddle Bronc Riding, Team Roping, and Bareback Riding; WPRA events include Barrel Racing and Breakaway Roping. Community events including Jr. Breakaway Roping, Elks Team Roping, and Mutton Bustin' add to the FUN!

JOIN US!

MAY 29 JUNE 1

For Information or Tickets: elksrec.com

President's Message



Marty Mello, President
California-Hawaii Elks Association



Greetings and Aloha!

As I look back on the last twelve months I keep thinking "if only every member could see through my eyes what I have witnessed". The Elks are an amazing organization and everyone of you should be very proud of what we do. First Lady Debra and I, have visited all nineteen districts and have seen the great work all of our Lodges are doing in their communities. From the small Lodges with very big hearts to the large Lodges operating like the businesses they are, but all serve their communities proudly. The charitable work we have witnessed is amazing and all of our Lodges can learn from each other. If you see a successful function at another Lodge, don't be afraid to use the idea in your own Lodge. This is what makes our Lodges successful, sharing ideas.

I would like to thank the 2024-2025 Officers and Chairmen for their dedication this past year, and I hope each of you enjoyed it as much as I did. Congratulations to all of the incoming Officers and Chairmen for the 2025-2026 year. First Lady Debra and I wish you all the best of luck for a successful year. Please do not forget the most important ingredient for a successful year, HAVE FUN, it is contagious. As our new Officers and Chairmen take over for next year it is up to all of us to support them and our Lodges, all of us working together makes us unstoppable.

Not only did I have the honor and privilege of representing the California-Hawaii Elks Association as your President, but I also had the honor to travel with nineteen Association Vice Presidents known as the Promoters, and their spouses, significant others, and traveling companions. We traveled to Eureka in the Great Northwest across to Chico in the North, to Auburn-Grass Valley in the Northeast, to El Cajon in the South Coast, to Brawley in the South, and to every district in between and across the Pacific to Hawaii. The bond we developed is stronger than words can describe, we had fun while promoting my emphasis programs and all the charitable works we do as Elks. First Lady Debra and I are so proud of the job they have done, and we are lucky to have them as our Elk family. The memories will last us a lifetime.

Elkdom, Love It, Live It, Promote It has become a popular slogan this year as many of you have heard it several times during our visitations to your Lodges and Districts. Admit it, each of you are involved in the Elks because you love what we stand for, and you live it every time you volunteer to be an Officer, a Chairman, a volunteer or just attend a function to socialize with your friends and fellow Elks. Each of us should be promoting Elkdom so we can do more.

Increased membership equals more volunteers and the more we can provide to our communities. Ask a friend, a co-worker, a family member, or a neighbor to join our great Association. Let them know of all the great charitable works we do and the millions of dollars we raise to support these charitable programs. We started this year with almost 96,000 members in our Association and by the end of this year we should have over 100,000 members. As I write this

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5450 E. Lamona Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727

Distribution:

CHEA Lodges and all paid-up Members

For change of address, contact your Lodge Secretary.

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Tim Martin • Executive Director • The California-Hawaii Elks Association

Submission and Copy Deadlines

Due the first day of February, April, June, August and November.

Editorial Guidelines: www.chea-elks.org/chea-magazine-2/

Send articles and jpg's to: editor@cheamag.org

Publishing Editor: Ted Olsen • Santa Clarita Lodge 2379

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John Vertido	President's Achievement Award

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David Martin	West Central Coast

CHEA President Scott Stephens Upcoming Schedule

May 29 - Jun 1	Santa Maria Rodeo
June 6 - 8	Metropolitan District
	Elks Luncheon Club
Jun 29 - Jul 2	Grand Lodge • Kansas City, MO
Jul 18 - 20	Northwest District
Jul 31 - Aug 1	South Central District
Aug 15 - 17	South Coast District
Aug 29 - 31	Central District

CHEA Advisory Committee Past Presidents

Anthony J. Mauro • 1995-1996	Hollister
Timothy C. Martin • 1996-1997	Clovis
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Louis J. Grillo • 1999-2000	Stockton
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Jay Larkins • 2021-2022	Santa Clarita
Bradford "Brad" Smith • 2022-2023	Modesto
Ted Talbot • 2023-2024	Torrance
Marty Mello • 2024-2025	Woodland



San Mateo Lodge 1112, hosted a *Bridging Generations: Veterans & Students in Conversation*. This event brought together twelve veterans and over 150 juniors from Junipero Serra High School for an inspiring exchange of stories and insights that bridged generations. A teacher mentioned he had never seen kids so engaged and huddled around each table with curiosity and inquisitiveness. Many veterans shared how impactful it was to engage with such eager and respectful young minds. The students left inspired by the courage and lessons shared.



Elks National Foundation

Kealoha Jenkins, PER • Chairman

Aloha my fellow Elks -

This will be my last article as the Elks National Foundation Chairman. I love the momentum that my predecessors set to help us increase our overall donations and grow the Fidelity Club. On behalf of the CHEA ENF Chairpersons, Jere Williams and I want to express our appreciation and thanks to all of our Districts and Lodge ENF Fundraising Chairpersons for the arduous work you put in to increase the awareness of ENF in your communities!

Jere and I set a goal of staying above the \$1 million mark in total donations and to increase participation in the Community in Project Program. The total donations through March 23rd are \$1,081,874.43 with a Per Member Capita of \$11.30 - more than double the Grand Exalted Ruler's goal of \$5.00 - nicely done! The CIP final amount in grants used by the Lodges totaled 450 grants giving \$1.21 million back to our communities! That is a spectacular way to show Elks Care – Elks Share!

In May, we will all be together in Anaheim at the Association Convention where we will celebrate the impact of Elks National Foundation! On Saturday, during the Exalted Ruler Piggy Bank March, your generous donations will kick off the march with a donation of the first \$1,000,000 towards the overall goal of \$4,500,000. Be there when the band plays, and the cheering commences for every million dollars raised!

Let us congratulate some of the leading contributors from the past Elk year:

Top Three CHEA Districts based on Per Capita

- 1) South Central - \$26.66
- 2) San Gabriel - \$17.89
- 3) Orange Coast - \$16.73

Top Three Giving CHEA Districts

- 1) Orange Coast - \$204,385.22
- 2) West Central - \$108,920.35
- 3) South Central - \$73,946.00

Top Three CHEA Lodges based on Per Capita

- 1) Lakewood 1570 - \$164.05
- 2) Duarte 1427 - \$69.85
- 3) Lakeport 2704 - \$57.79

Mahalo to the following Lodges for their participation in the Community Investment Program -

Duarte Lodge 1427 - Utilized a Gratitude Grant that serves public and private schools in the San Gabriel Valley. This partnership provides literacy support to Third Grade students. The Duarte Elks Dictionary Team delivered over 3,200 dictionaries to their District.

Escondido Lodge 1687 – combined the Beacon Grant and the Gratitude Grant to partner with Promises 2 Kids in San Diego to purchase and assemble care packages for their Guardian Scholars Program. These packages were distributed to 250 needy children. These abused and neglected children were protected and cared for by the Polinsky Children's Center.

Orange Coast District – organized a Stand Down – a community-based intervention program designed to help the nation's estima-

ted 200,000 homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets. Many services were provided for these individuals: dental and vision exams, counseling, showers, haircuts, clothing, and hygiene kits. They were treated to a delicious taco meal provided by **Orange Lodge 1475** – approximately 250-300 people.

Thank you for your continued support of Elks National Foundation! I look forward to hearing from Jere Williams, all of the remarkable things Elks continue to do!

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people."

~ John Holmes



Santa Clarita Lodge 2379 used an ENF Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,500 to **Guitars 4 Vets**. A program which supplies guitars, cases, all the equipment and lessons to assist local veterans with trauma, PTSD, or any issues they may be dealing with.

In other news, the Lodge used a \$2,000 Spotlight Grant, partnered with the Santa Clarita Valley Education Foundation to support their "Pageturners", a program that offers two free books to junior high students at three Title 1 Junior High Schools. More than one hundred students from each school were selected to choose two free books to keep and take home.

