
California-Hawaii Elks Association
ELK Magazine
chea-elks.org
Convention 2026
Volume 73, No. 3
Sarah
2026 CHEMPI Theme Child
Story on Page 6

In Memoriam to the CHEA Past Presidents • In honor to their service to the Association

L.E. Chenoweth • 1913-1914	Bakersfield	R. Leonard Bush • 1946-1947	Westchester	Rt. Rev. Msgr. George Scott • Honorary	San Pedro
Hilliard E. Welch • 1914-1915	Stockton	Thomas S. Abbott • Honorary	Los Angeles	James E. Spence, Jr. • 1975-1976	Oakland
Dr. Ralph Hagan • 1915-1916	Los Angeles	Raymond Benjamin • Honorary	Napa	Marvin R. Pike • 1976-1977	Torrance
William M. Abbott • 1916-1917	San Francisco	Michael F. Shannon • Honorary	Los Angeles	Donald W. Luce • 1977-1978	Richmond
Harry M. Ticknor • 1917-1919	Pasadena	Earl J. Williams • 1947-1948	Oakland	Dr. Robert G. Robb • 1978-1979	Garden Grove
James M. Shanly • 1919-1920	Oakland	Morley H. Golden • 1948-1949	San Diego	Donald D. Dapelo • 1979-1980	Coalinga
Charles Donlon • 1920-1921	Santa Barbara	Robert J. Craine • 1949-1950	Hanford	William D. Brunner • 1980-1981	Redondo Beach
John D. Saxe • 1921-1922	San Rafael	Ben W. Osterman • 1950-1951	Santa Ana	Leland "Butch" Simas • 1981-1982	Santa Maria
Richard C. Benbough • 1922-1923	San Diego	John B. Morey • 1951-1952	Palo Alto	Kenneth L. Moore • 1982-1983	Corona
Howard B. Kirtland • 1923-1924	San Luis Obispo	Vincent H. Grocott • 1952-1953	Santa Barbara	Elmer L. Lanini • 1983-1984	Salinas
Edgar F. Davis • 1924-1925	Long Beach	Edward E. Keller • 1953-1954	San Mateo	Robert J. McLain • 1984-1985	Pasadena
John J. Lermen • 1925-1926	San Francisco	Robert P. Mohrbacker • 1954-1955	Long Beach	Clifford E. Beatty • 1985-1986	Chico
Mifflin G. Potts • 1926-1927	Pasadena	Jim B. Nielson • 1955-1956	Watsonville	Richard L. "Dick" Alves • 1986-1987	San Jose
William E. Simpson • 1927-1928	Fresno	Owen O. Keown • 1956-1957	Santa Monica	Bernard E. McCune • 1987-1988	Long Beach
John J. Doyle • 1928-1929	Los Angeles	John A. Raffetto • 1957-1958	Auburn	Oscar W. Stuteit • Honorary	Orange
Fred B. Mellmann • 1929-1930	Oakland	Frank M. Linnell • 1958-1959	Newport Harbor	R.E. "Bud" Cenis • 1988-1989	Bakersfield
Horace S. Williamson • 1930-1931	Redlands	Charles T. Reynolds • 1959-1960	Vallejo	Dr. Eugune P. Weigand • 1989-1990	Pasadena
F.E. Dayton • 1931-1932	Salinas	Guy A. Daniels • 1960-1961	Redlands	Lynn Wood • 1990-1991	Modesto
Horace H. Quinby • 1932-1933	Alhambra	Paul T. Wemple • 1961-1963	Susanville	William C. Ijames • 1991-1992	Vista
J. Thomas Crowe • 1933-1934	Tulare	Vern R. Huck • 1963-1964	Los Angeles	Rex E. Dondlinger • 1994-1995	Arcadia
Milton R. Standish • 1934-1935	San Bernardino	Henry J. Budde • 1964-1965	San Francisco	Richard E. Owen • 1992-1993	Santa Maria
George M. Smith • 1935-1936	San Jose	Edgar Dale • Honorary	Vallejo	John A. "Jack" Parker • 1993-1994	Marysville
L.A. Lewis • 1936-1937	Anaheim	Bruce H. Marsh • 1965-1966	Inglewood	Sim Nathan • 1997-1998	Redding
C. Fenton Nichols • 1937-1938	San Francisco	Gerald Strohm • 1966-1967	Fresno	John G. Holt • 2000-2001	Burbank
C.P. Hebenstreit • 1938-1939	Huntington Park	Marvin M. Lewis • 1967-1968	Brawley	John Carvalho 2001-2002	Sacramento
Elmer B. Maze • 1939-1940	Merced	Norman S. Lien • 1968-1969	Watsonville	H. Eugene Chambers • 2002-2003	Needles
Robert S. Redington • 1940-1941	Los Angeles	Paul E. Haines • 1969-1970	Pasadena	Lee Northcutt • 2004-2005	La Habra
Donald K. Quayle • 1941-1942	Alameda	Ernest Olivieri • 1970-1971	Sonora	Jerry Rucker • 2008-2009	San Bernardino
Newton M. Todd • 1942-1943	Long Beach	Walter Schween, Jr. • 1971-1972	Salinas	Wayne Howard • 2011-2012	Honolulu
Clifford C. Anglim • 1943-1944	Richmond	C. Wallace Erickson • 1972-1973	Glendale	Thomas S. Brazier • Honorary	Santa Cruz
Stephen A. Compas • 1944-1945	Huntington Park	Yubi G. Separovich • 1973-1974	Sacramento	Richard L. McDonald • 2013-2014	Pittsburg
Horace R. Wisley • 1945-1946	Salinas	Dan Davis • 1974-1975	Van Nuys	Donald Schultz • 2015-2016	Victorville
				Lance Erickson • 2016-2017	Atascadero

CHEA CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026-2027 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN DIRECTORY

The Directory will be available on the website, and your Lodge Secretary and Exalted Ruler will receive a letter soon with the location and password. You may pick up a hard copy of the Directory for only $8.00 by 1:00 p.m. on Friday in the CHEA Office. Price will increase to $10.00 after Convention!

EXALTED RULERS

Turn in your Lodge Exalted Rulers March 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 CHEA Office. All checks must be made out to CHEMPI.

CHEA CONVENTION OFFICE HOURS:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday • 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday • 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday

PIGGY BANK DONATIONS: Please REMEMBER that all donations turned in on Saturday, May 16th at the Exalted Rulers March will be entered into the 2026-2027 Piggy Bank Year.

THEME CHILD PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

The **2026 Theme Child "Sarah"** will be at the Annual CHEA Convention at the CHEMPI booth located in the The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa, Celebrity Foyer so that you may take photos on:

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

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

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

Association Conventions are already booked through 2029! If your District or Lodge would be interested, please contact the CHEA Office at 559-255-4531 or chea@chea-elks.org and we will forward your request to the Meetings Committee. Please review the Requirements for Hosting a Convention on the CHEA Website at www.chea-elks.org, on the banner click on Meetings, on the dropdown menu click on Association Convention and then in the upper left corner click on: **Requirements to Host a Convention.**

President's Message



Scott Stephens, President
California-Hawaii Elks Association

My Fellow Elks,

The fabulous District visitations continued over the last three months, January to March. It began with the hospitality of the South Central District. After a memorable experience at the Grand Central Market, the Redondo Elks hosted the visiting Vice Presidents and I at their beautifully upgraded Lodge for a nice meal and Karaoke. Officers shared their wonderful Grant successes and they sent four scholarship applications to Grand Lodge. After a tour of the Rose Bowl, we had lunch at the Torrence Elks, and the Gardena Elks hosted us for a wonderful Saturday dinner.

