

# ELVIS HORN

Santa Ana • Issue #794 Magazine



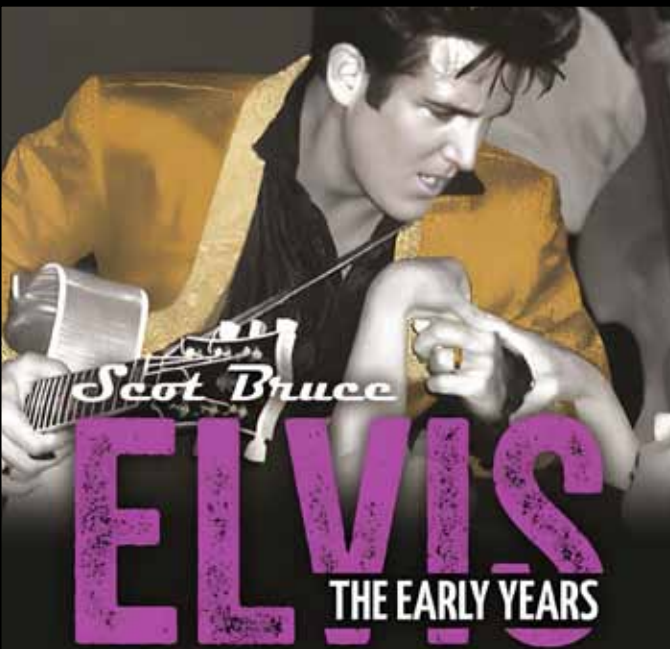
**ELVIS is Alive  
in Santa Ana!**

**The Year  
in Review**

**Making Resolutions  
for the New Year**

Serving the Community Since 1902 • Vol. 25, Issue 1 • January, 2026





*"The closest you can get to Elvis in the flesh is Scot Bruce" —CNN*


**THE KING RETURNS**  
 Friday, January 9, 2026 - Doors open at 6:00 pm  
**Taste of Memphis Buffer**  
 Early Bird Tickets \$50 through December 31  
 Regular tickets \$60 at [SAElks.com](http://SAElks.com)

**Elks Lodge #794**  
 Dance to the legendary sounds of the 60's & 70's  
**FRIDAY JANUARY 30**  
 7pm til 10pm  
*Come early for dinner!*

**MOTOWN & SOUL**  
 PARTY TIME



**Dj Majestic Mike**  
 ALL MEMBERS WELCOMED



**STEAK & LOBSTER DINNER**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 4:30 - 8:00 PM**  
**\$35 AT [SAELKS.COM](http://SAELKS.COM)**



**ORANGE COUNTYS  
 BIGGEST SUPER BOWL  
 PARTY!**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**  
**FOOD • FUN • FOOTBALL**  
 Doors open at 12:30 pm  
 Tickets \$35 at [SAElks.com](http://SAElks.com)



## January Issue 2026 ElkHorn Magazine

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3rd Place: 2020-2021  
Grand Lodge BULLETIN CONTEST  
1st Place: 2018-2019, 2020-2021, 2025  
2nd Place: 2019-2020  
2nd Place, 2023 - 2024  
1st place, 2024-2025  
WEBSITE CONTEST - 1st Place 2025

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## Exalted Ruler Mark Schauwecker



For the members of the Santa Ana lodge and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the holidays were a time not only to celebrate but also to serve. A big thank you goes to all our members and committees who, through their time and donations, personally demonstrated the Elks virtue of charity throughout December. Our committees worked tirelessly to support veterans, our local community and bring warmth and hope to those who need it most.

For many, our acts of charity are not just about gifts but about belonging—a reminder that kindness is a gift in itself. From decorating the lodge to hosting community dinners and outreach events, every act of service has reflected the heart of the season and the spirit of Elksdom: unity, compassion and commitment to others.

Together, we continue to strengthen the bonds that define us—not just as members of the lodge, but as neighbors, friends

and family. May we all carry forward that same spirit of giving and togetherness into the year ahead.

## Esteemed Leading Knight Eli Morales



Happy New Year, Santa Ana Elks family! As we welcome 2026, our Elks members stand ready for another

year of service, fellowship and community spirit. January is a time of fresh beginnings, and here at the Santa Ana Lodge, we're carrying forward the traditions that make our lodge a home, while reaching for the opportunities ahead.

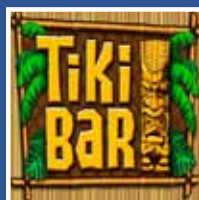
Looking back to 2025, I am grateful for every member and volunteer who helped make our holiday season a memorable one. December brought so much joy to the lodge, decorating, celebrating together and sharing a warm smile with those who needed it most. To all who made sure our charity drives were successful, your generosity and dedication ensured that the Santa Ana Lodge will continue its mission of giving. Santa Ana Elks members, you made a difference!

## Additional Upcoming Santa Ana Elk Events

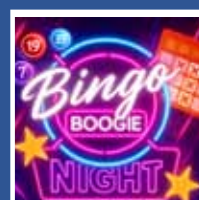
**LINE  
DANCING  
January 8**



**TIKI BAR  
NIGHT  
January 15**



**BINGO  
BOOGIE  
January 22**



**KARAOKE  
NIGHT  
January 29**



For the full calendar of events, go to [SAElks.com/calendar](http://SAElks.com/calendar)



As we begin the new year, let us focus on the work that reflects the heart of Elkdom. Our veterans committee continues with their endless commitment, serving local veterans and their families with compassion and respect. Our community outreach will continue to grow by showing up for the people right here in our own backyard. We want our neighbors to know they can count on Santa Ana Elks #794.

Our youth, more than ever, need guidance, encouragement and support. That is why we will work harder to fund scholarships, backpacks and so many other youth activities. Our new Antler program will soon kick off, giving our youth an opportunity to learn about Elkdom and how our programs can help support their future.

But let us not forget our very own. This year, let us focus on unity, compassion and fellowship, the virtues that make us Elks and, most importantly, remind us that the lodge is not just a building, but a home and a family!

Let's make 2026 a year of purpose, guided by the principles of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity. Let us embrace these values and keep the heart of Elkdom alive, not just in our lodge but in everything we do.

Wishing all our members a wonderful January and a blessed new year! Elkdom: Love it, live it!

### Esteemed Loyal Knight Brian Byrd



Thank you for taking some time to read *your* award-winning ElkHorn magazine. What a spectacular

and busy December we have had at the lodge. I hope that you had a chance to enjoy all—or at least a good part—of the festivities. Thank you for the tremendous turnout at our Feliz Navidad event, which was my final event as loyal knight. I am hoping I have earned the confidence of our members to continue my Elkdom journey and serve as your leading knight in the upcoming Elk year beginning in April.

As we step into 2026, Santa Ana Lodge will continue forward with renewed purpose and more opportunities to serve our community and support those less fortunate. When you volunteer at the lodge, attend events, or simply come by for dinner or a drink, you strengthen our lodge. Your membership provides countless ways not only to give—but also to enjoy yourself.