El Cajon Lodge 1812 used \$6,000 from their Beacon and Spotlight Grants to aid Warrior Foundation Freedom Station. Freedom Stations provide subsidized donor funded affordable housing at one of three transitional housing complexes for ill and injured veterans exiting active duty and transitioning to civilian life. The grants purchased digital smart locks, door mats, two 55" outdoor televisions, covers for their common areas, along with other essentials to be used in baskets welcoming these veterans to their new homes.

Santa Maria Lodge 1538, Cigar and Fine Spirits Committee held a Whiskey Tasting fundraiser in March that raised \$1,000 for ENF.

Placerville Lodge 1712 used a \$2,000 Spotlight Grant to donate food to the S.H.A.R.E. (Serving Hungry Area Residents in Emergencies) Food Ministry, which provides food for local people who are in need of help. The Lodge worked with the Directors of the food pantry to provide the charity with the items they needed most, then delivered the food to their facility and assisted in stocking the shelves.

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Piggy Bank

Frank Almazan, PDDGER • Chairman

Well it's that time of year again, we are getting ready for CHEA Association Convention and the Piggy Bank March on that Saturday of the Convention. I hope we will make the \$4.5 million goal that we have been working on so hard this year.

The fundraising from the Wahoo Tacos was better than last year, raising around \$6,000 and we expect to see more for next year. We are still looking for more corporate fundraisers for the future to assist us with our fundraising goals for next year. If you have any ideas, please pass them along. Thanks!

The participation in the Leading Knight Challenge, which ended in January was robust and we made \$271,217 for the event with thirty-four Lodges participating. More about the winners at the Convention.

One last reminder for all District Piggy Bank Chairmen, don't forget your District basket for the auction on Friday. We would like to have all of the baskets by Wednesday, but if you cannot make it by then please get it there as soon as you can. The more baskets we have the more tickets we sell. Please remember that Blanche Jorge is the new Vice Chairman. Her email is: bjorge@elks-forever.com Thank you for all of your support.

Over the last several months, we have been ahead of last year's numbers by 29.869%. That is not too bad and a great job by all our Lodges, but if we are to reach our \$4.5 million goal, we have got to continue our efforts for all of March and April. Remember to have your checks mailed to Fresno, postmarked by April 25th, so that the donations can be received, deposited and logged before the CHEA Convention in May. If you miss that deadline, bring the funds with you to the CHEA Office at the Convention in Anaheim by Friday, May 9th.

When you register for the Convention, don't forget to sign up for the Purple Pig Walk-a-Thon on Friday. Mark Shauwecker has set a great route for us to follow. Very early, but fun. However, if you don't want to walk that early, sign up anyway and pay the fee. It really adds up and is a nice bonus for our goal.

That is it for now, hope to see all of you soon!



Placerville Lodge 1712 held their annual Purple Pig Races to benefit the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. The event is always an enjoyable and popular fundraiser, and the Lodge raised over \$2,700 for CHEMPI!

Santa Monica Lodge 906 organized a Mahjong Mania Fundraiser and classes to support CHEMPI. The inspiration for this initiative came from three of our members who frequently engage in playing Mahjong. The Lodge raised \$4,000 for CHEMPI by hosting Mahjong Mania game sessions and offering the first of four learning classes. We had fun, helped kids in need, and learned a new game. As we gear up for the upcoming classes and the official launch of the Elks Mahjong Club.



In April 2022, Matt and Mollie Patrich received the life-changing news that they were expecting twin boys. Filled with excitement and anticipation, they began preparing for their future as parents. However, their joy turned into uncertainty when, during a twenty-week ultrasound, doctors informed them that one of their babies had a neural tube defect. After further testing, the diagnosis was confirmed: their son had Myelomeningocele, the most severe form of Spina Bifida.

Faced with this devastating news, several doctors told Matt and Mollie that their son could potentially have a limited quality of life, recommending that they consider terminating the pregnancy. The risk of losing their other baby was also mentioned. But Matt and Mollie weren't willing to give up. After much prayer and thoughtful counsel, they made the courageous decision to move forward in faith. They didn't know what the future would hold, but they were ready to embrace whatever came their way, determined to give both of their sons the best life possible.

At thirty-five weeks, Mollie went into early labor. William "Will" and Warren were born, and both spent several days in the NICU. Will, needing surgery just hours after his birth, required additional care and spent more time recovering. Despite being paralyzed and in the midst of recovery, Will immediately showed his strong-willed nature by attempting to escape his NICU crib.

As the boys were born prematurely, they were evaluated for early intervention services through the Butte County Office of Education (BCOE). Will was referred for Physical Therapy through an outpatient clinic, but the costs quickly added up. The Patrichs' found themselves facing an out-of-pocket expense of \$1,000 for his first two visits. Knowing that Will would need ongoing therapy, Matt and Mollie realized that the cost would be unsustainable in the long term.

Fortunately, their path to support led them to the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project. Through BCOE, Matt and Mollie were connected with Lisa Milardovich, a Physical Therapist with the Elks Major Project. The program offered free, home-based therapy, which was exactly what the Patrich's needed with twin newborns at home. This free service made it possible for them to continue Will's therapy without the overwhelming financial burden, bringing hope to the family during a challenging time.

At just three months old, Will began his physical therapy journey with the Elks Major Project. During his first appointment, Lisa introduced the family to an innovative treatment option for children with Spina Bifida: non-invasive spinal electrical stimulation. This groundbreaking technique uses electrical stimulation to activate uninjured peripheral nerves, encouraging muscle activation, improving circulation, and promoting better alignment and muscle development. These factors play a crucial role in enhancing mobility and function.



After learning about the potential benefits of this treatment, Matt and Mollie were eager to give it a try. They quickly purchased a Spinal Stimulation Unit for Will, eager to give him the best opportunity for progress. As the months passed, Will began to show remarkable improvement. By nine months, he was sitting up independently. At 12

months, he started army crawling across the floor, exploring his surroundings with determination.

To further support Will's development and encourage standing, braces were introduced, helping to stabilize his body from his hips to his feet. This support system allowed Will to take his first assisted steps in a walker with Lisa's help. Over time, Will's mobility improved, and by the following year, he was walking in his walker with only minimal assistance.



Will's journey has been nothing short of inspiring. Despite the effort required to stand and walk, he is always eager to get into his braces and continue making progress. His determination and resilience shine through in every session, as he works hard to improve with each passing day.



For Will and his family, the support they've received through the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project has been invaluable. Thanks to Lisa's expertise and the home-based therapy provided by the Elks, Will's future no longer seems limited by a wheelchair. With each milestone, Will's future grows brighter, and the Patrichs are filled with gratitude for the progress their son has made so far.

The impact of the California-Hawaii Elks' free home-based Physical Therapy services cannot be overstated. For families like the Patrichs', these services offer much more than just physical care—they provide hope, encouragement, and a path forward. The support from the Elks Major Project has given Will the opportunity to achieve goals that once seemed impossible, and the family is eager to see what the future holds as they continue working with Lisa over the coming years.



The Patrich family's journey is a testament to the power of faith, resilience, and community support. Through the Elks Major Project, Will's progress has far exceeded their expectations, and they are excited to continue this journey of growth and healing. With the continued support of the California-Hawaii Elks and their dedicated therapists, Will's potential is limitless.

In a world where so many children face challenges that seem insurmountable, the work of the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project stands as a shining example of how compassion, dedication, and innovative therapies can change lives. Will's story is proof that, with the right support, children with Spina Bifida—like Will—can achieve incredible things.

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Membership Retention and Lapsation

Nicole Sato, PER • Chairman

I want to take a moment to speak directly to you, the heart of your Lodges, about something that drives the success of our organization: **active participation**. We all know that a thriving Lodge is a reflection of the efforts of its members. It's not just about maintaining a space where we gather, but about building a community where everyone feels valued, welcomed, and part of something bigger than themselves.

One of the most powerful ways we can drive membership growth and ensure the longevity of our Lodges is by engaging in **meaningful activities**. These events, whether social, charitable, or educational, are the lifeblood of our Lodges. They are the opportunities where we come together, build relationships, and invite others to join in on the mission we hold so dear. It's through these activities that we show prospective members what we're about—our commitment to service, to each other, and to the community at large. But here's the truth: no one can make this happen alone.