The following weekend we were treated to the exceptional hospitality of the West Central Coast. We were treated to a tour of Old Town San Luis Obispo in a 1939 Jaguar, and breakfast at the Madonna Inn where we were joined by the Mayor. We had a very nice lunch at Oceano-Five Cities Elks and Grill-your-own-Steak night at the Santa Maria Elks, which is always a treat. During breakfast at the Atascadero Elks, Officers shared their successful Veterans programs and they received all the Grants. We were then hosted at a very elegant dinner at the San Luis Obispo Elks where we heard about their exceptional Grants, Scouting programs, as well as their social media activity. To top it off, all twelve Lodges presented me with donations for the Elks National Foundation.

We then enjoyed the Southeast Bowling Tournament, which raises money for CHEMPI, and visited with many of their members.

Shortly thereafter was my Homecoming, and the Orange Coast District did NOT disappoint. This event is more like a mini Convention, as we hosted 328 people. I spent much of my time enjoying meetings with the decision makers of CHEA. Yet the Vice Presidents reported back to me that they had a wonderful time touring all eight of our Lodges (Family Feud at Huntington Beach, ice cream at Garden Grove, lunches at Fullerton and Mission Viejo, breakfasts at Buena Park and Orange, a harbor boat tour at Newport, and an unforgettable evening at the Santa Ana Lodge). A huge thank you to all of the hard-working volunteers who help make the Orange Coast District shine!

After writing this article, we will be headed to the San Francisco Elks 150th Celebration, the National Hoop Shoot finals in Chicago, the Utah State Convention, and we will end the year at our CHEA Convention, in Palm Springs. We are very much looking forward to all of them.

I'd like to end my last communication to you, with a huge *THANK YOU*! Every member First Lady Mary Kay and I met this year treated us like royalty. We will never forget your warmth and kindness or your enthusiasm in sharing your Lodge programs and successes. In visiting sixty-three Lodges, we have learned so much from so many of you, and we will never forget. My wish is that you will continue to remain ***"Sold on Elkdom"***, for many years to come. God Bless you all.

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For change of address, contact your Lodge Secretary.

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Gail Marcum	West Central Coast

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This periodical is edited by Ted Olsen, 18701 Flying Tiger Drive, Apt 101, Santa Clarita, CA 91387-8251

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

Submission and Copy Deadlines

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

Publishing Editor: Ted Olsen • Santa Clarita Lodge 2379

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Jamie Jasso	President's Achievement Award
Kathy Grant/Nancy Brennan	Float Volunteer Coordinators

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Robert Brotherton	CHEA CLMS
Susan Good	Drug Awareness
Debra Mello	Financial Reporting System
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Larry Ryan	Scouting
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Greg Peale	Metropolitan
Terry Horne	North
Robert Lenk	North
Marty Mello	North Central
Mel Keeter	North Central
Stephen Haydn	Northeast
Kathy Madeiros	Northeast
Tim Jaeger	Northwest
Bradley "Brad" K. Smith	Northwest
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Robert Cones	Southeast
Robert Farrens	Southeast
Jimmy Hancock	West Central
Steven G. Mayne, Sr.	West Central
Greg Metzgus	West Central Coast
David Martin	West Central Coast

CHEA President Elect **Lynn Glick's** Upcoming Schedule

April 23-26	Nevada State Elks Convention Boulder City, Nevada
May 13-16	CHEA Convention - Rancho Mirage
May 27-31	Santa Maria Elks Rodeo - Santa Maria
June 4-7	Metropolitan District - Santa Clarita
June 5	Elks Luncheon Club - Burbank
July 4-8	Grand Lodge Convention - Chicago, IL

CHEA Advisory Committee Past Presidents

Timothy C. Martin • 1996-1997	Clovis
Frank G. Keller • 1998-1999	Corona
Louis J. Grillo • 1999-2000	Stockton
Doug Larsen • 2003-2004	Salinas
Roy R. Newman • 2005-2006	Marysville
James S. Mason • 2006-2007	Gardena
Lee Karjola • 2009-2010	Eureka
Hugh H. Scanlon • 2010-2011	Glendale
Art Echternacht • 2012-2013	Santa Ana
Floyd "Skip" Henke • 2014-2015	Santa Clarita
Charles "Chuck" Nolan • 2017-2018	San Diego
Robert "Bob" Duitsman • 2018-2019	Culver City
Timothy Jaeger • 2019-2021	Napa
Jay Larkins • 2021-2022	Santa Clarita
Bradford "Brad" Smith • 2022-2023	Modesto
Ted Talbot • 2023-2024	Torrance
Marty Mello • 2024-2025	Woodland



Riverside Lodge 643 hosted its Second Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Victoria Club in support of its Veterans Charity. The event brought together 101 golfers for a day of camaraderie and giving. Proceeds from the tournament will support veterans and their families. Pictured (L-R) Riverside Elk volunteers, Josie White, Tina Sydow, Jim Madison, Rob Joslen, and Chris Johnson.



Elks National Foundation

Jere Williams, PDDGER • Chairman

Well, another Elk year has come and gone. New Officers will be taking their positions in the Lodges, and fundraising for the National Foundation will begin anew. I am proud to report good news on the Elks National Foundation regarding California-Hawaii.

Contributions, as of March 22nd, (final totals will not be available until Mid-May at our Association Convention) have totaled $1,331,635. This is a 13% increase (minus endowments and bequests) from last year. Many kudos go to the CHEA Chairpersons for the National Foundation, and the Association Vice Presidents who rallied their Lodges. They ensured the majority of their Lodges made their per capita for this Elk year. I would also like to give a big thanks to Association President, Scott Stephens, and First Lady Mary Kay for their unwavering support for the National Foundation.

Community Improvement Grants (CIP's) also increased this year by a total of 13.4% (total funds expended were $1,372,635). CHEA had 144 of 162 Lodges avail themselves of at least one grant (and in many cases, more than one grant) for a total of 468 grants. These grants have aided our communities, children, and Veterans that we serve every day.

Finally, 113 out of 162 Lodges in California-Hawaii (70% of our Lodges) have achieved the Grand Lodge goal of a 10 % or more increase in their Fidelity Club enrollment. My Co-Chair, Steve Graham, and I have been honored and proud to represent Association President, Scott Stephens and the California-Hawaii Elks in promoting and fundraising for the Elks National Foundation. We look forward to another year of great success under the leadership of Association President Designate, Lynn Glick. We hope to see everyone in Palm Springs in May!

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Yucca Valley Lodge 2314 used an ENF Beacon Grant to donate a $5,000 check and ten $100.00 Visa gifts cards to the Armed Services YMCA at the Marine Air Corps Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms. The Visa gift cards will be used to provide assistance to military families in financial need to travel to and from emergency hospital care and lodging at a medical facility.



Santa Clara Lodge 2347 used a ENF Grant to provide dinner and a jeopardy game, where the youth could win gift cards for their knowledge of everything Gen Z. We did find out what bussin' meant!



Gilroy Lodge 1567 used a $1,000 Gratitude Grant to help support the Gavilan College Food Pantry. Pictured are Lodge and student volunteers.



Placerville Lodge 1712 used a $2,000 Spotlight Grant to donate food to Serving Hungry Area Residents in Emergencies (S.H.A.R.E.) Food Ministry, which provides food for local people who are in need. Pictured (L-R) are Dave Manners, President of S.H.A.R.E. and Monica Cummings, ENF Grant Coordinator.

Riverside Lodge 643 Veterans Committee members delivered $6,000 worth of food and household supplies from a Focus Grant to the Veterans at the U.S. Veterans Program at March Air Reserve Base Veterans Village.



Eureka Lodge 652 donated $4,000 to Food for People. The organization serves children, seniors and persons with disabilities. Pictured (L-R) Pierre Carbonneau, Ann Poole, Food for People Director David Reed, Jack Harris and Patrick Gillmorel.