In my family, we make a New Year's resolution every year—goals which help us become better than we were the year before. Without listing examples, I am sure you all understand the spirit of what I mean. I am not one to push my beliefs on others, but in this case I will.

Here are a couple of ideas as we head into 2026:

- Since you've chosen to join our wonderful order, the BPOE, why not resolve to visit the lodge at least twice a month—for dinner, for a drink or by participating in one of our many committees:
- We have lodge meetings every Tuesday at 7:30 PM. Make that one of your two days!
- Or choose Wednesday nights for trivia at 6:30 PM in the lounge,
- And don't forget: NFL football is still in full swing. Come root for your favorite team—our TVs are on any time the NFL is playing.

What I'm encouraging is simple: don't let your Elks membership become just another membership that you don't use—much like my LA Fitness membership! Make a resolution to help others, be part of a strong and purposeful team, or simply enjoy the camaraderie that makes our lodge truly special.

The Elks also support national, state and district foundations that rely on generous members like you. Visit [SAElks.com/donate](http://SAElks.com/donate) and consider signing up for monthly contributions to the Elks National Foundation (ENF). Our lodge benefits twofold for every dollar donated. And while you're there, think about doing the same for the Purple Pig (CHEA Major Project). Funding that directly supports families and children with disabilities. What a meaningful way to begin 2026—and it's 100% tax deductible.

Thank you all for a wonderful 2025. I'm looking forward to an even better 2026 together,

### Esteemed Lecturing Knight Karla Vigil



January is here! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday filled with laughter, love, and time with

family and friends, and that the new year was celebrated with joy, good food, and maybe even a few fireworks!

Now that the glitter has settled and we're stepping into January, we're ready to kick off 2026 with fresh energy and fun ahead. This month brings a brand-new slate of events, gatherings, and excitement—perfect for shaking off the

winter chill and getting back into the groove.

From themed events to gearing up for a new officer corps and ritual practices, January is all about reconnecting, celebrating and keeping the good times rolling. We're looking forward to seeing everyone out, smiling, dancing, and starting the year in style.

Let's make this a month of memories, laughter, and community. Here's to a brand new year, filled with good health, great times and all the celebrations yet to come.

Here's to a bright start, a happy heart, and a full calendar—January is going to be a great month! I have hopes for new members joining us on Tuesdays for our 7:30 meetings. Come join us!

### General Manager John Moore



As we get back to normal and start the new year, I want to express my thanks to the entire team of employees who worked tirelessly to provide food and beverage service throughout the holiday season. There are a lot of moving parts with all the events—set up and clean up mixed in with the regular Elks dining—and the team did a remarkable job. To you, the members, we appreciate your patience and hope that we created some fond memories in the process.

Special thanks go out to team member Severa Pedroza who washes and presses our linen tablecloths and napkins. A job that should normally take three people, she does by herself which you can only imagine is a lot of wash loads

throughout the holidays. Also special thanks go to our maintenance technicians, Jesse Vargas and Abraham Montoya, who stay on top of the bathrooms and keep the entire lodge clean. Their tireless work is appreciated.

I have received many positive comments on the Friday and Saturday night Prix Fixe menu with three course meals priced from \$20 to \$35. We will continue to use this format moving forward. And our less formal appetizer menu is always available.

### Upcoming Can't Miss Events

In addition to the NFL playoffs and college bowl games, we will have California's largest Super Bowl party on February 8, 2026 with room for the first 500. My advice is don't wait to purchase your tickets as it is a sure sell out. Also come hungry and thirsty as we'll be serving BBQ and game day favorites along with plenty of cold beer and margaritas.

Elvis is in the building on Friday January 9 when one of the most popular Las Vegas acts is coming to Santa Ana. Scot Bruce will be singing all of the king's hits in a powerful "can't miss" stage show. We only have room for the first 260 so get your tickets online now at [SAElks.com](http://SAElks.com). This is a building fund fundraiser.

Save the date, Sunday February 15, when the lodge will hold a Thank You to all those who supported the football season on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays. We are having the popular dance band Sideways play plus \$10.00 BBQ along with beer prices so low even Smiley Hernandez will be smiling! Please make reservations so we know how many to plan for.

## OC's Largest Super Bowl Party Returns to the Santa Ana Lodge

Orange County's biggest Super Bowl celebration returns on Sunday, February 8 when the Santa Ana Elks Lodge hosts its annual Super Bowl party, a tradition that has become a must-attend event for football fans across the region.

Doors open at 12:30 PM, giving guests plenty of time to settle in, grab a drink, and soak up the excitement before kickoff. The day promises wall-to-wall football action on the big screens, paired with an impressive spread that goes far beyond typical game-day snacks.

The buffet begins at 1:30 PM featuring something for every appetite. Guests can build their own plates at the nacho station with chili and other toppings, visit the hot dog station, complete with sauerkraut, peppers and onions, or head to the burger station serving both chicken and beef burgers with all the fixings. Fan favorites like buffalo wings and fresh popcorn will be available throughout the game, along with coffee and, of course, a wide selection of beers to keep the celebration going.

Whether you're there for the game, the food, or the camaraderie, the Santa Ana Elks Lodge delivers an energetic and welcoming atmosphere that makes Super Bowl Sunday unforgettable.

Tickets are \$35 and expected to go quickly as this popular event sells out every year. Football fans are encouraged to secure their spots early by visiting [SAElks.com](http://SAElks.com) and be part of Orange County's premier Super Bowl party!





## Experience An Evening With The King

The King is coming to Santa Ana—well, the next best thing. On Friday, January 9, the Santa Ana Elks Lodge will transform into a time machine straight to the golden age of rock ‘n’ roll, when hips swiveled, screams echoed and a young man from Tupelo changed American music forever. This special tribute evening stars Scot Bruce, one of the most celebrated Elvis Presley performers in the world and a fixture on stages from Las Vegas to Tokyo. For fans of Elvis, or simply fans of unforgettable live entertainment, this is a night not to be missed!

Nearly five decades after his passing, Elvis Presley remains one of the most iconic figures in global culture. From his electrifying 1956 debut on national television to his groundbreaking blend of blues, gospel, country and R&B, Elvis didn’t just sing songs, he rewrote the rules. His charisma, his voice and his unmistakable style ushered in the rock era, inspired countless artists and turned him into the best-selling solo recording artist of all time.

Among the many who celebrate Elvis’s leg-

acy, Scot Bruce stands in a league of his own. Hailed internationally for his uncanny likeness to the early-era Elvis, Bruce captures the King not as the rhinestone-studded icon of the ‘70s, but as the explosive young rockabilly rebel who changed everything.

What makes Scot Bruce such a big deal:

- **AUTHENTICITY:** Bruce is known for meticulous attention to detail—from his vintage instruments to the signature sound of the 1950s Sun Records era.
- **THE LOOK & THE VOICE:** Critics and fans consistently praise his striking resemblance to Elvis, both in face and movement. His voice carries that warm, youthful tone that defined the early years.
- **GLOBAL RECOGNITION:** Bruce has appeared on television, in films, and at top music festivals across the world. He’s headlined long-running shows in Los Angeles and Las Vegas and is considered one of the true elite Elvis tribute artists performing today.
- **ENERGY & JOY:** Above all, Scot Bruce



# Football Fans to be Celebrated at Appreciation Party

by John Moore

From opening kickoff to the final whistle, our lodge was the place to be this football season. Whether it was Sundays packed with back-to-back games, Thursday night showdowns, or Monday night thrillers, football fans filled the Nest with cheers, friendly rivalries, and true lodge camaraderie. To thank everyone who made this season unforgettable, we're throwing a party worthy of a championship win.