Every single one of us needs to chip in. **Unity is key**. When we all pull together, when we each take ownership of a project or activity, it doesn't feel like work—it feels like family.

It's important to remember that we're all volunteers. And like any volunteer experience, there will be challenges. **No one wants to work with unreasonable people**, especially when we're all giving our time and energy for a cause we care about. Let's treat each other with respect, kindness, and understanding. **A positive, collaborative environment** not only makes working together easier—it makes it enjoyable.

I encourage each of you to take the initiative and get involved. Together, we can create Lodges that are not just a place to meet, but a true family—a place where everyone is welcome, everyone has a voice, and everyone can make a difference.

As this is my last article, please know it's been an honor to have served as your CHEA Membership Chairman. I'm confident you will be in good hands with your incoming Membership Chairman, Jim Warrick. Thank you all for all you do for your Lodges and for Elkdom!



Riverside Lodge 643 used a \$4,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide essential supplies to veterans in need. The grant helped supply food, toiletries, household items, beanies, and gloves to veterans at March Village, supporting veterans transitioning out of homelessness.

In other news, the Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Spotlight Grant, to fulfill wish lists for ten veterans and their families, providing pantry staples, meats, fresh produce, and household supplies. Additionally, ENF Gratitude Grant funds helped deliver backpacks with school supplies and hygiene items to children of veterans.



BLT Legacy Giving

Robyn Sembenini • BLT Vice Chair

While there are many ways you can support the work of our CHEMPI Therapists and Vision Screeners, one of the most impactful ways to do so is by creating a Commitment Trust.

A Commitment Trust is unique. It not only benefits the Major Project, but it also provides the donor with a guaranteed income on the amount of the donation for the remainder of the donor's life, and it may also provide an immediate tax benefit. We are fortunate to be able to offer this donation option to those who can donate \$10,000 or more.

While the minimum amount needed to start a Commitment Trust is significant, so are the needs of the children served by the Major Project. Gifts such as those made through a Commitment Trust help us maintain a sound financial foundation that ensures there are adequate financial resources available to our Therapists for years to come.

To learn more about this program simply ask your Lodge BLT Legacy Giving chair for a Commitment Trust Form or visit chea-elks.org, click on the Major Project and then go to the BLT link. Once you complete the form, our CHEMPI investment partner will create a custom plan for you to review before you make your contribution. Importantly, any information you share will be discreetly handled and you can opt to keep the amount of your gift confidential.

We hope you will consider the benefits of creating a Commitment Trust and the rewards it may offer that come from not only knowing that you have helped provide long-term support to our Major Project, but in securing an additional income stream for life.



Elk Grove Lodge 2577 used an ENF Grant to help replenish the Sacramento VA Medical Center Food Pantry program. We donated a variety of non-perishable food.

Fullerton Lodge 1993 recently partnered with No Limits Learning Center in Brea. The Center is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to adults eighteen and over with developmental disabilities through delivering a broad range of specialized programs and services. These adults are volunteering at the Lodge at least twice a month, assisting with basic maintenance and cleaning chores. It is a wonderful opportunity for these young people to complete useful and meaningful tasks.

In other news, the Lodge participated in the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance Voice of Change 2025 Resource Fair at the Brookhurst Community Center in Anaheim. Students in grades 8-12 were invited to attend the event. Sponsors at the event included Cal State Fullerton, Orange Coast College, Viet Rainbow of OC, NAMI Orange County, Asian American Youth Leaders, Hope Builders, and City of Anaheim Project to name a few. The Lodge distributed materials on Drug Awareness and provided Scholarship information.



Scholarship and Vocational Grants

Rick Wallace, PDDGER • Chairman

Congratulations to all of the recently installed Lodge Officers and new members. This article focuses on the Elks' Scholarships, Grants, and Awards.

The California-Hawaii Elks Association (CHEA) offers two unique programs: Vocational Grants and Undergraduate Scholarships for Students with Disabilities. The Elks National Foundation (ENF) offers four programs: The Most Valuable Student Scholarship, the Legacy Awards, the Emergency Education Grants, and the Weigel Medical School Scholarship.

California-Hawaii Elks Association (CHEA) Grant and Scholarships: The Vocational Grant Program

Open to US Citizens of California or Hawaii primary residence, offered year-round for students of any age pursuing vocational school, job training, and professional certificates. Most commonly, it is a one-year, one-time Grant. However, in cases of two-year studies, the Grant may be renewed for a second year.

Undergraduate Scholarship for Students with Disabilities

Open to US Citizens of California or Hawaii primary residence, offered year-round for students of any age with an impairment as described on the application. This financial needs-based and academic use Scholarship is intended for undergraduate work at a licensed vocational school, an accredited community college, or a four-year college/university only.

Elk's National Foundation (ENF)

Most Valuable Student (MVS) Scholarship

Open to high school seniors or equivalent applicants and U.S. citizens planning to pursue an undergraduate degree. Applications will be accepted from August First, 2025, through the first week of November. While the ENF hosts the contest requirements, applications, and funds for national awards, every Elk's Lodge, District, and State Association participates in rounds of judging. CHEA generously funds hundreds of awards based on the CHEA MVS contest. Each Lodge should assign a Lodge Scholarship Coordinator in CLMS on or before August First. Lodges optionally sponsor awards based on the MVS contest.

Legacy Awards

Open to children or grandchildren of Elk members in good standing during the past two years. Applications will be accepted from November to the first week of February. For 2025, CHEA members were eligible for up to 23 of the 252 Legacy Awards.

Emergency Education Grant

Emergency Educational Grants are renewable, one-year Grants that provide undergraduate college financial assistance to the children of deceased or disabled Elks.

Weigel Medical School

Open to all Elks pursuing a medical degree or Osteopathic Medicine degree. This year, applications opened in January 2025 and will close on May 19, 2025.

The CHEA Vocational Grant and Disabilities Scholarship are available on the CHEA website. The ENF Scholarships, Grants, and Awards are also available on the ENF website. Please consider looking at the respective websites for brochures and posters that can be used to promote the Elks.



Public Relations

Dennis Hunter, PDDGER • Chairman

The final results have been tabulated for the remaining three Public Relations Contests: Lodge Bulletin Brochure, Community Service Image Brochure and Single Best Event brochure. All of the entries submitted were fantastic! Each Contest was based on Divisions as shown below.

Lodge Bulletin Contest:

- Division 1:** 1st) Hanford 1259 • 2nd) Santa Monica 906 • 3rd) Mojave 2059 • 4th) Ridgecrest 1913
- Division 2:** 1st) Gilroy 1567 • 2nd) Thousand Oaks 1477 • 3rd) Lancaster 1625 • 4th) Culver City 1917
- Division 3:** No Entries
- Division 4:** 1st) Monterey 1285 • 2nd) Palo Alto 1471 • 3rd) Garden Grove 1952
- Division 5:** 1st) Eureka 652 • 2nd) Mission Viejo 2444
- Division 6:** 1st) Santa Ana 794 • 2nd) Santa Maria 1538

Community Service Image Brochure:

- Division 3:** 1st) Sacramento 6
- Division 4:** 1st) Monterey 1285 • 2nd) Garden Grove 1952

Community Service Image Brochure:

- Division 3:** 1st) Sacramento 6
- Division 4:** 1st) Monterey 1285 • 2nd) Garden Grove 1952

Single Best Event Brochure:

- Division 1:** 1st) Santa Monica 906
- Division 2:** 1st) Gilroy 1567 • 2nd) Thousand Oaks 2477
- Division 3:** 1st) Sacramento 6
- Division 4:** 1st) Monterey 1285 • 2nd) Garden Grove 1952

Certificates for winning entries will be available at our CHEA Public Relations table at the Convention. I encourage each Lodge Exalted Ruler to stop by to pick up your certificate and present it proudly at your next Lodge meeting. Also, for those Lodges who submitted entries, your entry is available for pick-up at our table. Thank you all for entering and we'll have more exciting CHEA Public Relations contests this year starting with our Website and Facebook pages in September. Information is available on the CHEA website or from each District Public Relations Chairman.

See you in Anaheim!