In other news, the Veterans Committee presented a $1,000 donation to the Cal Poly Humboldt University Resource Center. The center serves over 500 students including active duty military, reserve component personnel, and their families.



Piggy Bank

Bob Farrens, PDDGER • Chairman

The California-Hawaii Elks Association annual Convention is just a couple of weeks away. The Convention starts with the CHEA and CHEMPI Board meetings on Wednesday morning, Committee reports are made to the membership on Thursday, and the installation of the new CHEA Officers is on Friday. Saturday morning begins with the CHEA and CHEMPI Board Reports, then moves on to the highlight of the Convention, the presentation of the new Theme Child and the Exalted Rulers Piggy Bank March, where the Exalted Rulers tell us the amount of money their Lodges have raised this year for the children.

Our Association had thirty-seven Leading Knights participate in the Leading Knights Challenge. The Leading Knights raised a total of $362,068.93, this year. That is almost $90,000 more than last year. The Elks Camper Rally and Wahoo's Fish Tacos fundraiser were also both very successful.

Most of our California-Hawaii Elks Association Lodges have been faithful in sending in their Piggy Bank money they have been collecting this year. I would like to encourage all of our Lodges to clean out their Piggy Bank Accounts and send the money to Fresno by April 25th, to make sure everything can be properly accounted for before the Piggy Bank March. **Remember to make the checks out to CHEMPI.**

District Piggy Bank Chairmen don't forget to bring your District's raffle basket. Please try to drop it off by Wednesday at Convention, that would be great. If you can't make it by then please bring it by the booth as soon as possible.

I want to thank all of our members, their families, and their friends, for making this an outstanding year for our children.

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Gardena Lodge 1919 proudly honored Nancy Glueckert who passed away. She was a longtime member and Purple Pig Chairman. Nancy, affectionately known as the Candy Lady, is pictured with Leslie Mitchell, who is on the left, always sold "Candy for the Kids" at Lodge events. Many Lodge members made donations to the Purple Pig in her name.



Sarah is a remarkable young girl whose journey reflects resilience, strength, and joy despite significant medical and developmental challenges. Sarah's early life was marked by a complex medical history.

After a normal pregnancy with no signs of complications, The Ortiz Family received a notice that would change their lives, and the course of the pregnancy at 29 weeks gestation, Sarah was diagnosed with "Hydrops Fetalis" a severe, high-risk condition with the survival rate at that moment of 4% and the outcomes had a high complication for survivors.

Despite her condition, Sarah was born prematurely at 33 weeks gestation. Due to her early arrival and fragile condition, she required several surgeries, respiratory treatments, and extended stays in both the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) for her first six months of life.

During her time in the hospital, Sarah also was diagnosed with "Dysgenesis of the Corpus Callosum," meaning the structure that connects the two hemispheres of her brain is incomplete or damaged. This condition can impact coordination, communication, and overall neurological functioning. In addition, Sarah has bilateral hearing loss and bilateral optic nerve hypoplasia, both of which contribute to the complexity of her developmental needs. She is also dependent on a Gastrostomy tube (G-tube) for nutrition, reflecting ongoing challenges with feeding and medical care.

Sarah has an older brother, Aaron who was the CHEMPI 2020 Theme Child. Aaron was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) when he was two years old. At the time that Sarah was hospitalized, Aaron was receiving Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy through the California-Hawaii Elks. Gaby (Sarah and Aaron's mom) knew the importance of early intervention in the development of her children and how difficult it would be to find the time to provide the best opportunities for both children. Fortunately, her Physical Therapist Megan, accepted Sarah immediately and began providing

Therapy to Sarah at home through the California Elks Major Project during Sarah's first two years of life. Eventually Megan moved into a non-clinical role with the Major Project and Physical Therapy for Sarah was put on hold for a time.

At the same time, Aaron was also receiving Speech Therapy through the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project at home with his wonderful Therapist Toby Tamayo-Davis, who without hesitation agreed to take Sarah under her care when she was ready.



Since beginning Speech-Language Therapy on January 11, 2024, Sarah has made meaningful progress in her ability to communicate and engage with others. Her therapy program focuses on motor speech production, communication, language, and social skills, all of which are essential areas supporting her overall development and quality of life.

Communication is another key area of focus. Sarah is learning to express her wants and needs through a combination of verbal attempts, gestures, and other supportive communication methods. Therapy emphasizes functional communication, helping her interact more effectively with caregivers and peers. Receptive and expressive language skills are also addressed, supporting her ability to understand language and to express her thoughts in ways that are meaningful and accessible to her.

Social skills are integrated throughout her Therapy. Sarah is learning to engage with others, respond to social cues, and participate in shared activities. These skills are essential for building relationships and fostering a sense of connection with those around her. Therapy sessions often include play-based and interactive activities that encourage these social exchanges in a natural and supportive environment.

A key factor in Sarah's progress has been the active involvement of her family in her Therapy. Her caregivers consistently participate in sessions, learn strategies, and carry over techniques into her daily routines at home. This collaboration ensures that Sarah receives consistent support across environments, reinforcing her skills and promoting continued growth. Family involvement not only strengthens her progress but also empowers her caregivers to be confident and effective partners in her development.

In 2023, in addition to Speech-Language Therapy, Sarah began receiving Physical Therapy with Mariel Gutierrez, again, the Major Project was there to support the Ortiz Family.

Physical Therapy focuses on improving Sarah's balance and walking abilities, helping her build strength, coordination, and independence. These skills allow her to better explore her environment and engage more fully in everyday activities.

For the last nine years, the Ortiz family has received the invaluable help of the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, with their excellent Therapists Megan, Toby, and Mariel, and the entire team with the donations that make this organization possible.

"Your Kindness and Generosity reach my family giving us hope and better quality of life. Our most sincere gratitude."

The Ortiz Family

Sarah's continued progress would not be possible without access to specialized services and resources. Special thanks are extended to the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project for their generous donations and to ongoing support for children and their families. Their contributions help ensure that children like Sarah receive essential Therapy and interventions that might otherwise be out of reach. For many families facing complex medical and developmental challenges, this support provides not only services but also hope and opportunity for a brighter future.



Sarah's journey is one of perseverance, supported by a dedicated team of Therapists, medical providers, and her loving family. She has demonstrated encouraging growth in gross motor, communication, interaction, and engagement. While her path includes ongoing challenges, her progress highlights the importance of consistency and a collaborative approach to care.

Despite these obstacles, Sarah is a sweet and loving child who brings joy to those around her. She has a special love for music, which captures her attention and brings out her bright personality. Music not only makes her happy but also serves as a valuable therapeutic tool, encouraging vocalization, engagement, and interaction. Her gentle nature and positive spirit shine through her daily interactions and Therapy sessions.

With her sweet personality, love of music, and strong support system, Sarah continues to make meaningful strides. Her story reflects the power of compassion, teamwork, and access to resources in helping children reach their fullest potential.



Scholarship and Vocational Grants

Rich Wallace, PDDGER • Chairman

Congratulations to all of the recently installed Lodge Officers and our newest members. This article highlights the many Scholarships, grants, and awards offered through the Elks, providing valuable opportunities for students of all ages and backgrounds.

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

California-Hawaii Elks Association (CHEA) Programs

Vocational Grant Program

This program is open year-round to U.S. citizens whose primary residence is in California or Hawaii. It supports students of any age who are pursuing vocational school, job training, or professional certification. Typically awarded as a one-year, one-time grant, it may be renewed for a second year for two-year programs. New in 2026, the application is available online via the CHEA website, along with expanded eligibility for coursework and institutions.

Undergraduate Scholarship for Students with Disabilities

Also open year-round to U.S. citizens residing in California or Hawaii, this needs-based Scholarship supports students with qualifying impairments as outlined in the application. Funding is intended for undergraduate study at a licensed vocational school, accredited community college, or four-year college or university.