The Football Fans Appreciation Party takes place Sunday, February 15 from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. and it's shaping up to be a full on victory celebration. Guests can look forward to door prizes and opportunity drawings, plus a \$10 buffet that's sure to satisfy even the heartiest game-day appetites. Drink specials will be flowing as well with \$2 domestic bottled beer and \$3 domestic drafts available throughout the event.

No celebration would be complete without a great sound track, and this party delivers its own headline performance, The fantastic dance band Sideways will take the stage from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. keeping the energy high and the dance floor moving all afternoon.

Reservations are being accepted for the first 240 guests, and once those spots are filled, the event will be officially sold out—no overtime or instant replay. If you spent your football season at the lodge, this is your chance to celebrate a season well played, reconnect with friends and end the year on a winning note. Make your reservations at SAElks.com.



Scot Bruce takes the stage as Elvis in the Grand Ballroom of the Santa Ana Elks Lodge on Friday, January 9. Tickets are on sale at SAElks.com

brings back the excitement of Elvis's early performances—alive, vibrant and full of raw rock 'n' roll charm.

This January 9, Scot Bruce will take the stage in the Grand Ballroom of the Santa Ana Elks Lodge for a high-energy performance that transports audiences stright to the 1950s. Expect all the hits that made Elvis a household name—*“Hound Dog,” “Don’t Be Cruel,” “All Shook Up,” “Heartbreak Hotel,” “Blue Suede Shoes,”* and more—performed with the passion, accuracy and charisma that have made Bruce world-renowned.

Whether you grew up with Elvis, discovered him through movies and streaming, or simply love a great live show, this tribute delivers a musical experience that resonates across generations. It's more than nostalgia—it's witnessing the

spirit of a cultural giant brought brilliantly back to life.

Before Scott takes the stage, guests will enjoy a Southern-style feast that channels the flavors of Elvis's beloved Memphis. The evening begins with Cornell Parker soup, salad bar, biscuits with honey butter, smoked brisket of beef, fried chicken and waffles, shrimp and grits, peanut butter and banana sliders (a nod to Elvis's favorite flavor combination), a vegan/vegetarian option, banana cream pie, coffee and a complimentary cordial bar.

Doors open at 6:00 PM with the Taste of Memphis buffet, the show begins at 7:45. Early bird tickets are available online through December for \$50. Beginning January 1, 2026, tickets are \$60 (inclusive of tax and tip). Get your tickets early at SAElks.com.





# A New Year: A New Commitment to Elkdom

## *Why 2026 Should Be The Year You Get More Involved In Your Lodge*

by Marc LaFont

As the calendar turns to a new year, many of us make resolutions about health, habits or personal growth. But for members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, there's a opportunity to make a resolution that reaches far beyond ourselves—a commitment that strengthens our lodge, supports our community and deepens the bonds of friendship that make Elkdom so special.

This year, consider making Elks engagement one of your New Year's resolutions. Whether you've been a member for years or just recently joined, 2026 is the perfect time to step in, show up and make a meaningful impact.

### **SUPPORT OUT VETERANS: THE HEART OF ELKDOM**

One of the core missions of the Elks is unwavering support for veterans. From organizing donations and care packages to participating in outreach events, there are countless ways to get involved. Even one hour of your time can make a difference in the life of someone who served.

- Volunteer at veteran-focused events
- Help coordinate supplies or fund-raising

- Join the lodge's veterans committee
- Offer your skills—whether it's organizing or simply offering companionship.

Making veterans a part of your New Year's resolution honors the Elks promise: *"As long as there are veterans, the Elks will never forget them"*

### **CHARITY COMMITTEE: HELPING OTHERS THRIVE**

If you're passionate about giving back locally, the charity committee is the perfect place to put that passion to work. From youth programs to local family support, holiday drives to scholarship programs, the lodge's charitable efforts help build a stronger, more compassionate community.

There's always a place for willing hands and open hearts. In 2026, make it a goal to come to a meeting, share your ideas, or pitch in on an event. Your involvement fuels the mission

### **SHOW UP FOR THE FUN**

The social side of the Elks Lodge is more than entertainment—it's where friendships form and the sense of community deepens. Monday Night Football, dinners, themed events and casual gatherings all help make the lodge feel like a second home. Resolve to try a new event, or invite another member who hasn't attended in a while. These nights are a great place to relax, laugh and reconnect.

And speaking of football, The Monday Night Football committee helps raise funds that support numerous programs and charitable causes in our community, and watch football at the same time!

### **ATTEND TUESDAY LODGE MEETINGS THE HEARTBEAT OF YOUR LODGE**

The Tuesday evening lodge meeting isn't just business—it's where decisions are made, ideas are shared and members shape the future of the lodge. Regular attendance strengthens our leadership, encourages transparency and builds unity.

By resolving to attend more Tuesday meet-



ings this year, you're not just showing up—you're helping guide the vision and vitality of your lodge. You'll meet new faces, connect with longtime members and find ways your talents can contribute.

### **GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW ELKS: BROTHERHOOD & SISTERHOOD IN ACTION**

Your lodge is filled with people who joined for the same reasons you did: friendship, service, and community. Make 2026 the year you take the time to get to know them.

- Sit with someone new at dinner
- Introduce yourself to a newer member
- Join a committee with unfamiliar faces
- Bring your family and friends to public events.

The more connected we are, the stronger our lodge becomes—and the more rewarding your membership feels.

### **A RESOLUTION THAT LASTS ALL YEAR**

This year, let your New Year's resolution be more than a promise—it can be a commitment to something larger. To service. To fellowship. To community. To the spirit of Elkdom.

Whether you participate in veteran's support, join a committee, cheer on your favorite team on Monday nights or attend Tuesday lodge meetings, every moment you invest strengthens your lodge and enriches your own life.

Here's to a year of engagement, service and Elk spirit. Let's make 2026 our most meaningful year yet!

# **Cooking Up Community: A Year In Review at Our Lodge**

*by Dan Breece*

As another Elk year approaches, our lodge stands on the foundation of a calendar year filled with celebration, service, and heartfelt connection. Though our official year doesn't begin until April 1, the story of what our members accomplished over the past twelve months deserves a spotlight of its own. From record-breaking events to community outreach, from honoring traditions to embracing new ideas, 2025 at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge was a year defined by the very spirit of Elkdom: fellowship, charity, and community.

## **A January That Set The Pace**

The year began with a familiar mix of festivity and purpose. After ringing in the New Year, members jumped right back into the action with the Emblem Club's lively parcel post event. PER Allen Bisbee's mystery-prize auction brought big laughs and bigger surprises, while DJ Ronnie helped launch the annual backpack project's first fundraiser of the season.