Glendale Lodge 1289 had a great fundraiser for those who lost their homes in the Eaton Canyon Fire. A benefit concert was held at the Lodge raising \$25,000, all will go directly to the individual families once they have been vetted.



Government Relations

David Coleman, PDDGER • Chairman

Greetings and Aloha!

I would like to thank all of the Lodges for at least submitting information in CLMS for their Lodge in the charity reporting system. All 163 Lodges have now submitted some type of information into CLMS, and all that is left is to go in and once all of the information has been completed, click on the preview and submit final report buttons, and submit your reports to Grand Lodge. This is a very important step that needs to be taken to ensure that your charity numbers are reported correctly and on time. This needs to be completed ASAP, but by April 30th, 2025, at the latest.

[Preview Final Report to Grand Lodge](#)

then if complete, click on this box below:

Note: Please do not submit the button below until your data entry for 2024/2025 is accurate and complete. Once your data has been submitted, you will not be able to make further revisions.

[Submit Final Report to Grand Lodge](#)

It is also the time of year when we begin entering our information into CLMS for the current year. You can put bookmarks/placeholders into the system for recurring events that you have upcoming such as your Flag Day, Mother's Day, 4th of July. You can then go into later and fill in the information. Lodge Secretaries, again I cannot stress if you do not have the time to do these entries yourself, you can appoint a Charity Report Coordinator. The information is below on how to do that within the system. These numbers are very important to our Lodges and to our order, to help us maintain our nonprofit status. It also allows us to show our local governments and communities, see what we've done on the local, state, and national level, as far as our donations of members time, volunteer hours, and both cash and non-cash donations towards our community services and charities. Thank you again for all your hard work this year, now we just need to bring it home.

Again, as promised, I am including these simple instructions to assist with getting the reporting entered. Lodge Secretaries, you do not have to do this all by yourselves. Get help! You can assign an assistant access to help with the reporting of our charitable works to help offload the Secretaries burdens. They will only have to access to do reporting on local charitable event data, nothing else in CLMS.

Step 1 - Under Staff Tab in CLMS, Appoint Local Charitable Report Coordinator.

Step 2 - Select name of individual on drop down menu, select Appoint Local Charitable Coordinator.

Just a reminder, there is a Government Relations report that is due monthly to the District Government Relations Chairman, who will then compile and send a monthly report to myself and

my Vice-Chairman, Alyssa Santos, copying their AVP and DDGER. It is now included in the new Grand Lodge Government Relations manual if you need a copy.

Please feel free to reach out to myself or our Vice-Chairman, Alyssa Santos if you have any questions.

I look forward to seeing you at the CHEA Convention in May, in Anaheim. Alyssa will have a table set up for the Committee. If you have any questions, feel free to stop by and speak with us.

★★★★★



Lodge Activities

Rudy Guerra, PDDGER • Chairman

Aloha CHEA, congratulations to all of the Lodges who've successfully initiated your Officers for this year, I wish you all a spectacular full of fun activities year.

I am a little disappointed in our Association for not participating in the All American Lodge Contest. Much congratulations to Moreno Valley and Roseville Lodges for their participation in the All American Lodge Contest. It's possible that our Association didn't get the information from the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee, and for that I do apologize.

Last quarter we didn't do very well in submitting Lodge Activities Reports. I am not sure what happened but for whatever reason we need to do better.

On a positive note, I'm looking forward to meeting with all of you at the Association Convention in Anaheim, please don't hesitate to introduce yourself. I'd love to put a face with your name.

Keep the Lodge activity's flowing and keep reports coming!

★★★★★



Yucca Valley Lodge 2314 held its Annual Military Baby Shower. The Lodge hosted ten first time moms-to-be, from the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms to a baby shower. The parents were treated to a buffet-style lunch and cake. Several games were played, with prizes going to the mothers-to-be. Each mother-to-be went home with a Pack n Play, a Diaper Genie, a jogging stroller and car seat combo, a Boppy Pillow, diapers, wipes, baby monitor, a diaper bag backpack, baby grooming kits, bibs, baby gift sets, and a diaper cake. The parents to-be were thrilled with their gifts and know that *ELKS CARE—ELKS SHARE*. Our annual Military Baby Shower was made possible by the ENF Beacon and Spotlight Grants.



Youth/Soccer Activities

Ben Ortega, PDDGER • Chairman

Greetings and Aloha,

Congratulations to all the new Lodge Corps of Officers for 2025-2026. I look forward to seeing you all at the CHEA Annual Convention

in Anaheim from May 7 to May 10, 2025. The Youth Activities/Soccer Committee will have a table set up at the Convention, so please stop by and say hello.

As your Youth Activities/Soccer Chairman, this will be my final article, as I will transition to a different Committee. I am expressing my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Vice Chairperson Jim McCloskey, incoming Vice Chairperson, Adrienne Castaneda, and all the Youth Activity District Chairpersons for their fine work the past year. I especially want to thank President Marty Mello and First Lady Debra for their leadership this past year. It was my pleasure to serve as a Committee Chairman under his administration.

Elk's National Youth Week is May 1st – 7th, follow the link below for more information on National Youth Week and see how your Lodge can participate. By the time you receive this magazine, we may be in the midst of Elks Youth Week; however, that doesn't mean that your Lodge can't tailor the dates to accommodate your Lodge's schedule. We can all set aside one week in our Lodge schedules to honor our Youth and their accomplishments. The link below will direct you to the Youth Week Proclamation and information.

<https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/youthweekproclamation.pdf>

I am excited to announce that we have Soccer Shoot CHEA winners from Garden Grove Lodge 1952, and Elk Grove Lodge 2577. The winners were forwarded to the Grand Lodge Soccer Shoot Program and will participate in the National Virtual Competition, where their scores will be compared with those of other winners nationwide. Let's wish them luck!

I anticipate further growth in the Soccer Shoot and the Antlers programs. With our continued efforts, we will make substantial improvements by keeping these programs in the spotlight and encouraging and fostering participation. It will also allow Youth Activity Chairs to be more engaged with the Districts to provide them with guidance and resources to make them effective.

In congratulating the 2025-2026 Exalted Rulers, I also want to say that to help your Committees become successful, choose a Chairperson who is passionate about the Committee. Provide your Committees with every resource possible for them to succeed. As Exalted Ruler, you must oversee your Committees to ensure that they are making progress and, when needed, get them to connect with the Association, District, and Chairman to get them back on track. As an Exalted Ruler, have a game plan and vision to build a solid foundation for your Lodge and all your programs. God bless and wish you all the best!

Remember, we are here to Serve & Support.



Downey Lodge 2020 just reopened after more than a year of closure. On Saturday, March 15 the Lodge held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate its reopening.

The Lodge was closed due to procedural issues, the members worked extremely hard over the last year to get back where we are now. It has been a slow but steady journey in a positive direction. The Lodge is getting stronger and stronger as the year progresses. PGER Bob Duitsman made it a point to visit our Grand opening and said some very kind words during our ribbon cutting ceremony. State Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco, a former Mayor of Downey, presented the Lodge with a certificate of congratulations. She is shown above with Exalted Ruler Lou Apadaca.

Palo Alto Lodge 1471 turned its \$6,000 worth of ENF Grants into a lifeline for our community. We didn't just write checks, we delivered hope. Through the Beacon Grant, 125 backpacks and warm clothing found its way into the hands of those rebuilding their lives in hospital rehabilitation. The Lodge used the Spotlight Grant, to extended our reach to the heroes at the Defenders Lodge, a sanctuary for veterans seeking care at the Palo Alto VA. The Lodge also stocked pantry and freezers full of comforting meals, fresh linens on every bed, and a laundry room ready to serve. Over 300 veterans experienced the tangible support of our Lodge.

Orange Lodge 1475 created Flags over Orange, to provide a flag for a Military, Police, Fire, Veteran, Senior, or Disabled person that would love to fly a flag, but needed help mounting the flag. The Orange Elks will install a flag kit that consists of flag, pole, and solar light to keep the flag properly displayed and illuminated overnight. The Lodge committee paid a visit to Charles "Larry" Stapleton, affectionately known as Snoopy. He served 21 years in the United States Marine Corps.