Elks National Foundation (ENF) Programs

Most Valuable Student (MVS) Scholarship

This Scholarship is open to high school seniors (or equivalent) who are U.S. citizens planning to pursue an undergraduate degree. Applications are accepted from August 1 through the first week of November. While ENF administers the program at the national level, local Lodges, Districts, and State Associations participate in judging. CHEA supports this effort by funding hundreds of additional awards through its own MVS contest. Each Lodge should assign a Scholarship Coordinator in CLMS by August 1st. Lodges may also choose to sponsor local awards.

Legacy Awards

These awards are available to college-bound children or grandchildren of Elk members who have been in good standing for at least the past two years. Applications are accepted from November through to the first week of February.

Emergency Educational Grants

These renewable, one-year grants provide financial assistance to undergraduate students who are children of deceased or disabled Elk members.

Weigel Medical School Scholarship

Open to Elks pursuing degrees in medical or osteopathic medicine, this Scholarship supports those advancing into the medical profession. The application process opened in January and will close in May.

Both the CHEA Vocational Grant and the Undergraduate Scholarship for Students with Disabilities are available on the CHEA website. Information and applications for ENF Scholarships, grants, and awards are available on the ENF website. Lodges are encouraged to visit these sites for brochures and promotional materials to help share these opportunities within their communities.

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Public Relations

Dennis Hunter, PDDGER • Chairman

The final results have been tabulated for the remaining three Public Relations contests for the Fraternal Year 2025-2026: Lodge Bulletin, Community Service Image Brochure and Single Best Event Brochure. All of the entries submitted were very well done! Lots of creativity went into producing these entries. Each contest was based on Divisions as shown below.

Lodge Bulletin Contest:

Division 1: 1st) Santa Monica 906

Division 2: 1st) Alameda 1015 • 2nd) Gilroy 1567 • 3rd) South San Francisco 2091 • 4th) Gardena 1919

Division 3: 1st) Fremont 2121

Division 4: 1st) Garden Grove 1952 • 2nd) Santa Cruz 824

Division 5: 1st) Fullerton 1993 • 2nd) Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley 2444 • 3rd) Eureka 652

Division 6: 1st) Santa Maria 1538

Community Service Image Brochure:

Division 4: 1st) Garden Grove 1952 • 2nd) Santa Cruz 824 3rd) Sacramento 6

Single Best Event Brochure:

Division 4: 1st) Garden Grove 1952 • 2nd) Santa Cruz 824 3rd) Sacramento 6

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 pickup at our table. Thank you all for entering and we'll have more exciting CHEA Public Relations contests 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 Palm Springs!

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Orange Coast District Charity Golf Tournament took place at Dad Miller Golf Course in Anaheim. The tournament hosted over ninety golfers, raising over $10,000 for the Purple Pig.

Garden Grove Lodge 1952 Youth Activities Committee donated bunny ears, playground balls, and fruit snacks to St Olaf Preschool.



Lodge Activities

Rudy Guerra, PDDGER • Chairman

As we look toward the Spring 2026 Association Convention in Palm Springs, it is inspiring to see how far we have come since Summer 2024. Two years ago, we set out with a goal to "Soar for Four"—achieving a fourth consecutive year of plus membership growth—and thanks to the relentless efforts of our Lodges, we have continued to prove that Elkdom is thriving. Through the efforts of each Lodge Activities we we're able to invite prospective members and help with the growth.

Celebrating 75 Years of the "Purple Pig"

The defining milestone of this period was the 75th Anniversary of the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project (CHEMPI) in 2025.

- **Fundraising Success:** Lodges across the Association rallied to surpass the $4.5 million mark, fueled by the 2024-2025 Challenge Coin program.
- **Community Impact:** From the 2024 Hemet Elks Rally, which raised $82,000, to the tireless work of our professional Therapists, we have ensured that children with disabilities continue to "Walk, Talk, See, and Play".
- **Leading Knight Challenges:** As Lodges in our great Association set out the challenge to see who can raise the most, for the Major Project, took off like a wildflower. I don't have a total across CHEA, but I have no doubt it was a biggie.

A Legacy of Service and Lodge Vitality

Our Lodges have remained the heartbeat of their communities through diverse activities:

- **Veterans and Youth:** We have deepened our commitment to Veterans Services and Youth Programs like the Hoop Shoot, which prepares for its 2026 National Finals in Chicago.
- **Lodge Learning:** The CHEA Learning Seminars held throughout 2024 and 2025 in cities like Sacramento, San Pedro, and Visalia, equipped our Officers and members with the tools for better management and Public Relations.
- **Civic Pride:** Our continued presence in the Rose Parade, and local events like the Santa Maria Elks Rodeo, have kept the Elks name synonymous with community spirit.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we transition into the 2026-2027 year, our focus remains on Membership, Veterans Service, and the Elks National Foundation (ENF). We encourage every Lodge to utilize ENF Community Grants to fund local projects that make a visible difference. Through your activities I know we'll do even better.

Thank you to the Officers and Members who have made these past two years "unstoppable." Let's carry this momentum into Palm Springs and continue to show why we are the "Best People On Earth".

It has been my honor serving as your CHEA Lodge Activities Chairman and I'm sure you'll be just as amazing with Lou Apodaca as you have been for me.

God Bless you all, Cindy and I look forward to meeting you again.



Membership Retention and Lapsation

James Warrick, PDDGER • Chairman

Initiate, initiate, initiate! Over 1,000 candidates in CHEA Lodges currently await initiation. Candidates don't have to wait one or two months for initiation into the Elks. Special initiations may take place at any time or at any Lodge in the Order. Because California-Hawaii Elks led the nation in membership development CHEA sat up front in 2025 at Elks National Convention in Kansas City. With resolve to complete initiations CHEA may sit up front again at the 2026 Elks National Convention in Chicago.

Lodges may want to dedicate a class of initiates to some special Elk, like an Elk of the Year, a District Deputy, or a Past Association President. Lodges may think about having a BBQ or a fish fry or some other different type of meal in conjunction with a special initiation. Following through with timely initiations is fulfilling the promise gleaming in the eyes of sponsors and candidates.

R & R ... Recruit and Retain. In addition to streamlining the initiation process, membership development dictates that every Elk is part of the Membership Committee. Membership is the lifeblood of the Elks, without new Elk memberships an acidic empty void may envelope a Lodge. Recruitment of new members is an ongoing process to rejuvenate Lodges, so the Elks social, patriotic, and civic endeavors may continue to thrive.

Membership development includes several roots to success. The tap root involves initiating new members, but paying attention to "Stray" Elks and timely attention to reinstatements may provide additional strength to overall membership development. "Stray" Elks pay dues at one Lodge but live in the jurisdiction of another one. Lodge Secretaries have the names and addresses of "Stray" Elks in their area and may reach out to them. Reinstatement help: Sponsors may want to reach out to inactive members who broke from the herd to guide them back.

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Santa Clarita Lodge 2379 partnered with the SCV Education Foundation using an Spotlight Grant to support the "Page Turners" program! With the $2,000 grant and $1,000 from the Lodge Charity Fund, students at three local Title 1 Junior Highs each received two free books to take home. Elks Drug Awareness bookmarks were given to each student.

Chico Lodge 423 Trustee Scarlett Rhoads and Lodge Secretary, Sue Brown assembled Grab and Go bags for the 6th Street Center for Youth organization. A Beacon Grant provided $4,000 for food distribution to the local food pantry.



Youth/Soccer Activities

Jim McCloskey, PDDGER • Chairman

It's spring! And summer is just around the corner!! It's a time of transition with incoming Lodge leadership working on schedules, dates and funding resources for the coming Elk year. It's time to prepare your Youth Activities program for presentation to your community partners. As many schools will soon be out of session, summer activities and school calendars are being reviewed. Check with the school districts, parks and recreation, and local sports leagues to see if there are any summer programs that can use help, or can assist your Lodge with yours. Find out now when it would be a good time to meet with school administrators to work on getting your Lodge programs onto their calendar for the upcoming year.