January also delivered the largest Super Bowl gathering in Orange County, as more than 500 fans filled the lodge for a day of football, food, and camaraderie. It was clear from the start: this would be a year of impressive participation and community pride.

## **February: Love, Leadership and Service**

February marked the unveiling of our beautiful new memorial garden—an inviting space dedicated to the memory of departed members. Elections brought in our new exalted ruler, Mark Schauwecker, and his officer team, following two months of initiation ceremonies led by our past exalted rulers.

A brand-new online ticketing system streamlined event reservations, debuting just in time for a Friday Valentine's Day celebration filled with romance. Meanwhile, veterans committee chair Kellie Miller and her team played a crucial role at the second annual Orange Coast District Stand Down, supporting nearly 200 veterans in need.

## **March: Music, Madness and Mullets**

March arrived with the frenzied fun of college basketball brackets filling the Nest. General Manager John Moore launched an exciting tribute concert series, bringing the sounds of Elton John, Journey, and Chicago to enthusiastic crowds.

The lodge's Irish spirit took center stage at the St. Patrick's Day celebration hosted by Loyal Knight Brian Byrd, whose face graced the *ElkHorn* cover that month. The Fenians headlined the sold-out celebration, while a separate '80s-themed fundraiser revived big hair, neon fashion, and a shared mission: raising scholarship funds. In March alone, the scholarship commit-

tee awarded more than \$60,000 in scholarship support.

### **April: A New Elk Year Begins**

April ushered in new leadership with the installation of officers and the April 5 inaugural ball. Exalted Ruler Mark introduced his motto, “*Cooking Up Community*,” setting the tone for the year’s charitable and social direction. One of the most exciting advancements arrived as well—our brand-new Elks App, designed to bring lodge communication into a modern era.

### **May: Achievements at Every Level**

May was a milestone month. With the CHEA state convention in Anaheim, members across our district joined forces to help host. Our lodge performed impressively at the district ritual competition, taking second place overall and earning several individual honors—led by Inner Guard Cathy Pouchie’s first-place finish.

- Loyal Knight Brian Byrd-2nd place
- Esquire Chuck Kupher-2nd place
- ER Mark Schauwecker-3rd place
- Leading Knight Eli Morales-3rd place
- Lecturing Knight Karla Vigil-3rd place

In addition, Carmen DiAnda was recognized as the district’s best candidate and in the eleven o’clock toast competition, PER Dan Breece proudly took 1st place.

The month brought another major highlight: Scott Stephens of the Fullerton Lodge was announced as the upcoming California-Hawaii Elks Association president.

Our own lodge shined as well, with Secretary Linda Fernandez earning CHEA Secretary of the

Year and the *ElkHorn* winning Best Newsletter across both California and Hawaii.

Wednesday Night Trivia introduced its first-ever Tournament of Champions, and our members honored the fallen by placing more than 900 flags on veteran gravesites for Memorial Day.

### **June: A Tribute in Motion**

June unfolded at a gentler pace, but with deep meaning. The Monday Night Football golf tournament was renamed in honor of the late Bob Woolford, a Navy veteran, passionate golfer and steadfast volunteer. The renaming reflected the gratitude of a lodge profoundly touched by his dedicated service.

### **July: Summer Celebrations and Championships**

The tilers brought summer spirit to life at the annual 4th of July celebration, offering family-friendly fun for all ages. The MNF committee ventured into new territory with its first saltwater fishing trip, taking 25 anglers out to sea.

Our lodge baseball team pulled off an impressive run, battling through the loser’s bracket to secure a second straight championship. And after careful planning and member input, we unveiled our brand-new lodge pin, a symbol of pride for visitors and home members alike.

### **August: Cars, Cakes and Community Pride**

August began with the MNF committee’s third annual car and motorcycle show—a full-day extravaganza that once again drew huge crowds. Later in the month, we celebrated our lodge’s birth-

day with a traditional luau and our first-ever soccer shoot, which proved to be a hit with kids and families.

The national spotlight turned our way when we learned our lodge had placed Top 10 in the All-American Lodge competition, a tremendous honor reflecting the strength, service, and unity of our membership.

### **September: Music, Medals and Oktoberfest**

September kept the momentum going with a concert by fan-favorite band So Petty, followed by two highly attended events: casino night and Oktoberfest.

Our members excelled at the district Olympic games, earning more than 25 medals, including a gold medal for golf. The Emblem Club’s lively Quartermania event capped off a packed month of exciting entertainment.

### **October: Awareness and Autumn Festivities**

Red Ribbon Week brought renewed focus to drug awareness, with our lodge leading several community efforts. Families turned out for a festive Trunk-or-Treat while Thursday nights offered new rotating themes—from line dancing to tiki bar nights.

The annual Halloween party, one of the lodge’s most anticipated events, delivered a full night of costumes, dancing, and music from Family Style. Meanwhile, Friday nights introduced a fun new hit: Boogie Bingo.

### **November: Honoring Service, Sharing Gratitude**

November opened with a well-attended Veterans Day ceremony, where we honored local veterans



with dinner and heartfelt recognition. Thanksgiving dinner at the lodge sold out as members gathered to celebrate the season of gratitude. The month also featured the final initiation ceremony for this year's officer team.

Lastly, at the CHEA mid-term convention in Santa Clara, our lodge was awarded first place for the best web site in California/Hawaii, division 6 (for lodges with over 1,500 members).

### **December: A Season of Lights, Laughter and Giving**

December wrapped the year in sparkling holiday spirit. The holiday gala transformed the lodge into a wonderland of Christmas trees and silent auction treasures—all supporting the charitable work that defines our lodge.

Two cherished traditions returned with full force: the exceptional children's brunch, which sold out quickly, and the joyful Brunch with Santa, a highlight for families.

The band SOTO energized our sold-out Feliz Navidad dinner dance, and ER Mark Schauwecker closed the year with an unforgettable New Year's Eve Carnivale, featuring The Zydacote Band and a second New Years Eve party in the lounge with DJ Ronnie.

### **Looking Ahead**

With another vibrant year behind us, our lodge stands filled with gratitude—for our members, our volunteers, our leaders, and the community we serve. If the past year has shown us anything, it's that our strength lies not just in tradition, but in the joyful and heartfelt ways we come together.

Here's to another great year—one that continues to cook up community in all the best ways!



## **January is Purple Pig Month**

*by Michele Joyce*

As we welcome a brand-new year, the Santa Ana Elks Lodge is proud to begin 2026 by celebrating one of the most meaningful traditions in California-Hawaii Elkdom: Purple Pig Month.

For those new to the lodge or unfamiliar with the tradition, the Purple Pig is more than just a fundraising bank—it's the symbol of our CHEA major project, affectionately known as "the California-Hawaii Elks Association's Piggy Bank." For decades, this project has provided vital support to children with disabilities through in-home therapy, early intervention, occupational and physical therapy, and other life-changing services offered at no cost to families.

Each Purple Pig bank filled with spare change directly supports these programs. And every January, members across the state come together to turn in their pigs, celebrate the generosity of Elkdom

and recommit to our mission of helping special children live fuller, more independent lives.