Veterans Service

John Hardman, PDDGER • Chairman

Aloha Brothers & Sisters

We're starting a new Elk year. That means new Lodge Officers and possibly new Lodge Veterans Chairpersons. If you are a newly appointed Lodge Veterans Chair, or even a returning one, what events are you planning to help our Veterans? Are you having a hard time thinking of what to do or where to look? Here's some resources you can turn to:

- Elks National Veterans Service Commission at <https://www.elks.org/vets/>.
- Adopt-a-Vet - <https://www.elks.org/vets/adoptaveteran.cfm>
- Voluntary Service - <https://www.elks.org/vets/vavs.cfm>
- Veterans Leather - <https://www.elks.org/vets/leather.cfm>
- Welcome Home - <https://www.elks.org/vets/welcomehome.cfm>
- Volunteer Resources - <https://www.elks.org/vets/volunteers.cfm>
- Sign up for the Monthly ENVSC Newsletter - <https://www.elks.org/vets/newsletter.cfm>
- How to get involved - <https://www.elks.org/vets/getInvolved.cfm>
- Lodge Vets Chair Guide - <https://www.elks.org/leadership/training.cfm?courseID=98>
- Freedom Grants - <https://www.elks.org/cip/grants/FreedomGrants.cfm>

The ENVSC webpage even has information for Veterans. Something you can share with veterans that you meet - <https://www.elks.org/vets/resourcesforveterans.cfm>.

Did you know there is an Elks National Veterans Service Commission blog - <https://elksveteransserviceblog.org/> Check it out.

In closing, my Vice Chair, Dan Baccelliere, and I, commend each of you for all you do to help Veterans. Keep up the good work! Also, don't forget about submitting articles and pictures of your Veterans activities to Ted Olsen, CHEA Magazine Editor (tedolsenelks2379@gmail.com). Ted is always looking for new material!

If you are going to the CHEA Convention in Anaheim, stop by our booth and say hi.

Until next time, safe travels and help a Vet!

And always remember – ***So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.***



San Fernando Lodge 1539 donated a portion of their Gratitude Grant to the California Cadet Corp - 205th Battalion at Pacoima Middle School. Cadets volunteer within their community, attend many Veteran and area events throughout the San Fernando Valley.



Santa Clarita Lodge 2379 Veterans Committee, hosted its annual Veterans Luncheon. The well attended luncheon served Veterans and others lunch to honor them. Several residents from the Sepulveda VA Hospital, were also in attendance. Guest speaker Myrl Wallace, Navy Veteran and PER of Santa Maria Lodge, gave an informative speech, educating many of the veterans on the benefits all veterans are eligible for, he is shown above with Veteran Co-Chairs, Dale Turner and Jennette Fisher.

In other news, the Veterans Committee donated \$1,000 worth of food to the Veterans Collaborative. We heard their food pantry was running low, so we used monies raised to help fill their shelves.

Santa Maria Lodge 1538, Lodge Veterans Committee utilized the Welcome Home Grants through ENF to purchase two kits, including kitchen equipment and bedding to assist the Vets transitioning from the Good Samaritan Shelter into their own apartments.

Clovis Lodge 2599 members gathered at Pardini's for the **10th Annual Standup for women Veterans**. Members had the opportunity to support women Veterans by sharing information about services available through the Elks. Overall, the event was both eye-opening and inspiring.

In other news, the Lodge provided nine Welcome Home kits and five Food Requests to our Veterans. The Lodge helps Veterans establish their homes by building Welcome Home Kits. Generally, a kit would include kitchenware and appliances, bathroom supplies, bedding, and sometimes a brand-new bed. Each kit is customized to the needs of the individual Veteran.

Redondo Beach Lodge 1378 held a dinner honoring Lodge and community Veterans which was filled with patriotism, featuring flags and theme songs from each military branch. Over 70 Veterans attended plus their guests. Liz Dye, Chair of the Veteran's Committee, welcomed everyone and shared Elk's history of supporting veterans.

In other news, the Lodge in the past few months has delivered over \$15,000 in new goods through the Veteran Welcome Home Kits, aiding newly re-homed Veterans.



Drug Awareness

Susan Good, PDDGER • Chairman

CHEA Drug Awareness Program Contest Winners For 2024-2025!

Many thanks to our CHEA District and Lodge Chairs who gave students in their communities the opportunity to participate in one or more of our four Drug Awareness Program Contests this past year! Our theme, **"Throw Away Drugs, Not Your Future,"** came alive in some of the most creative ways by our remarkable young people as they submitted entries in our Poster Contest for 3rd-5th Graders, our Essay Contest for 6th-8th Graders, our Video Contest for Pre-High School, and our Video Contest for High School students. Top entries were submitted by twelve of our nineteen Districts and from sixteen of our CHEA Lodges and, of course, many other entries were submitted from Lodges and competed at the District level. We would be remiss if we also didn't thank our many Administrators, Teachers, and Parents, who encouraged their students to create and submit contest entries. The winners of the contests at the California-Hawaii Elks Association level are:

CHEA DAP Poster Contest Winners

- 1st Place – Alex Welborn, 4th Grade - Santa Monica 906
- 2nd Place – Charlotte Solis, 5th Grade - Roseville 2248
- 3rd Place – Regan Gill, 5th Grade - San Diego 168

CHEA DAP Essay Contest Winners

- 1st Place – Evan Liu, 6th Grade - Fremont 2121
- 2nd Place – Nathaniel Schmitz, 6th Grade - Redding 1013
- 3rd Place – Sadaf Amini, 7th Grade - San Diego 168

CHEA DAP Pre-High School Video Contest Winners

- 1st Place – Conner Dunn, 6th Grade, submitted by San Diego 168
- 2nd Place – Zakana Algaisi, Grace Lee, Celeste Williams, & Sophia Nguyen, 7th Grade, & Sydney Smail, 9th Grade - Buena Park 2046
- 3rd Place – Balian Gumm-Rodriguez, 5th Grade - Merced 1240

CHEA DAP High School Video Contest Winners

- 1st Place – Samantha Lee, 10th Grade - San Diego 168
- 2nd Place – Kaylee Welborn, 9th Grade - Santa Monica 906
- 3rd Place – Nathaniel Langley & Ethan Oldham, 11th Grade - Fontana-Rialto 2013

Congratulations to the students, their schools, and the Lodges that submitted their entries! Plaques or Certificates and monetary awards of \$400, \$300, or \$200 have been sent to the District Chairs for distribution to our winners as well as \$100 to every entrant submitted by each District. The First Place Winners in each division have been forwarded to the Elks National DAP Directors for judging at the National Level. We all wish our students the very best as they compete against others from throughout the United States!

CHEA Convention

As an extra treat for all of us, we have invited our First Place Essay Contest Winner, 6th Grader Evan Liu, from the Centerville Middle School in Fremont, to be our guest at our Annual Association Convention in Anaheim where we're hoping he'll be reading his winning essay to us during Friday's business meeting.

Our CHEA DAP Vice-Chair, Patty Hamilton, and I look forward to seeing you and meeting as many of you as possible at the Convention. Do please stop by our Drug Awareness Program booth and say "hi," check out the latest materials available to you, and, of course, let us know if there are more ways we can help you.

DEA Resources For You

Welcome to the first quarter of our new Elk year! Whether you're new to us or a long-time supporter of our Elks Drug Awareness Program, here's a resource available to all of us Elks from our DAP partner, the Drug Enforcement Agency: type these words in your computer browser to see a list of resources including posters, flyers, fact cards, Spanish publications, etc. available for your download: <https://training.elksdap.org/docs/resources/dea-resources>. Check it out when you get a chance.



Madera Lodge 1918 completed their Backpack Project using an ENF Grant and Lodge raised funds to support this project. Backpacks with essential school supplies, healthy snacks, drug awareness information, as well as coloring books for younger grades. The goal of the project is to provide necessary supplies to needy children in our community who would not otherwise be prepared for their school year.

In other news, the Lodge used Spotlight Grant funds to help support Community Action Partnership of Madera County – Victim Services unit for the Martha Diaz Shelter, and Director of the Olive Foundation, to provide essential needs for two safe houses in our community. Safe houses provide compassionate and comprehensive services to victims of crime, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Specially trained advocates guide individuals and families by offering case management, victim advocacy, and necessary resources.