New Exalted Rulers: Youth Week pops up quickly, the first week of May. This is the week to show appreciation for those students who have participated in Lodge events throughout the Elk year. As you are planning Youth Program for the new Elk year, be sure to include funding for your activities from some of your grants.

I want to thank the Youth Activities/Soccer Chairs for the focus and support they have provided to their Lodges and Districts. The District Chairmen have been an important link in communication with the Lodges looking to schedule and implement their own programs and activities, and to encourage diligent documenting and reporting. I appreciate their effort to follow up with updates on programs within their District and compile their own quarterly reports. These reports help to maintain the non-profit state of our organization.

With the FIFA World Cup soccer matches that are scheduled to be coming up in the United States, and the heightened level of interest in soccer it should bring, we hope it will inspire more Lodges to hold their own Soccer Shoot events. This would be a great time to organize Lodge 2026-2027 events with the local soccer leagues or school end-of-year events, and make use of the opportunities to draw competitors and volunteers, as well as some publicity for Elks activities. To the credit of the Districts and their Lodges, entries for the 2025-2026 Virtual Soccer Shoot were doubled this year!

With each new activity at the Lodge level, we promote a better awareness of why and how our Lodges rely on the contact with our youth and their families for the betterment of our communities and the future of Elkdom.

Our Youth – Our Future

Shout out to the CHEA BAY DISTRICT, who was happy to report that, for the first time in many years, all seven Lodges in the District held Hoop Shoot events!

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Monterey Lodge 1285 Youth Activities Foundation raised $8,000 during their Crab Feast Fundraiser. The funds will be donated back to the Monterey Peninsula community to support local youth programs.



Government Relations

Alyssa Santos, PDDGER • Chairman

Greetings and Aloha,

As the CHEA Chairman for Government Relations this year, along with Vice Chairman Kris Picard, we are excited to be part of President Elect, Lynn Glick's team.

Here is some helpful information to ensure your Lodge is doing all it can regarding Government Relations. Each month, your Lodge Government Relations Chairman has a seven-question report to complete:

1. Have you updated your Charity Book records, and were all events entered? Did you double-check your monthly newsletter to ensure all events were included?

2. Did you send any correspondence to your local government this month? For example: introduction letters, birthday cards, congratulatory letters regarding their achievements, or invitations to attend a First Responders evening?

3. Have any government officials visited your Lodge and/or events?

4. Have you initiated any government officials?

5. Have you sent copies of your Charity Report to all government officials to keep them updated?

6. Have you published an article in your newsletter and/or Local newspaper(s) informing Lodge members, as well as your community, of contributions made to local charitable organizations?

7. On an ongoing basis, have you been working with your Exalted Ruler, Secretary, and other Lodge Officers on your Charity Records Booklet?

Your Lodge Chairman will send this report to their District Chairman by the 5th of the month. The District Chairman will then send what has been reported by the 10th of the month to me, Kris, their District Leaders, and DDGER. This ensures that your leaders are aware of what is being reported.

Ensuring the reporting of charitable activities falls under this committee's umbrella, as it helps us maintain our nonprofit status. For any event you are hosting, you should be logging your volunteers, non-Elk helpers' time, miles, cash and non-non-cash contributions.

It is the Secretary's duty to input this information into CLMS; however, your Secretary may appoint a Charitable Giving Coordinator. This person can enter this important information and help alleviate the Secretary's workload. Your Secretary will add them in CLMS, and that person can access it through the elks.org website under the extended access area to input the information. At the end of the year, the Lodge Secretary is responsible for submitting the final annual report.

We will have a table at our Association Convention and would love to connect, please stop by and introduce yourselves.

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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 suggestions you can turn to:

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

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

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

Finally, this is my last CHEA Magazine article. My time as CHEA-NVSC Chair has come to an end. It has been an honor and pleasure to be CHEA NVSC Chair these past two years. A big thank you to all those that have come by the Veterans booth at CHEA Convention and Mid-Term. A special thank you to all the VAVS Reps, VAVS Deputy Reps, and District Chairs. Without your commitment, all we have done would not be possible.

Dan Baccelliere will be the new CHEA NVSC Chair and Jay Dupler will be the new CHEA NVSC Vice-Chair. I know all of you will help them as you have helped me.

Until we meet again, may you have fair winds and following seas.

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

John W. Hardman, PDDGER
U.S. Navy Veteran, 1970-1974

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Palo Alto Lodge 1471 used its Beacon Grant to support the Palo Alto VA Hospital and the neighboring Defender's Lodge by providing backpacks, sweatshirts/pants for rehabilitation patients, mattress protectors, and help replenish the emergency food pantry.

Madera Lodge 1918 used ENF Freedom Grant funds to send care packages to deployed military stationed on the USS Abraham Lincoln. Members packed boxes that included snacks, and hygiene items. Their goal was to show support for our active military sailors while deployed overseas. They want to lift their spirits and show them that they take time to think of them.

Atascadero Lodge 2733 held a Veterans Fair. Vendors offered free services to Veterans, they included SLO Ponderosa Home Repair, Vet Center, American Legion, Central Coast Veterans Helping Veterans, and Honor Flight. The Lodge has helped sponsor Veterans able to take the Honor Flight. The Lodge also used an ENF Grant to support Central Coast Veterans Helping Veterans, moving Veterans to move from homeless.



Monterey Lodge 1285 used a $4,000 ENF Grant to support the Veterans Homeless Transition Center. Pictured are Lodge volunteers, who used local retailers to purchase household goods, filling over seventy "Adopt A Haven" bags with the items for Veterans now housed in the Veterans Transitions Center's Lightfighter Village.

Santa Monica Lodge 906 has proudly worked with the West LA VA campus for many years—but this year, they raised the bar. Between June 2025 and February 2026, the Lodge provided an incredible 323 Welcome Home Kits to veterans transitioning into housing. This achievement is a direct result of the hard work, dedication, and heart of Deidre Welborn, their Veterans Chair, and her amazing team.

What makes this accomplishment even more extraordinary is this: during the entire 2024–2025 fraternal year, the California-Hawaii Elks Association collectively provided 333 Welcome Home Kits. The Santa Monica Lodge alone nearly matched that number. Proof positive that while they may be a smaller Lodge, they are mighty in purpose and impact.



Norwalk Lodge 2142 Veteran's Chairman R.A. Pickett arrived at Los Angeles Space Force base with lunch for the Security Forces stationed there. The Lodge had been donating monthly lunches using a Freedom Grant. Pictured (L-R) Senior Master Chief Wells, Captain Perez and PDDGER R.A. Pickett.



Drug Awareness

Susan Good, PDDGER • Chairman

CHEA Drug Awareness Program Contest Winners For 2025-26!

