



MARILYN ELWOOD - ER of Lodge#2117

August 2023 Message

Hello, Best People On Earth (BPOE):

It seems like yesterday that I updated all of you on what has been happening at our lodge. The month of July was a whirlwind of activities for many – kids/grandkids are out of school so time to “hit the road” on vacation. As Exalted Ruler, I, along with my traveling companion Patty Pollett, attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis, MN from July 2-6. Also attending from our lodge was Linda Valenty, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler-elect; Esquire to the DDGER, Linda Vigil, PER, and Nita Ohlhauser, PDDGER. During this convention, we were thrilled to witness Linda Valenty installed as Central District DDGER.

2022-2023 Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley addressed the convention stating that each of us has been a source of inspiration to our Lodge and community through our involvement with programs of our great Order. He saw us “Promoting Elkdom with Enthusiasm” by promoting our programs and members working together, the rewards of the youth as they received a scholarship, a thank you from our veterans, and a sense of patriotism and

loyalty to our nation’s flag.

There were 5,793 people in attendance, representing all 50 states, including members from the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Another highlight was the installation of our 2023-2024 Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. GER Shook encouraged the Exalted Rulers to focus on recruiting new members and encouraging existing members to stay. He also recommended the new Why We Join video as a tool to help in this work. His theme for the year 2023-2024 is **“We are THE ELKS!”**

At our Lodge on Tuesday, July 11, we had a wonderful pasta dinner prepared by Linda Vigil, PER; after which we initiated four candidates – Donald Cross, Kimberly Demers, Rick Caraveo and Kirk Weiss; please welcome these new members the next time you see them at a meeting or social.

On Friday, July 14, everyone enjoyed the Friday Night gathering for a “Grill Your Own Meat” social. There were 35 people in attendance – new member (as of July 11th), Rick Caraveo, attended and had an enjoyable time schmoozing with other members. Also in attendance were three guests of members, one that will be joining our lodge in a couple of months. Three people that arrived that afternoon in an RV also came into the lodge for a couple drinks. The grill in the backyard was “manned” by professional chefs (well, one, Al Hernandez, who definitely knows how to grill); inside the members lounge, there were many side dishes to go with whatever grilled choice that was brought by those attending. A fun time was had by all. Huge thanks to Patty Pollett for chairing the “grill” event and to our “chef” Al Hernandez for standing out in the heat beside a hot BBQ grill, making sure our meat choices were cooked to perfection!

On Tuesday, August 1, we will have our only meeting for the month of August. Sometime during August, we will have an “Officer Training” class so that your elected and appointed officers will learn exactly what their duties are and how they are able to help others.

Friday, August 4, there will be a Fancy Flea Market and Vintage Finds from 4-7 p.m. chaired by Nita Ohlhauser and co-chaired by Patty Pollett; this will be held in the Elks Lodge main hall. Also during that time, the members bar will be open for the usual Friday Night social. I have heard there may be a “surprise” dinner option TBD. Please put this date on your calendars.

More social events during the month of August will be advertised in flyers and/or emails to the membership as the activities are finalized.

September we will see back-to-school activities, the annual luau on September 16 (more info soon), and our regular schedule of meetings on the first and third Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome, and encouraged, to attend the Lodge meetings. This is how members find out firsthand what is going on in the lodge and how they can help with activities and events. Attire for meetings – business; absolutely no

shorts or flipflops to be worn in the lodge room. Please plan to attend a meeting!!!

To paraphrase President Kennedy's famous quote, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country;" I say, "Don't just ask what your Lodge can do for you, ask what you can do for your Lodge." This is a volunteer-run organization. Get involved with a committee, volunteer to chair an activity or help clean up the backyard or serve at a dinner, go to meetings and let your voice be heard, become an officer, attend Friday Night socials, meet people. You get more out of your membership when you "get involved"!

If you have any suggestions of activities (i.e. pool or dart tournament, karaoke, trivia, etc.), or if you would like to chair an activity, please contact Nita Ohlhauser, Activity Coordinator, at ohlhausernita@gmail.com or 925-667-5287. Suggestions are welcome. Remember, the Elks Lodge is for **ALL MEMBERS** and their guests. Be sure to participate in the scheduled activities or let the Activities Committee know what you would like to have scheduled.

Marilyn Elwood
2023-2024 Exalted Ruler

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