Orange Lodge 1475 working with the HUB Resource Center, the Lodge using a \$2,000 ENF Spotlight Grant and a \$4,000 ENF Beacon Grant. The donation will be used to help feed the homeless and provide essential needs kits. The Lodge packed 300 Hygiene Kits and 200 Shower Kits for some of our neediest people. Part of the money will go to provide 850 plus hot meals, the other half will go to purchase food items, hygiene products, cleaning products, sleeping bags, diapers, incontinent products, and winter clothing.

Paramount Lodge 1804 donated \$400 from an ENF Grant to Rock For Vets Band. The band raises money for Homeless Vets and run a therapy program also for all veterans. The Lodge also has the band play for many of their functions.

Visalia Lodge 1298 hosted the first of its monthly Service Dog Workshops, as part of its ENF Impact Grant project, dedicated to support local veterans. These workshops, run by professional trainers, will focus on empowering veterans to train their own pet dogs to perform essential service dog tasks. Teaching the pet owners how to work with dogs they already own. The Lodge hopes to strengthen the bond between veteran and companion, while reducing the financial barriers often associated with service dogs.

CHEMPI Latest Millennium Plus Level Donors • (February 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025)



Joseph Deering • Santa Monica 906
Patrick N. O'Keefe • Fontana 2013
Rogers Harder • Santa Inez Valley 2640



Conor Nugent • San Francisco 3
Pamela M Elias • Riverside 643
John David Buezis • Bellflower-Long Beach 888
Dennis Woodson • Bellflower-Long Beach 888
Elizabeth Dos Remedios • Alameda 1015
Michael Wiebe • Visalia 1298
Gail Harris • Redondo Beach 1378
Linda Cimmarusti • Mission Viejo Saddleback Vly 2444
Richard Bristow • Elk Grove 2577
James Von Bergen • Elk Grove 2577
Vaughn Ryan • Lake Elsinore 2591
Patricia Krueger • Clovis 2599
Tim Rote • Clovis 2599
Rick Schaneman • Clovis 2599
Rogers Harder • Santa Inez Valley 2640
Sharon Nakatani • Moreno Valley 2697

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

CHEMPI Latest Millennium Level Donors (\$1,000) • (February 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025)

Conor Nugent	3	Neville Buyense	1298	Richard Tanguy	1959	Linda Wackerman	2364
Frank Almazan	583	Paul Gorley	1298	Daniel Cassidy	1968	Skip & Karen Henke	2379
Earl Hively	583	Alice Kerney	1378	Tom Boyd	1991	Brian Previtt	2379
Meda Chesney Lind	616	John Riccardi	1419	Trudy Nuzum	1993	Daniel Hoffman	2477
Diana Reveles	643	Lisa Chapin Winkler	1420	Maxine Hitchings	2013	Sherri Markarian	2492
Bonnie Wadley	643	Steve Cearley	1475	Amelia Nieves	2045	Mike Fox	2510
Alan Bobillot	652	Gayle Brodbeck	1608	Karen Vargas	2045	Larry Ryan (2)	2591
Louis Brooner	783	Ronald Hinman	1643	Robert Young	2045	Rogers Harder (4)	2640
Michael Lopez	794	Michelle Solvin	1643	Robb Allen	2098	Wendi Hammon	2697
Karl Philipovitch	824	Jim Bustamante	1740	Janice Brown	2117	Ross Nakatani	2697
Sarah Rangel	836	Jon & Nicole Volpe	1767	Ralph Davis	2117	Christy Williams	2697
Janice Cantu	1015	Ruth Reeves	1811	Carol "Sue" Moffitt	2121	Valerie Scheweifler	2704
Michelle Ottoboni	1015	Gary Winters	1905	Gerard Finnerty	2128	Vince Puterbaugh	2801
Dean Seaquist	1015	Donald Davis	1919	Terry Hunt	2314		
Hugh & Dale Scanlon	1289	Tisha Ostrander	1959	Patricia "Pat" Terrell	2358		

CHEMPI Latest Century Club Donors (\$100) • (February 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025)