Your generosity keeps our mission alive. Your kindness lifts up families in need. And together we can make 2026 an extraordinary year for the children we serve.

Stay tuned for exciting events and opportunities throughout the year to support our major project. Thank you to every member whose dedication makes this work possible. Let's kick off 2026 with purpose.. and with full pigs!

## **MNF: Season Heads Into Its February Finish**

*by Mark Schauwecker*

January is packed with excitement and action for our Monday Night Football crew as we head into the final stretch of the football season! The playoffs are just around the corner and every game counts. Expect high energy, friendly rivalries and plenty of great food as teams fight for their spot at the championship.

This month, we'll be watching some of the most anticipated matchups of the season—teams locking in playoff spots, underdogs making bold runs, and players leaving it all on the field. Bring your predictions, your spirit and maybe a little luck for your favorite team!

And don't forget that our annual Super Bowl Party is just around the corner! You can expect an evening full of fun, food and football (plus a few surprises). Mark your calendars now for February 8 and go to [SAElks.com](http://SAElks.com) to get your tickets before it sells out. You won't want to miss it!

# January

CALENDAR CONTENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK [WWW.SAELKS.COM/CALENDAR](http://WWW.SAELKS.COM/CALENDAR) FOR THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION.

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAYS - FRIDAYS 9 AM-4 PM, OFFICE CLOSED SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> Bowl Games 9:00 am - 8:00 pm 	<b>2</b> Regular Menu Prix Fixe Menu 4:30-8:00 pm	<b>Pancake Breakfast</b> 9:00 am - 12 noon 
<b>4</b> Breakfast Buffet 9:00 am - 12 noon Pizza & Pitcher Sunday 1:00 - 6:30 pm	<b>5</b> Lodge closed Bingo 6:15 pm 	<b>6</b> Taco Tuesday PER Meeting 	<b>7</b> Birthday Club Pasta Night 4:30-8:00 pm Investigation 4:00 - 6:00 pm Trivia Night 6:30 pm 	<b>8</b> All American Menu 4:30-8 pm Charity Mtg 6:00 pm Line Dancing 6:30-9:30 pm 	<b>9</b> Regular Menu Prix Fixe Menu 4:30-8:00 pm Tribute to Elvis 	<b>10</b> Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am - 12 noon NFL Wildcard Weeken Prix Fixe Menu 
<b>11</b> Breakfast Buffet 9:00 am - 12 noon NFL Wildcard Weekend 	<b>12</b> Lodge closed Communications Noon Bingo - 6:15 pm NFL Wildcard Weekend MNF	<b>13</b> Lodge Meeting Balloting - 7:30 pm House Meeting 5:00 pm Taco Tuesday	<b>14</b> Pasta Night MNF Meeting 6:30PM Trivia Night 	<b>15</b> All American Menu 4:30-8:00 pm Emblem Club 6:30 pm Tiki Bar Night 6:30-10:00 pm	<b>16</b> Regular Menu Prix Fixe Menu 4:30-8:00 pm 	<b>17</b> Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am - 12 noon Orientation Noon NFL Division Playoffs Prix Fixe Menu
<b>18</b> Breakfast Buffet 9:00 am - 12 noon NFL Division Playoffs 	<b>19</b> Lodge closed Bingo 6:15 pm 	<b>20</b> Lodge Meeting 7:30 pm BOT Meeting 5:00 pm Veterans Cmte 6:00 pm Taco Tuesday	<b>21</b> Pasta Night 4:30-8:00 pm Trivia Night 6:30 pm 	<b>22</b> All American Menu 4:30-8:00 pm Bingo Boogie 6:30 - 9:30 pm 	<b>23</b> Regular Menu Prix Fixe Menu 	<b>24</b> Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am - 12 noon 
<b>25</b> Breakfast Buffet 9:00 am - 12 noon Pizza & Pitcher Sunday 1:00 - 6:30 pm Conference Championships	<b>26</b> Lodge closed Bingo 6:15 pm 	<b>27</b> Lodge Meeting Initiation 7:30 pm House Meeting 5:00 pm Taco Tuesday	<b>28</b> Pasta Night Trivia Night 6:30 pm 	<b>29</b> All American Menu 4:30-8:00 pm Karaoke 6:30-10:00 pm 	<b>30</b> Regular Menu Prix Fixe Menu 4:30-8:00 pm	<b>31</b> Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am - 12 noon Steak & Lobster Night 



# February

**LODGE HOURS:** CLOSED MONDAYS; TUESDAYS - THURSDAYS 11 AM-10 PM; FRIDAYS 11 AM-6 PM, SATURDAYS 11 AM-1 AM, SUNDAYS 9 AM-7 PM

**FOOD SERVICE HOURS:** TUESDAYS 11 AM-7 PM; WEDNESDAYS—FRIDAYS 11 AM-8 PM, SATURDAYS 9 AM-8 PM; SUNDAYS 9 AM-6 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>Breakfast Buffet</b> 9:00 am - 12 noon 	<b>2</b> <b>Lodge closed</b> <b>Bingo</b> 6:15 pm	<b>3</b> <b>Lodge Meeting</b> 7:30 pm <b>Trustees Meeting</b> 4:00 pm <b>PER Meeting</b> 5:00 pm <b>Taco Tuesday</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Birthday Club</b> <b>Pasta Night</b> 4:30-8:00 pm <b>Investigation</b> <b>Trivia</b> - 6:30 pm <b>BOT</b> - 4:00 pm 	<b>5</b> <b>All American Menu</b> 4:30-8:00 pm <b>Line Dancing</b> 6:30 - 9:30 PM 	<b>6</b> <b>Regular Menu</b> <b>Dinner Special</b> 4:30-8:00 pm	<b>Pancake Breakfast</b> 9:00 am - 12 noon <b>Orientation</b> Noon
<b>8</b>  <b>OC's Largest Superbowl Party</b> <b>Doors open at 12:30</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Lodge closed</b> <b>Bingo</b> 6:15 pm 	<b>10</b> <b>Lodge Meeting</b> <b>Balloting - 7:30 pm</b> <b>House Meeting</b> 5:00 pm <b>Charity Committee</b> 6:00 pm <b>Taco Tuesday</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Pasta Night</b> <b>Trivia Night</b> 6:30 pm 	<b>12</b> <b>All American Menu</b> 4:30-8:00 pm <b>Charity Mtg</b> 6:00 pm <b>Tiki Bar Thursday</b> 	<b>13</b> <b>Regular Menu</b> <b>Dinner Special</b> 4:30-8:00 pm 	<b>14</b> <b>Pancake Breakfast</b> 9:00 am - 12 noon <b>Orientation</b> Noon <b>Valentine's Day Dance</b> 
<b>15</b> <b>Breakfast Buffet</b> 9:00 am - 12 noon <b>Football Fan Appreciation Party with SIDEWAYS</b> 2:00 - 7:00	<b>16</b> <b>Lodge closed</b> <b>Bingo</b> 6:15 pm	<b>17</b> <b>Lodge Meeting</b> 7:30 pm <b>BOT Meeting</b> 5:00 pm <b>Veterans Cmte</b> 6:00 pm <b>Taco Tuesday</b> 	<b>18</b> <b>Pasta Night</b> <b>Trivia Night</b> 6:30 pm	<b>19</b> <b>All American Menu</b> 4:30-8:00 pm <b>Emblem Club</b> 6:30 pm <b>Boogie Bingo</b> 6:30 - 8:30 PM <b>BOOGIE BINGO</b> 	<b>20</b> <b>Regular Menu</b> <b>Dinner Special</b> 4:30-8:00 pm	<b>21</b> <b>Pancake Breakfast</b> 9:00 am - 12 noon
<b>22</b> <b>Breakfast Buffet</b> 9:00 am - 12 noon <b>Bar Olympics</b> 2:000 - 6:00 pm 	<b>23</b> <b>Lodge Closed</b> <b>Bingo</b> 6:15 pm 	<b>24</b> <b>House Committee</b> 5:00 pm <b>Lodge Meeting Initiation</b> 7:30 pm <b>Taco Tuesday</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Pasta Night</b> <b>Trivia Night</b> 6:30 pm 	<b>26</b> <b>All American Menu</b> 4:30-8:00 pm <b>All New Karaoke</b> 630 - 9:30 pm 	<b>27</b> <b>Regular Menu</b> <b>Dinner Special</b> 4:30-8:00 pm	<b>28</b> <b>Pancake Breakfast</b> 9:00 am - 12 noon 
<b>29</b> <b>Breakfast Buffet</b> 9:00 am - 12 noon 	<b>30</b> <b>Lodge closed</b> <b>Bingo</b> 6:15 pm	<b>IT'S Great TO BE AN ELK!</b>				