Many thanks to our CHEA District and Lodge Chairs who gave students in their communities the opportunity to participate in our four Drug Awareness Program Contests this past year! Our theme, **"Drugs Are A Grave Mistake,"** 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 Video Contest for High School students. Top entries were submitted by twelve of our nineteen Districts, 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 – Kamilla Segura, 5th Grade • Orange 1475
2nd Place – Devyavish Shaw, 4th Grade • Fremont 2121
3rd Place – LolaMae Holdenbrook, 4th Grade • Redding 1013

CHEA DAP Poster Contest Winners

1st Place – Kamilla Segura, 5th Grade • Orange 1475
2nd Place – Devyavish Shaw, 4th Grade • Fremont 2121
3rd Place – LolaMae Holdenbrook, 4th Grade • Redding 1013

CHEA DAP Essay Contest Winners

1st Place – Alyson Schmidt, 8th Grade • Roseville 2248
2nd Place – Ivan Zimakov, 7th Grade • Mission Viejo 2444
3rd Place – Isaiah Lugo, 8th Grade • Pittsburg 1474

CHEA DAP Pre-High School Video Contest Winners

1st Place – Celeste Williams, Grace Lee, Sophia Nguyen, Collin Lee, Sayden Rubio, and Zakaria Alqaisi, 8th Grade • Buena Park 2046
2nd Place – Balian Gumm-Rodriguez, 6th Grade • Merced 1240
3rd Place – Conner Dunn, 7th Grade • San Diego 168

CHEA DAP High School Video Contest Winners

1st Place, Hawaii – Ethan-James Matsumura, Kolin Oshiro, Jiel Jeon, Jenna Ishigo, 10th Grade • Hilo 659
1st Place, California – Kaylee Welborn, 10th Grade • Santa Monica 906

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, 8th Grader Alyson Schmidt, from Chilton Middle School in Roseville, to be our guest at our Annual Association Convention in Rancho Mirage where we're hoping she'll be reading her winning essay to us during our business meeting, May 15th.

Also at our Annual Convention, as you may remember, we'll be formally presenting a beautiful plaque that we received from the National Drug Awareness Program to our 2026 California-Hawaii Elks Association Enrique Camarena nominee, Pasadena Police Officer Raymond Cardenas.

Lastly, please stop by our Drug Awareness Program booth, say hi, check out the latest materials available to you, and let us know if there are more ways we can help you.

Many Thanks…

In closing, it has been my pleasure and honor to serve CHEA as a member of our Drug Awareness Program for the past four years—first as Vice Chair and currently as Chair—and I thank you all for your support, your great ideas, and your hard work for our program. Many thanks also to our Vice Chair Patty Hamilton. I am happy to report she will be assuming the reins as Drug Awareness Chairman right after the Convention and David Wells will join her as Vice Chair. I know they will do an outstanding job in continuing the promotion of our Drug Awareness Program along with each of you! Don't hesitate to reach out to them with your ideas and suggestions and rest assured there really is no dumb question.

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Riverside Lodge 643 recently donated $35,000 to support local organizations that provide essential services throughout the community. This year's recipients include Voices for Children, Fraternal Order of Police, Riverside Mountain Rescue, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Ronald McDonald House, and the California-Hawaii Elks Major Projects, Inc. (CHEMPI). These organizations make a real difference every day. We're honored to support their work and continue the Elks' tradition of service. Pictured above with the CHEMPI donation are (L-R) Exalted Ruler Amy Torgerson, and Past Exalted Ruler Leslie Fisher.

Orange Lodge 1475 Antlers supported the OC Animal Care by collecting dog and cat food as well as gently used blankets and towels. The Antlers also donated $500 to South Sunrise Little League.

Alameda Lodge 1015 donated eighteen Welcome Home Kits to Operation Dignity, a nonprofit charity that provides shelter, transitional housing, and supportive services to help Veterans and their families escape the crisis of homelessness.

Norwalk Lodge 2142 presented a check for $1,000 to the John Glenn Girls Wrestling Team. The wrestling team helps student athletes learn discipline and sports camaraderie.

CHEMPI Latest Millennium Plus Level Donors • (February 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026)



Pat Terrell • Kern River Valley 2358
Herman DeJong • Lake Elsinore 2591



Samuel A. Aucoin • Honolulu 616
Michael J. Gilligan • San Bernardino 836
Lynn Glick • Alameda 1015
Donna Leiby • Duarte 1427
Robert Kelley • Madera 1918
Brenda Sherman • Redwood City 1991
Rich Wallace • Redwood City 1991
Gary Isner • Westchester 2050
Joan Hermansen • Kern River Valley 2358
Charles Strohl • Yucaipa 2389
Linda Houston • Santa Inez Valley 2640



Cindy Spickler • Napa 832
Carol Gilligan • San Bernardino 836
Louise McCoskey • Modesto 1282
Jody Mentzer • Darte1427
Linda Vulgamore • Garden Grove 1952
Diane Phillips • Westchester 2050
Walter A Flatt • Roseville 2248
Wesley Remaklus • Yucca Valley 2314
Bryan Gicking • Thousand Oaks 2477

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

CHEMPI Latest Millennium Level Donors ($1,000) • (February 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026)

Christopher & Pamela Rupright	3	James Chaisson	1475	Gary Isner	2050	Brian Prewitt	2379
Butch & Lynn DePaul	168	Steve McGehee	1538	Jaynee Roszhart	2050	Caren Bowman	2444
Jon Kent	613	Sharon M. Dooley	1608	Regina Devine	2103	Alan Harkness	2444
Cheryl Bode	672	Michael Barnum	1625	Laura Parker	2121	Jack Jacobs	2444
Esmeralda Gibson	672	Ruth Reeves	1811	Michael Dreiling	2248	Gary Erland	2477
Sue McKee	794	Robert Ruppert	1952	Roberta "Bobbie" Flatt	2248	Bryan Gicking	2477
Daniel Salas	794	Tisha Ostrander (2)	1959	Walter A Flatt	2248	Lyssa Wright	2477
Mark Phillips	832	Kathy Torres	1959	Thomas Smithson	2248	Michael Ellison	2577
Jerry Hansen	901	Diane Phillips	1968	Joan Hermansen	2358	Shawnie Greer	2697
Don Checchi	906	Brenda Sherman (2)	1991	Tom Jefferies	2358	Erin Martinez	2697
Janice Cantu	1015	Bob & Judy Harraka	1993	Patricia "Pat" Terrell	2358	Gabriel Martinez	2697
Evelyn Poppa-McKenna	1342	Quita Dondlinger	2025	Judy Delaney	2379	Gerald Troxel	2697
Richard Enea	1474	Jan Keller	2026	Robert Laymon	2379	Richard "Mike" Bielenberg	2704
						Patti Powell	2704

CHEMPI Latest Century Club Donors ($100) • (February 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026)