Glenn Montague (2)	168	David Steadman (2)	794	Thomas Boyer	1298	Thomas Traver	1561
Yvonne Butler (6)	266	Ida Wade (2)	794	Julie Buger	1298	Jeff Johnson	1567
Elizabeth Easley	266	John Greathouse	824	Neville Buyense	1298	Genae Smith	1570
Sabrina Elzer	322	Denise LaMar (2)	824	Emmanuel Camaquin	1298	Manfred Kehr	1587
Monica Burandt (2)	423	Robert Leaf	824	Paul Gorley (3)	1298	Barbara Earle	1608
Deborah Laird (5)	423	Patricia McDonald (5)	824	Donald Heisey	1298	Sandra Erickson	1608
Frank Almazan (2)	583	Russ Patterson	824	Kenneth Hyslop	1298	Linda Fields	1608
Earl Hively (5)	583	Karl Philipovitch (2)	824	Wayne Lentz	1298	Eileen Hartwick	1608
Brendan Akamu	616	Ivan "Ben" Haslet (5)	832	Darlene Mata	1298	Owen Long	1608
Kathleen Anzai (2)	616	Cheryl Haslet (5)	832	Larry Owsley	1298	Michael Thornton	1608
Earl Hurrey (7)	616	Dennis Whitecotton (4)	832	Gene Quesnoy	1298	Chris Wells	1608
John Kay	616	Mike Gilligan	836	John Rivera	1298	Bob Hancock	1625
Meda Chesney Lind (5)	616	Laura Pawlowicz	836	Thomas Sigler	1298	Ronald Hinman (5)	1643
Jan Lind (5)	616	Sarah Rangel (6)	836	Robert Sippel	1298	Elizabeth Harreschou	1728
Michael Rawlins	616	Ralph Rangle	836	Greg Todd	1298	Daniel Harreschou	1728
Judith Rubano (5)	616	John David Buezis	888	Roger Tyler	1298	William Yoder	1728
Brian Sung	616	Patricia Devine	888	Lisa Walsh	1298	Douglas Andrews	1740
Steve Teves	616	Erlene Krempasky	888	Michael Wiebe	1298	Jim Bustamante (2)	1740
Rose Barr (2)	643	Dennis Woodson	888	Craig Williams (2)	1298	Marc Lonn	1740
Richard Barr (2)	643	Robert Coleman	901	Marla Buckmaster (6)	1299	David Olson	1740
Gerrie Brewington	643	Lori Ham	901	Carl Prutch	1299	Steve Raway	1740
Abelina Eckroth	643	Dennis Nowicki	901	Jerry Baltz (3)	1378	Margaret Bray	1767
Pamela Elias (4)	643	Joseph Deering (5)	906	Lucas Deines	1378	Sharron Dearborn	1767
Leslie Fisher	643	Pamela Brodie	1015	Alice Kerney (5)	1378	Tami Hegger	1767
Christine Johnson	643	Janice Cantu (6)	1015	Frank Mathes	1378	Mark Matters (3)	1767
Dana Parrish (4)	643	Lynn Glick (5)	1015	Robert Murray	1378	Christine Oshefsky	1767
Larry Perez	643	David Grayson	1015	Amy Myers (5)	1378	Mr. Patel (3)	1767
Mona Perez	643	Elizabeth Hasychak	1015	Lamont Steele (3)	1378	Michael Price	1767
Elizabeth Prince (3)	643	Tamara Hilton	1015	John Riccardi (2)	1419	Dylan Price	1767
Diana Reveles (6)	643	Lynn Landry	1015	Tom Finn	1424	Kellie Royster	1767
Hubert Shipley	643	Lisa Lundquist	1015	John Maderis	1436	Johannes Schothorst	1767
Linda Shipley	643	Edward McLean	1015	Candice Mancino	1436	Jon & Nicole Volpe (7)	1767
Gina Tipre	643	Deborah Peretto	1015	David Collins	1471	Michael Anderson (2)	1787
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Kathy Vrblick	783	Greg Martella	1259	Donald Fant	1561	C. Michael Melton	1917
Linda Fernandez	794	Brandon Clark	1282	Greg Koester (2)	1561	Don Davis (3)	1919
Michael Flynn	794	Rhonda Jess	1282	William Korbacher	1561	Dennis Fischgrabe	1959
Dianh Grope	794	Bruce Kennedy	1282	Adele Moore	1561	Donald Stewart (2)	1959
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Colleen Wadsworth	1993	Jerry DeVries	2121	Darryl Kopacz	2477	Judy Shivokevich	2599
William Weirich	1993	Brett Barker	2128	Lyssa Wright (10)	2477	John Wright	2599
Jeffrey Bronson	2011	Timothy Cullen (2)	2128	David Coleman	2492	Michael Castro (4)	2638
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Bekie Calsing	2045	Martin Tribemorgan (2)	2358	Angie Ellison	2577	Ross Nakatani (7)	2697
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Diane Keller	2045	Becky Silva	2364	Greg Harwell (2)	2577	Bonnie Novelech	2697
Frank Keller	2045	Kathy Stornetta	2364	Anita Lack (5)	2577	Luke Plubell	2697
Carol Kokot	2045	Linda Wackerman	2364	Judy Ouellette	2577	Lynn Powell (2)	2697
Patrick McDowell (3)	2045	William Weatherwax	2364	Margie Samaniego	2577	Morgan Roach (4)	2697
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Karen Vargas (3)	2045	Dawn Neuenschwander	2393	Larry Ryan (14)	2591	Vincent Puterbaugh (4)	2801
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Steven Courtney	3	Richard Yeager	168	Daniel Schuler-Jones	322	Norman Martin	613
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Beth Alexander	836	Stacey Berkman	1378	John M. Smith	1475	William J Brickey	1913
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Sean Mejia	966	Gail Harris	1378	John Gilham	1538	Larry Faust	1918
Pamela Brodie	1015	Stephen Jacques	1378	Ginger Kaufman	1538	Douglas Row	1918
Cathleen M. Myers	1015	Elisabete Krause	1378	Steve McGehee	1538	Anita Chang	1919
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Joe Tato	1108	Steven Luiz	1424	Ilona Smith	1625	R.C. "Stoney" Bourke	1952
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Brigitte Waterbury	1108	Garth Perry	1424	Patrick R. Guinaw	1643	Paul Escobar	1952
Stephen Barrett	1112	Gerald Delker	1427	Virginia B. Honohan	1643	Karen Lewin	1952
Ellen Burk	1240	Donna Leiby	1427	Michael W. Kearney	1643	Mary Nicoll	1952
Dr. Donald Gumm	1240	John D. McEntire Jr	1427	Paula Piltz	1643	Henry "Rick" Ross	1952
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Mary Johnson	1240	Jennifer Rentschler	1427	Michelle Solvin	1643	David L. Skelton	1952
Clinton Moore	1240	Joanna Rentschler	1427	Robert Whittaker	1687	Lance Slimmer	1952
Corey Pelletier	1240	Laura Rentschler	1427	Robert Woods	1687	Linda Vulgamore	1952
Joseph Ragus	1240	Patricia L. Selenak	1427	Monica Cummings	1712	Roger Vulgamore	1952
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David Ayala	2011	Mike Farber	2243	Brenda L. Hagen	2477	Thom Richardson	2599
Laurie Ayala	2011	Cheryl Fleming	2243	Donald Halvorson	2477	Cheryle Roberts	2599
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Michael Hyman	2027	Robert Simendich	2314	Jill Williams	2477	Christy J Williams	2697
Jean Snow	2027	Cheryl L. Fleming	2343	Lyssa L. Wright	2477	Dave Hosted	2698
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Ron Hedberg	2031	Leroy Bostick	2358	David Coleman	2492	Daniel Rodriguez	2699
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Karen Vargas	2045	Joan Hermansen	2358	Kris Picard	2492	Patricia Finley	2704
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Diane E. Phillips	2050	Cheri Keller	2358	Jay Dupler	2504	Valerie Schweifler	2704
Jane Roszhart	2050	Fern Sammon	2358	Kristi Dupler	2504	Lance Erickson	2733
Dixie E. Sanchez	2050	Michael Streeter	2358				
Sean Williams.	2050	Pat Terrell	2358				
Warren H. Guest	2059	Neil Amarante	2364				
Kira Wagner	2059	Richard "Rick" Escobedo	2364				
Edward Burns	2091	Henry Schmitz	2364				
Gail Dekreon	2091	Robert Villalobos	2364				
Brian Rogers	2091	Scott Bickle	2379				
Paul A. Schlottfeldt	2091	Ray Broussard	2379				
Jere M. Williams	2091	John Cleary	2379				
Robb Allen	2098	Diana Crovo	2379				
Earl T. Bouchard	2098	Robert Daniel	2379				
Diane Bristow	2103	Jennifer A. DeHaven	2379				
Michael Hanson	2103	Judy Delaney	2379				
Lynn Mahoney	2103	Michael Drummond	2379				
Jeffie Moffet	2103	Catherine Easley	2379				
Barbara L. Terry	2103	Wayne Edwards	2379				
James Warrick	2103	Beverly Freeman	2379				
Michael Berg	2117	Debbie K. Hager	2379				
Janice L. Brown	2117	Melissa J Handy	2379				
Brett Burau	2117	Floyd "Skip" Henke	2379				

Lodge Group Donations Exceeding \$150 (February 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025)

Riverside Elks Lodge Bingo Players	\$15,282
Santa Ana Elks Bingo Patrons	\$1,195
Big Bear Lake Elks Bingo Players	\$1,082
Gardena Elks Lodge Bingo Players	\$793
Livermore-Pleasanton Winers RV Club	\$500
Santa Clarita Elks Cigar Club	\$601
Santa Clarita Bingo Patrons	\$3,116
Lake Elsinore/Wildomar Elks Ladies	\$200
Lake Elsinore Elk Bowlers	\$485
Lake Elsinore/Wildomar Bingo Players	\$4,000
Southeast District Golf League	\$435

18 The California-Hawaii Elk



Sacramento Lodge 6 had the Scouts head a food drive for South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership. Scout Troop 5010 and Cub Pack 259 conducted a drive-thru food drive at the Elks Lodge in early March, collecting more than 1,700 non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the food bank.

In other news, the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers' Market, located in the parking lot of Sacramento Elks Lodge, has a reputation as a place where families can walk or bike to get groceries on weekend mornings. It will open for its fourth season on Sunday, April 6th, at 9 a.m.

Placerville Lodge 1712 donated a \$3,500 Gratitude Grant to New Morning Youth & Family Services. New Morning will use the funds to support children and their families in need. Their programs, which benefit local residents, which includes a shelter for homeless and runaway youth, and a number of counseling programs available to at-risk youth in our area.

Calpine Lodge 2432 presented Eastern Plumas Community Assistance Network a check for \$375 and 3 boxes full of non-perishable canned goods. The canned goods were collected during the annual food drive during the Lodge's very popular free breakfast.

Chula Vista Lodge 2011 donated their \$2,000 Spotlight Grant to Care House, a non-profit organization that assists with and provides the basic necessities of life to under served and at-risk families and children, giving them hope during their struggles to succeed. These funds were used for the purpose of purchasing selected grade level reading material.

The Lodge also received a \$1,000 Freedom Grant, which it used to help California Veteran's Home reduce the financial burden on this facility and its Veteran population. The Lodge used a portion of the Focus Grant to supply the food prepared by our Member and Chef Ralph Ford, along with his caring staff to serve breakfast at the San Diego Veteran's Village National Stand Down Event in National City. Approximately 280 hungry homeless Veterans and their families enjoyed a very filling breakfast.

Elks Luncheon Club

Elks meeting for conviviality and comradeship since 1928

The "Great" Metropolitan District welcomes all Elks in Good Standing to attend the Elks Luncheon Club
June 6th • 11:00 AM

**Visitation of New CHEA President
Scott Stephens and First Lady Mary Kay**

Burbank Lodge 1497 • 2232 North Hollywood Way • Burbank, CA



Eureka Lodge 652 Veterans Committee donated \$1,000 to the Cal Poly Humboldt University Veterans Resource Center. The Center currently serves 578 students, including veterans, active-duty military, reserve component personal and their families. Pictured (L-R) Exalted Ruler, Barry Smith; Veteran Student Intern, Liam Richardson; Veteran Resource Center Director, Cliff LaMastus and Lodge Veterans Chairman, Jack Harris.