by Kellie Miller

**H**appy New Year! As the calendar turns to January, many people reflect on the past year and set intentions for the year ahead. For veterans, this season often brings time to reflect on service, sacrifice and the ongoing journey of life beyond the uniform.

This past year, we launched Veterans Coffee Talk, a monthly gathering created to support veterans at every stage of their journey. It is a welcoming space where all veterans can connect with peers, learn about available resources, share stories and enjoy meaningful conversation

Held once each month at the lodge, Veterans Coffee Talk is open to all who have served. We deeply believe that veterans and active-duty service members deserve a place where they can reflect, be heard, and talk openly about the experiences and challenges that come with military life.

December was a month filled with gratitude, remembrance and hope. We gathered at Santa Ana Cemetery to place wreaths on veterans' graves as part of Wreaths Across America. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the day so meaningful

Standing at each grave site, saying each veterans name out loud, and offering thanks for their service was incredibly moving. It is one small but powerful way to remind every service member that they are never forgotten.

Members of the Santa Ana Elks and representatives from all military branches also came together in the McCalla Lounge to watch the Army/Navy game. It was a wonderful afternoon of camaraderie, conversation, great food and raffle prizes; a simple but meaningful way to share fellowship and honor service.



## Hey Elks Members!

The Rotary Club of Tustin-Santa Ana invites you to  
dive into a night of fun at the...

# BIG SPLASH BASH

Join us for live music by Stone Soul as we celebrate Blue Buoy Family Swim School's 70 years of making waves in our community!

Proceeds support the Educator Good Idea Grants—helping Tustin Unified School teachers bring innovative classroom projects to life.

Dinner • Music • Dancing • Fun for a Cause!

**Saturday, January 17th, 2026**  
5 PM VIP Reception  
6 PM Doors Open  
6:30 PM Program, Dinner, and Concert

**Santa Ana Elks Lodge**  
1751 S. Elk Lane  
Santa Ana, 92705



To purchase tickets or sponsor the event, use the QR code or go to:

<https://buytickets.at/tsarotary/1892167>







In addition, the Santa Ana Elks veterans committee, Strong Families Strong Children and the North County Vet Center partnered to host Santa Salutes Veterans and Their Families. This festive holiday celebration honored local veterans and their loved ones with an evening of free food, music, crafts, games, toys and a special visit from Santa. Through collaboration and community spirit, we created a warm, family-friendly event that showed ap-

preciation for the sacrifices made by veterans and their families.

There are many ways to acknowledge and support a veteran—and often, they are simple: a meal, shared activities, friendship, good conversation or simply listening. It's important to be there for one another and to be the person someone can lean on. Many veterans do not ask for help, so we encourage everyone to watch for the small signs.

When resources are needed, we are here to help connect them.

At the Santa Ana Elks veterans committee, this commitment doesn't end with the holidays. We strive to support veterans 365 days a year. If you would like to become part of our team or learn more about our efforts, please reach out by emailing VeteransTeam@elks794.org.

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2026 filled with peace, love and joy!

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<sup>2</sup>Message and data rates may apply. Contact your mobile provider for details.  
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## New Candidates for Membership

CANDIDATE .....	OCCUPATION .....	PROPOSER
Bette Robin.....	Attorney/Dentist .....	Janice Dean
Chris Mackelrath.....	Kitchen & Room Age Well Set-up.....	Charles Jones
Christine Hanh My Cordon ...	City Manager/Westminster .....	Phil Bacerra
Claudia Mendoza Perez ....	Benefit Administrator Manager .....	John Kachirisky
Claudio William Gallegus.....	Political Director .....	Reinstate
Dana Sommer .....	Division Claims Manager .....	Linda Young
Diane Weinhold .....	Retired .....	Garlin Flynn
Doris Stephens .....	Real Estate Broker .....	Brian Byrd
Gabriel Anton Kahn .....	Facilities Manager .....	Harold Hembree
Harold Wixson .....	Retired .....	Kristine Zarate
John Alfieri.....	Retired .....	Renea Helmer
Louis Francisco .....	Retired .....	Reinstate
Patricia Kane .....	Retired .....	James Kane
Stephanie Heard.....		Tracy Smith
Stuart Campbell.....	Account Executive .....	Greg Fonseca



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# Celebrating January Birthdays With Pasta Dinner on Wednesday, January 7

Every month, the Santa Ana Elks Lodge celebrates those members with birthdays that month. So, if your name is listed below, join us for a FREE pasta dinner and a slice of cake in the McCalla Lounge on Wednesday, January 7 from 4:30 to 8:00 pm.