Stephen Clazie	6	Stephen Bostain (2)	1073	Leland Stiles	1073	Renee Grant	1475
Edward Gilbert, Jr	6	Randy Brix	1073	Jocelyn Stone	1073	Christina Llera	1475
Michael Havey (2)	6	Michelle Brouillard	1073	Donna Sulliivan	1073	Juan Llera	1475
Joanne Martin	6	Steven Bustillos (2)	1073	Kathryn Holmes Tully	1073	J. Leon Lowe	1475
Carol Mitchell	6	Catherine Carson	1073	Michael Ursitti	1073	Carrie Nocella	1475
Linda Prosper	6	John Chandler	1073	Kevin Vollbrecht	1073	Eric Padget	1475
Donald Puliz	6	Steven Coburn	1073	Charles Wadowski	1073	David Salas	1475
Ronald Roberts	6	David Codromac	1073	Carolyn Ward	1073	Linda Salas	1475
Rosemary Robles	6	Justyse Cooper	1073	Bill Wright	1073	Dori Sullivan	1475
Charlotte Tucker	6	Norval Foss, Jr.	1073	Dean Aure	1108	Dave Sullivan	1475
William Welch III	6	Richard Gallagher	1073	Fred Casey	1250	Melissa Worland	1475
William "Bill" Malloy	266	Donald Gallino	1073	Nancy Clark	1259	Richard Wynn (2)	1475
Don Beck (5)	423	Douglas Gardner	1073	Margaret Ferreira	1259	John Tognetti	1567
Dorothy Mitsud	522	Charles "Charlie" Gripp (2)	1073	Blanca Goforth	1259	Sharon Dooley	1608
Jack Meylink	538	Fred Kicenski	1073	Darlene Goumas	1259	Barbara Earle	1608
Michael Pesek	616	Kim Kogel	1073	Liza Johnson	1259	Mary McNeil	1608
Keith Shikuma	616	Layne Larson	1073	Melinda Jones	1259	Jon McNeil	1608
Linda Herrera	643	Jack Latiolais	1073	Scott Key (2)	1259	Adela Owensby	1608
Terri Saulmon	783	Bartley Lovett (2)	1073	Michael McClelland (2)	1259	Diane Tradeup	1608
Ken Trexler	783	Ernest Mandere	1073	Teresa Ray	1259	David Tradeup	1608
Andy Arango (4)	794	Lon McCasland	1073	Jeff Schneider	1259	Mark Walters	1608
Pamela Bethke (7)	794	Joseph "Joe" McFarland (3)	1073	Mike Wilson	1259	Fred Wasserman	1608
Mark Allen (2)	824	Jerry Merrill	1073	Lorraine Cardoza	1282	Ronald Hinman	1643
John Reynolds	824	Nancy Milton	1073	Bruce Kennedy (5)	1282	Will Botzum	1687
Patricia Gardiner (4)	832	Michael Oliver	1073	Barbara Wegener	1282	Jennifer Johns	1767
Robert Niklewicz	832	James Oliver	1073	Joseph Elterman	1289	Kirkup Granville	1767
Kimberley Smith (3)	832	Patricia Payne	1073	Jerry Baltz	1378	Michael Anderson	1787
Kenneth Spingola (2)	832	Michael Payne	1073	Wade Roberts (2)	1424	Teresa Green	1787
Michael Gilligan (3)	836	Mary Payne	1073	John Bivens	1475	John "Jack" Lower	1787
Raphael Rangel (3)	836	Alan Phillips	1073	Michele Bivens	1475	Teresa Sheppard (5)	1787
John Barry (2)	906	John Pruett	1073	William Brogan	1475	Rolando Linares	1799
Joan Boylan	906	Greg Rathbun	1073	John Carnes	1475	Janis Garcia	1913
Elizabeth dos Remedios (2)	1015	Larry Ryan	1073	Ruth Davis	1475	Kathleen Jacobs	1913
Joan Stebbins	1015	Lee Salter	1073	Neale Davis	1475	Thomas Kunkel (3)	1913
Teresa Adams	1073	Ann Schneider	1073	Michael Davis	1475	Robert Littrell	1918
Thomas Bertain	1073	Victoria Smith	1073	Dale Fairchild	1475	Vickie Guillen	1919
Annette Borgwat	1073	Michelle Smith	1073	Charles Grant	1475	Tisha Ostrander (5)	1959

CHEMPI Latest Century Club Donors ($100) • (February 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026)

David Bessette	1991	David Braafladt	2248	Renee Weismantel	2358	Marge Vidal	2577
David Fierro	1996	Robert Breault	2248	Brian Prewitt (5)	2379	Herman DeJong (5)	2591
Lorraine O'Brien	1996	Ken Cobb	2248	Will Canizales (2)	2389	James Williams	2599
Joanna Villareal	1996	Steve Dale	2248	Kenneth "Wayne" Hironiums	2389	Gerald Droze	2616
Patrick O'Keefe	2013	Mike Davis	2248	Charles Chapman	2444	Jan Pye	2639
Quita Dondlinger	2025	Michael Dreiling	2248	Barbara Coppola	2444	John Bennyworth (2)	2697
Nanci Hardege	2025	Jeremy Dubois	2248	Stephen Gray	2444	Mary Brunkhorst	2697
Harry Hardege	2025	Walter Flatt (5)	2248	Norma Harkness (5)	2444	Steve Brunkhorst	2697
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Riverside Elks 643	$15,488 for Elks Rally 2025	Riverside Elks 643
Lakewood/Bellflower Elks 888	$3,631 for Elks Rally 2025	Lakewood/Bellflower 888
Alameda Lodge Bunco Group	$170	Alameda Elks 1015
Whittier Campers	$200 for Elks Rally 2025	Whittier Elks 1258
Ontario Elks 1419	$9,604.79 for Elks Rally 2025	Ontario Elks 14419
DOT Foods	$2,500	Needles Elks 1608
River Valley HVAC	$500	Needles Elks 1608
Colorado River Plumbing	$250	Needles Elks 1608
Thompson Family Plumbing	$2,500	Needles Elks 1608
Napa Parts Tires N Service	$250	Needles Elks 1608
Hemet Elks 1740	$1,279 for Elks Rally 2025	Hemet Elks 1740
Big Bear Lake Bingo Players	$1,624	Big Bear Elks 1787
Paramount Elks 1804	$1,807 for Elks Rally 2025	Paramount Elks 1804
Desert Does	$3,388.09	Palm Springs 1905
High Sierra Cyclists	$200	Ridgecrest Elks 1913
Madera Elks Bingo Club	$1,000	Madera Elks 1918
Gardena Elks Bingo Players	$1,496	Gardena Elks 1919
Huntington Beach Elks 1959	$3,163 for Elks Rally 2025	Huntington Beach Elks 1959
Fullerton Elks 1993	$12,000 for Elks Rally 2025	Fullerton Elks 1993
Corona Elks 2045	$4,329.80 for Elks Rally 2025	Corona Elks 2045
Casamar Group	$2,500	Santa Clarita Elks 2379
Santa Clarita Bingo Patrons	$1,423	Santa Clarita Elks 2379
Yucaipa Elks 2389	$3,748 for Elks Rally 2025	Yucaipa Elks 2389
Thousand Oaks Elks 2477	$5,030 for Elks Rally 2025	Thousand Oaks Elks 2477
Elks Grove Bingo Players	$1,447.85	Elks Grove Elks 2577
Lake Elsinore/Wildomar Elks 2591	$2,030 for Elks Rally 2025	Lake Elsinore/Wildomar Elks 2591
Lake Elsinore/Wildomar Bingo Players	$272.10	Lake Elsinore/Wildomar Elks 2591
Moreno Valley Elks 2697	$4,672.42 for Elks Rally 2025	Moreno Valley Elks 2697
Santee-Lakeside Elks 2698	$3,768 for Elks Rally 2025	Santee-Lakeside Elks 2698
Temecula Valley Elks 2801	$1,510 for Elks Rally 2025	Temecula Valley Elks 2801



Orange Coast District's eight Lodges sponsored a Veteran's Stand Down at the Garden Grove Lodge 1952. Some of the Lodges offered and provided food service, such as breakfast and lunch items. These were free to the participating Veterans, family members and volunteers in attendance. Other Lodges provided free non-perishable food items, hygiene kits, and clothing. Minor medical care was available to those Veterans in need of such service. Showers and haircuts were provided free of charge. In addition to services offered by the Lodges in the District, many Veterans service organizations were present to provide information on service dogs, mental health assistance, legal help, counseling, and housing. The event was covered by two local news organizations. Scott Stephens, California-Hawaii Elks Association President and First Lady, Mary Kay were present to address attendees, as well as local City Councilwoman Cindy Tran. The Stand Down served more than 100 Orange County Veterans. Pictured above are some of our many District Volunteers.

Redding Lodge1073 presented Redding Family Youth Programs with a check for the combined Beacon and Spotlight Grants of $6,000. The Grant money was used to help Foster Children transition out of Foster Care by providing ten "Welcome Home" Kits of essential items needed for children aging out of Foster Care. Transitional Housing Placement is a program for Foster Youth age 16-18.

Sacramento Lodge 6's Girl Scout Troop 3889 completed a successful two-month shoe drive, collecting 1,325 pairs of gently used shoes to support micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries. The shoes will be distributed through Funds2Orgs, helping create economic opportunities and providing a "hand up, not a handout."