In other news, the Lodge donated \$4,000 to Food for People. The donation assists them in operating twenty-three pantries in Humboldt County. The Lodge donated \$3,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods.

Placerville Lodge 1712 held their annual Americanism Awards Banquet, where eleven local students read their essays and collected their prizes for their outstanding essays on this year's topic, *"What Does Patriotism Mean to Me?"*



Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley Lodge 2444 hosted a prestigious awards ceremony to honor twenty-one outstanding individuals from the OC Sheriff's Department and the OC Fire Authority. The event, a cherished tradition within the Lodge, recognized members and community contributors for their dedication and service. Exalted Ruler Kevin Lindley had the honor of presenting the awards.

Redondo Beach Lodge 1378 held its first Lodge Dog Show. The proceeds from the event were allocated between the Purple Pig and the Lodge Repair Fund. There were seventeen dog entries with their Elk owners and more than seventy spectators who voted on "Best in Show". Judges awarded other titles such as Cutest Ugly Dog and Best Trick. High enthusiasm by those present, may turn this into be an annual event. Shown in the photo is member Stacy Castro and "Star" who won Best of Show.



President's Message

Continued from Page 3



article, we are in second place in the nation in membership gains. New Jersey is in the lead, but we have 2,538 candidates waiting to be initiated and 3,983 delinquent members to contact and bring current. As one of the largest Associations in the nation, I have faith in all of you to get it done. We will find out how we did in Kansas City at the Grand Lodge Convention.

The Promoters and I have been pushing for an extra \$5 (or more) from each member over what they donated last year to our beloved Piggy Bank program. The year 2025 marks the 75th Anniversary of this program and we are hoping we will make or surpass that \$4.5 million goal during our annual Exalted Rulers March. By the time you read this we should all know if we succeeded in meeting this goal.

We have also been promoting all the good work we do supporting our Veterans. We have not visited a Lodge that does not support our Veterans in one way or another and many districts honor them as a district. These men and women have sacrificed so much for us to enjoy the freedoms we have today and our active duty personal keep us safe from the threats in this ever-changing world. Let us never forget the Elks Pledge: *"As long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will Never Forget Them."*

We have also been reminding our Lodges not to forget about our future by supporting as many Youth Activities programs as you can. Our communities recognize our involvement with the youth of our communities, and many become Elks later in life. Their parents are impressed and many of them become Elks. We do not always see the results of our charitable work but believe me we do make a difference.

Finally, I must thank First Lady, Debra, for her support this past year and the best traveling companion I could ever ask for. Words are not enough but thank you to PGER Jim Grillo and Lucia, and PGER Bob Duitsman and Beth, for your leadership and guidance, your support is very much appreciated. To CHEA Executive Director, Tim Martin and Lazell, I know you have more titles but to Debra and me, Executive Director has been the most important one for us this past year. You have answered so many emails and phone calls from us, and your staff in Fresno is amazing.

To all of our Past Association Presidents and your First Ladies, for all your guidance and support. I relied on many of you for your experience and suggestions, each of you are a valuable resource for our Association, thank you.

Thank you to all of our CHEA Officers, Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons, District Leaders, District Deputies, District Chairs and Vice Chairs, and Elk members for your support this past year. You are all a very good example of my slogan **"Elkdom, Love It, Live It, Promote It."**

Congratulations to all new Lodge Exalted Rulers and your Officers. First Lady Debra, and I, wish each of you a very successful year. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your President of the California-Hawaii Elks Association this past year.

To the new President Scott Stephens, and First Lady Mary Kay, we say congratulations and we wish you a successful year. It is the journey of a lifetime, so have fun and enjoy it, it goes by very fast.

Elkdom, Love It, Live It, Promote It



Thousand Oaks Lodge 2477 participated in the Ventura County Saint Patrick's Day parade. Riding in the Elks Train is our Loyal Knight Lyssa Wright, the Exalted Ruler from Ventura Lodge 1430, Lecturing Knight Julie Novak. The engineer of the train is member Robert Harmon and the brake woman is his spouse Betsy Harmon.

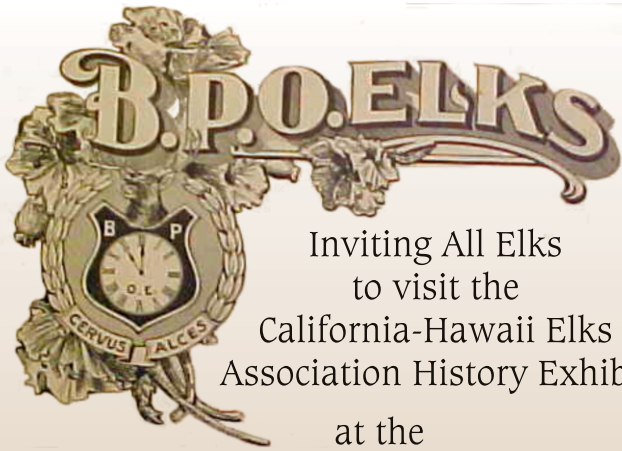


Paradise Lodge 2026 presented the Paradise Parks and Recreation a \$500 donation, to be used towards the Kids Free Fishing Day. The event is April 12 from 6a.m. to 2 p.m. at Paradise Lake. Kids ages 15 and under can fish rain or shine. There will be food, prizes and fun. Last year nearly 1,000 kids participated with the lake being stocked with 10,000 pounds of fish for the derbies. Pictured (L-R) Rick Masson, Paradise Elks Exalted Ruler and Lori McCoslin, Recreation Coordinator.



Mojave Elks Lodge 2059, Exalted Ruler Joe Hodgkinson, presented Mojave High School Girls Softball Team a check for \$500 to help support their travel and supplies.

In other news, the Lodge used its \$3,000 Gratitude Grant to sponsor thirty-five middle school students to Camp Keep, an outdoor science program camp.



Inviting All Elks
to visit the
California-Hawaii Elks
Association History Exhibit
at the

California-Hawaii Elks Association
Convention • Anaheim, California
May 7th - 9th, 2025
Steve Lobdell • CHEA Historian



Canoga Park Lodge 2190, using a Freedom Grant, had twenty-seven Elks, Antlers, and veterans, completing annual maintenance on the Vet's Therapy Garden at the Sepulveda Veterans Medical Center and Residential Facility.

The Therapy Garden completed in March 2024, was designed to help alleviate loneliness experienced by our veterans. It provides a place for veterans to plant individual gardens in beds at ground level, wheelchair accessible level and four foot raised beds. It has seating for Veterans to simply enjoy being outdoors observing the garden and meeting with other veterans. Pictured are Midge Swoger Trustee, Jo Lamoreaux PER, Paige Velasquez VA Recreation Therapist, and Greg Martinez, Veteran and Canoga Park Elks 2024 Community Volunteer of the Year.

Serving Our Children Since 1950



A coin a day so they can walk, talk, see and play!



Honolulu Lodge 616, teaming with AARP and VFW Hawaii, Honolulu Lodge delivered \$5,000 worth of clock radios to the new Akaka State Veterans Home in Honolulu. This new one-hundred bed facility opened in March 2025. VFW Hawaii collected 110 lap quilts from across the country. AARP Hawaii donated just under one hundred pair of socks with 'gripper soles'. Pictured (L-R) is Ron Lockwood, Elks VAVS and Past VFW State Commander, Ron Schaedel.

Orange Lodge 1475 held the annual Orange Unified School (OUSD) District GRIP Soccer Camp lunch at Santiago Middle School. The soccer camp is held during the OUSD Spring Break.

What is GRIP? **GRIP** (Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership) is a program for kids between eight and twelve years old that are preselected to participate in the program. The kids are middle school kids that are at-risk of gang involvement and drug use during a time when they have very little adult supervision. The kids that attended the soccer camp had to earn their way to the camp by their actions and achievements. Once in the program, the kids must make and set goals and must show improvement to stay in the program. This soccer camp helps them to do that!