1/1.....Leonard Alvarado  
1/1.....Lloyd Boucher  
1/1.....Ryan Henry Callaghan  
1/1.....Daniel Fernandez, Sr.  
1/1.....Francis Karmelich  
1/1.....DouglasMinery  
1/1.....David Orellana  
1/1.....David Penaloza  
1/1.....Jose Talavera  
1/2.....Christopher Ahlswede  
1/2.....Roger Edward Belville  
1/2.....Sarah Elizabeth Bender  
1/2.....Ian Ray Fountain  
1/2.....Conda Takanabe  
1/2.....Christine Torres  
1/3.....Steve Doughty  
1/3.....Oscar Fresquez  
1/3.....Jonathan Hernandez  
1/3.....Raymond Ulmer, Jr.  
1/4.....Alex Gomez  
1/4.....Kenneth M Rosiles  
1/4.....Daniel Salas  
1/5.....Alma Landini  
1/5.....Brett Olivier  
1/5.....Phillip Pinon, Jr.  
1/5.....Sally Norton Plotnik  
1/5.....Catherine Pouchie  
1/5.....Ernest Salgado  
1/6.....Reef Bensworth  
1/6.....Vincent Cardona  
1/6.....Jose L Castro, Jr.  
1/6.....Norman Fisher  
1/6.....Vincent Gomez  
1/6.....Patricia Jennings  
1/7.....Douglas Doty  
1/7.....Brian D Flynn  
1/7.....Geraldine Rietdyk  
1/7.....George Rivera Jr.  
1/7.....Amanda Rodriguez  
1/7.....Nicole Rostom  
1/8.....Maria Teresa Clay  
1/8.....Erin Herdeg-Kociela  
1/8.....Ramon Lujan  
1/8.....Alvaro Nunez  
1/8.....Genaro Santana  
1/8.....Michael Varciag  
1/8.....Susan Vranich  
1/9.....Gabriella Barnes  
1/9.....Randall Blake  
1/9.....Paul Dohmann  
1/9.....Ann Katnik Doolittle  
1/9.....Karen Koivunen  
1/9.....James Strode

1/10.....Carmen Bays  
1/10.....Rhonda Cota  
1/10.....Arthur Echternacht  
1/10.....Teresa Estrada  
1/10.....Teresa Jimenez  
1/10.....Debra Lakin-Peters  
1/10.....Frank Jesse Martinez, Jr.  
1/10.....Eduardo Saldana  
1/11.....Melinda Brawner  
1/11.....Janice Gallardo  
1/11.....Evelyn Godinez  
1/11.....Richard Kociela  
1/11.....Jose Luna  
1/11.....Eduardo Perez  
1/11.....Preston Cole Sigala  
1/11.....Robert Daniel Walker  
1/11.....Arnaud Dufour  
1/12.....Moses Jimenez  
1/12.....Mark Sequeira  
1/12.....Myrna Shields  
1/12.....Marianela Silva  
1/12.....Ellen Jean Richards  
1/13.....Linda Zwier  
1/13.....John Armenta  
1/14.....Jessica Brownsell  
1/14.....Merle Craig  
1/14.....Shirley Echternacht  
1/15.....Jaime Colchado  
1/15.....William Ralph Dunivin II  
1/15.....Albert Hanna  
1/15.....Salvi Panzarella  
1/15.....John Schroede  
1/15.....Denise Silva  
1/15.....Cynthia J Soruco  
1/15.....Enrique Adame, Jr  
1/16.....Jesse Araujo, Jr.  
1/16.....Jim Bosley  
1/16.....Andrew Dawson  
1/16.....Timothy Ryan Gardner  
1/16.....Paul Pelasky  
1/16.....Bonnie A Pollak  
1/16.....Thomas Randall  
1/16.....Brian Stoddart  
1/17.....Russell Deatherage  
1/17.....Jeffrey Hallin  
1/17.....Vincent Lewis  
1/17.....Ruben Urgell  
1/17.....Anthony Zamarron  
1/18.....Lawrence Collier  
1/18.....Glen Howard  
1/18.....Cynthia Minucci Neal  
1/18.....Michael Scott Robbins  
1/18.....Valerie Spear

1/19.....Maria Licon  
1/19.....Michael Olsen  
1/19.....John Sandoval  
1/19.....Allan Topham  
1/19.....Monica Zambrano  
1/20.....David De La Riva  
1/20.....Desiderio Gonzalez  
1/20.....Thomas Lorenz  
1/20.....Frank O'Campo  
1/20.....Dale Teague  
1/21.....Terry Herwehe  
1/21.....Shannon Goebel Kennedy  
1/21.....Fortino Rivera  
1/22.....William Mac Sweeney  
1/22.....Vanessa Mendez  
1/22.....Caroline Yacoub  
1/23.....Samuel Arechiga  
1/23.....Andrew Matthews  
1/23.....Edward Roberts  
1/23.....Erik Zavala  
1/23.....Kurt M Bensworth  
1/24.....Melissa Martinez  
1/24.....Mark Godinez  
1/25.....Alfonso Gonzales  
1/25.....Larry Hall  
1/25.....Kevin Jones  
1/25.....James E Munselle  
1/25.....Richard Reger  
1/25.....Benjamin Vazquez  
1/25.....Michael Alan Wykoff  
1/26.....Zachary Anderson  
1/26.....Judith Belman  
1/26.....Darrell Philip Cheam  
1/26.....Alan Crowe  
1/26.....Ernest Eady  
1/26.....Elizabeth Guerrero  
1/26.....Maggie Hart  
1/26.....Larry Hausner  
1/26.....Lydia Herrera  
1/26.....Jeanette Denise Kelly  
1/26.....Mia Leitman  
1/26.....Michael J Mitchell  
1/26.....Conrad Privett  
1/27.....Sandria Bernardini  
1/27.....Juan Chavez  
1/27.....Dinah Grote  
1/27.....Patricia Saldivar  
1/27.....David Spinoglio  
1/28.....Michael Anderson  
1/28.....Paul Caldera  
1/28.....Joan K Hubbard  
1/28.....Debra Viars  
1/29.....Christle Cheng  
1/29.....Allen Mault  
1/30.....Robert Gandara  
1/30.....Brian Plovovich  
1/30.....Stanton J Skallerud  
1/30.....Janet Woolford  
1/30.....Charlene DeLange  
1/31.....Valerie Keeney  
1/31.....Robert McIntosh  
1/31.....Alfonso Morale  
1/31.....Frances Watts

# From Bowl Games to Big Game: Football Seasons Lives at the Lodge

If you love sports, there's no better place to spend the heart of football season than the Santa Ana Elks Lodge, where wall-to-wall action fills the screens from early January all the way through Super Bowl Sunday. With comfortable seating, multiple TVs, great food and beverages, and a lively game-day atmosphere, the lodge is the perfect home base for fans who don't want to miss a single snap.

The excitement kinds off with college bowl games running from Thursday, January 1 through Sunday, January 4. Games will be shown starting at 9:00 a.m., making the lodge an ideal spot to settle in for a full day of college football drama, rivalries and postseason surprises

The action rolls right into the NFL postseason. On Saturday, January 10, the league launches Wild Card Weekend with games played Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Every match up will be shown, giving fans a chance to follow every team's path toward the Super Bowl in a spirited, communal setting.

Playoff intensity rises even higher on Saturday and Sunday, January 17 and 18, when the NFL Divisional Playoffs take center stage. These games often produce the season's most memorable moments and there's nothing like watching them along fellow fans who share the same passion for the sport.

College football fans won't be left out either. On January 19, the

lodge will be showing the College Football National championship game, where the top teams in the nation face off for the title in one of the most anticipated games of the year.

The road to the Super Bowl continues on Sunday January 25 with the NFL Conference Championship games determining which two teams will advance to football's biggest stage. From early kickoffs to late-game celebrations, the Santa Ana Elks Lodge will have every moment covered.