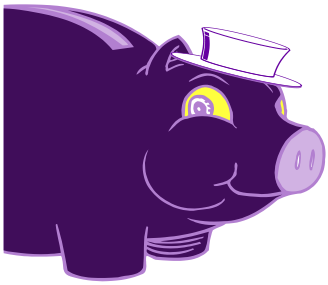
In other news, Lodge Scout Troop 5010 and Pack 259 collected 1,470 food items along with $289 for the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Closet during its Scouting for Food Drive.



Santa Monica Lodge 906 held a successful Purple Pig fundraiser. Over $7,000 was raised at Mahjong Mania with sixty participants who enjoyed breakfast, lunch, prizes and a full day of Mahjong play. Pictured (L-R) Ilene Knebel, Esteemed Loyal Knight, Gloria Halfacre, and Dr Lisette Gold, both ladies are Lodge Trustees.

Yucca Valley Lodge 2314 donated $200 each to the following sports programs. Tri-Valley Little League, Yucca Valley High School Basketball, and Yucca Valley High School Baseball. Funds will be used to help with much needed equipment, new uniforms, as well as travel expenses.

Orange Elks Antler Program combined leadership, fun and friends in organizing a Pinewood Derby Race Night as a fund raiser. It was an evening that raised $1,180 for the CHEA Major Project.



CHEA Major Project

Just a coin a day so they can

Walk, Talk, See & Play!





Placerville Lodge 1712 hosted its annual Hoop Shoot contest at Marina Village School in El Dorado Hills. The Lodge is very proud of all the participants, and we will be cheering on the winners who will go on to represent the Lodge in the District competition. Pictured are Chip Holden, Lodge Hoop Shoot Chairman, Barbara Dockter, District Hoop Shoot Chairman, along with this year's contest winners.

In other news, the Lodge held it's annual Americanism Awards Banquet, where ten local students read their essays and were presented their prizes for their outstanding essays on this year's topic, "What Does Service to Your Country Mean to You?"



Eureka Lodge 652 presented educational awards of $500 each to six local high school students in recognition of their academic achievement, leadership, as well as their community involvement. Pictured is Exalted Ruler Nina Strang with the honored students.



Santa Maria Lodge 1538 was represented by a young lady who took first place in her age group (8/9) at the District Hoop Shoot and went on to compete at the Region 7 competition in Boulder City, Nevada. Emmy came in second place by one basket; she'll be back for the win next year. Emmy is pictured above with Eddie and Maria Navarro, the Lodge's Hoop Shoot Chairman.



Temecula Valley Lodge 2801 honored six local students with scholarships. Pictured (L-R) James Stead, Exalted Ruler, Emily Weldon, Melissa Chai, Ines Yanez, Evan Hampton, Zeal Marzett, Tony Yang, and Terry Wisniewski, Scholarship Chairman.



Lance Erickson, Past Association President, of Templeton, California, passed away peacefully at home on February 17, 2026.

Lance was born in Jamestown, New York, attended Jamestown High School prior to enlisting in the United States Navy in 1965, serving on the USS Ticonderoga in Vietnam. In 1968, Lance was honorably discharged and pursued a 32-year career with the California Highway Patrol. During his time, he worked a wide range of assignments, public affairs, anti-terrorism, auto theft investigations, and commercial vehicle enforcement

Lance retired in 2002 from the CHP Coastal Division, and re-invented himself as a winemaker. His own Shiloh Ridge Winery won numerous awards on the Central Coast. Lance was also a member of the Masons and American Legion, but found his heart helping others by joining the Benevolent and Protective Order of The Elks. He became Exalted Ruler of the Atascadero Lodge in 2007, and was the President of the California-Hawaii Elks Association from 2016-2017.

Lance was very proud of the life that he and Karen made for sixty years. Lance is survived by Karen, his beloved wife, his four children and ten grandchildren.



Hilo Lodge 759 helped save a respected community business after a late night fire destroyed three 100 year old buildings in Hilo. District Leader John Smith encouraged the Lodge to renovate a section of their building make space available for a twenty-two year old displaced business. The Lodge had a very positive response, renovated, and now Oleana's Healing Massage Center will continue as a respected business in Hilo because of the Lodge. Pictured are Lodge Trustee's along with Oleana and her staff.

Riverside Lodge 643 celebrated 125 years of Community Service with a special Open House that welcomed 300 community members. The Lodge was honored to receive a Certificate of Recognition and formal Resolution from the city.



Orange Lodge 1475 Lodge members Kristie Gonzalez and Juan Liera organized a fundraiser to make a Vietnam Veterans fishing trip possible. Pictured above are Juan Liera, Christina Llera, Julie Sutton and Garret Hamblin presented Dave Perry with a check for $1,500.



Fullerton Lodge 1993 held a Community Awards Night honoring Pathways of Hope, an organization which serves the North Orange County by providing access to food, shelter, and housing to the homeless. Pictured is Ann Stoddard, a Volunteer Program Specialist accepting a check from the Lodge for $3.500.

Santa Maria Lodge 1538 Touring Elks Committee raffled a 2025 Harley and other raffle items raising $19,600. Touring Elks fundraising throughout the year supports, Little League teams, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Alzheimer's, Guadalupe Christmas Parade, Young Adults with Disabilities, CHEA Major Project, Golden Circle of Champions, Cruzin for Life, Make a Wish and more throughout each year.

In other news, the Lodge supports the Santa Maria Little League Challenger Program which is an adaptive baseball division for children and adults (ages 4–22) with physical and intellectual disabilities. It allows participants to play in a structured, non-competitive environment, this year there will be three local leagues fielding four adaptive teams. The Lodge donated $350 to each team for their expenses.

Elks National Foundation

California-Hawaii Elks Association Most Valuable Student Scholarship Winners

Brandon Chang,
sponsored by Santa Clarita Lodge No. 2379
and
Elijah Borjon,
sponsored by Petaluma Lodge No. 901
have advanced through all levels of judging and are
Officially Top 20 MVS Finalists!

Each has been awarded $30,000 in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

Brandon plans to attend Princeton University, where he will major in Applied Mathematics. Elijah plans to attend the University of Puget Sound and major in Cell and Molecular Biology.

Congratulations to both students on this incredible accomplishment, and best of luck as they begin their next chapter!

A new fiscal year means new dates and deadlines! Please be sure to update your webpages and publications with the 2026-2027 scholarship details:

Emergency Educational Grant Application
Opens: May 1, 2026 • Closes: December 31, 2026

Most Valuable Student Scholarship Application
Opens: August 1, 2026 • Closes: November 12, 2026

Legacy Awards Application
Opens: September 1, 2026 • Closes: February 1, 2027

Weigel Medical School Scholarship
Opens: January 2027 • Closes: May 2027



Thousand Oaks Lodge 2477 participated in a Eagle Scout recognition dinner held March. Pictured (L-R) Leading Knight Lyssa Wright, Michael Loepold, Troop 754, Scouting Chairman PDDGER Greg Metzgus, Exalted Ruler John Betancourt and Ethan Deere, Troop 730.



Pearl City Lodge 2669 participated in the Boy Scouts Troop 9 Eagle Scouts Court of Honor program. PDDGER Pete Machado awarded Bryson Laguana and Jaycen Laguana Certificates of Honor both from CHEA and the Pearl City Lodge. Additionally, American Flag were given to the Scouts. Pictured (L-R) Bryson Laguana, Pete Machado PDDGER and Jaycen Laguana.



Merced Lodge 1240 donated dictionaries to Hopeton School along with Drug Awareness bookmarks to the Merced County Office of Education for their students with special needs. Pictured (L-R) are Jane Lozano, Dictionary Chair, Sharnpreet Singh, Behavior Analyst, Jim Pacheco, Exalted Ruler, Dr. Donald Gumm, Drug Awareness Chair; Siobhan Hanna, Coordinator of Special Education, and Patrick Beiswauger, School Psychologist.