All of this leads up to the ultimate showdown: Super Bowl Sunday on February 8. As the season reaches its thrilling conclusion, the Santa Ana Elks Lodge stands out as the place to be for sports fans, offering every game, every play and on unbeatable atmosphere from start to finish!

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# There's Still Time to Apply for Santa Ana Elks Lodge Scholarships

by Linda Barcelona

What a year! We have so much to be grateful for in this country, and I'm looking forward to a great 2026.

The scholarship committee had a very busy autumn, getting our scholarship information out to the schools in our service area for this year's scholarships! And what a great job our team did!

In December, our committee was honored to receive 64 applications for the Most Valuable Student award! That is a record setting number and almost twice what we had to judge last year! Let me tell you, reading and judging these applications is anything but easy! Many thanks to our team of judges assigned to judge this scholarship: Sheryl Franke, Matt Lily, Stephen Miller and Sherry Dustin, lead by Sue McKee. Six of these applicants will be advancing to our district judging to advance to the next level. These young people are among the brightest and best of students in our area, so choosing the top students to advance to district judging was extremely challenging!

On January 10, the district judging will take place. Our lodge will again host the 20 committee member judges from across our district. This is an all-day event with the judges carefully choosing the students who will advance to state and national judging, with the scholarship value increasing at each level. I wish all those students well as their applications move up in the judging. The award winners for our lodge and service area will be announced in an open meeting on March 3, 2026.

There is still time for those students in your life to apply for these scholarships:

## Santa Ana Elks Lodge Scholarships

Seven scholarships ranging from \$2000 to \$5000 are available for our own Santa Ana Elks, children, grand-children or stepchildren of Elks, who are high school seniors or in college. Applications are due January 16, 2026.

## Athletic Scholarships

At least six scholarships are available ranging from \$500-\$2000 for scholar athletes in Santa Ana, Tustin and Irvine. Applications are due February 1, 2026

## Machado Family Scholarships

Four scholarships are available ranging from \$500-\$1000, including two scholarships for community college students. Applications are due January 16, 2026.

All qualifications and applications for scholarships are available online at [SAElks.com/scholarships](http://SAElks.com/scholarships) and in the lodge lobby.

Thank you for all your help and scholarship support throughout last year! We hope you will continue that support and save the date for our next scholarship fundraiser on March 28 entitled *It's Five O'Clock Somewhere!*



## Membership/Lapsation Report Santa Ana Lodge #794

Beginning Membership Total 4/1/25 ..... 1846

### INCREASES

Initiated .....	175
Affiliated .....	19
Reinstated .....	10
Subtotal .....	204

### DECREASES

Dropped .....	8
Transferred Out .....	14
Absolute Dimit .....	0
Deaths .....	13
Expelled .....	0
Subtotal .....	35
Calculated Membership Total .....	2015
CLMS Active Members .....	2015
Average Age .....	63.62
Gain/Loss .....	169

### DELINQUENCY

Six Months .....	0
One Year .....	171
Over One Year .....	0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>Lapsation Rate .....</b>	<b>9.26%</b>

### APPLICATIONS ON HAND

Waiting to be read at next lodge meeting .....	5
Ready for investigation .....	21
Ready for balloting .....	0
Ready for orientation .....	12
Ready for Initiation .....	4
Ready for Affiliation .....	0
Ready for Reinstatement .....	1
Other .....	0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>43</b>

### LIFE MEMBERS

Life Members .....	74
Honorary Life Members .....	2
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Life Percentage .....</b>	<b>4.12%</b>



## Exceptional Children's Holiday Spectacular Huge Success with Record Attendance

by Rachel Snell

**W**ow! What a joyful and blessed event! The tilers partnered with the Santa Ana Unified School District's special education program to bring holiday cheer to over 100 children and their parents. On hand to recognize the importance of the special education program was our very own Exalted Ruler Mark Schauwecker and Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Special Education Edward Bustamante. Also present was past Tiler Joe Sprekclermeyer, who had organized this event for many years prior to COVID.

The tilers made some changes to this year's event. Thanks to information provided by health professionals who work directly with special needs children, General Manager John Moore flexed the Elk kitchen to provide a hot breakfast so that we could provide healthier meals with protein and respond to potential concerns such as gluten allergies and childhood diabetes.

Our elf toy shop, led by Alma Landini and Lynn Flores, responded to the need to provide toys and games specific to the sensory and physical challenges of our special

guests. What a blessing to have so many toys donated! The Emblem Club #530, led by President Sharon Casares-Breece, also responded to the "gift" call by not only rallying the comfort bear committee to provide 50 handmade teddy bears, but also working with her elves to provide additional coloring books and other toys to ensure each child in attendance received a present from Santa Claus.

A special thanks goes out to PER Lisa Darmousseh, who graciously donated 10 extra bears from her own collection.

Speaking of Santa Claus, you cannot imagine what it was like to hear cries of joy from all the children calling out "Santa, Santa!" Our Santa team, featuring PER Paul "Santa" Pelasky and Rose "Mrs. Claus" Dennis, was led by Jason Lozano and Brian Yeadle. They helped Santa meet and greet all the children, take photos, provide Spanish translation services, and hand out gift bags. We also cannot forget to mention the wonderful giving from our anonymous donors, and Michele Joyce and Wendy Matthews for putting together beautiful gift baskets. Their efforts made it possible to recognize each teacher

and administrator in attendance for their contribution to education and exceptional children in Santa Ana.

Lastly, it is important to thank the lucky winner of the Silver Bells tree from the holiday gala, who donated the tree to our exceptional children breakfast. The winner, a single mom with three children, was moved to tears as she was unable to afford her own tree! Elk giving yet again made an impact in the lives of one mother and her children.

Often the unsung heroes of any event are the emcees, the teams checking in and seating guests, the musical entertainment, and are Elks staff. We had nearly a dozen Elks staff members preparing food, clearing plates, and making sure we had everything we needed. Led by Valerie Fisher and Maria Paulin, we had over a dozen volunteers helping to check in guests, monitor the lines outside, seat guests at the various tables, and provide Spanish translation services. Many of these volunteers performed double duty by helping with group announcements, selecting and calling out raffle numbers, and providing dedicated children's holiday music in the ballroom. In all, we had nearly 30 volunteers ensuring a good time was had by all.

On behalf of the tilers, thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated toys and baskets, and supported Elkdom at its finest during the holiday season!





**Office Hours**

Tuesday-Friday..... 9:00 am to 6:00 pm  
 1751 S. Elk Lane  
 Santa Ana, CA 92705  
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**Lodge Meetings**

First Four Tuesdays of the Month, 7:30 pm

**Board of Trustees Meeting**

First Tues. 4:00 pm. and 3rd Tues. 5:00 pm

**House Committee Meeting**

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.

**Charity Committee Meeting**

3rd Monday of the Month, 2:00 pm

**Monday Night Football Meeting**

2nd Wednesday of the Month, 6:30 pm

**Communications Meeting**

2nd Monday of the month at noon

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# JANUARY

## PRIX FIXE MENU

Most Fridays and Saturdays in January  
4:30 - 8:00 pm

### Three Course Menu

*Includes salad bar or lobster bisque soup, entrée and dessert*

#### OPTION 1 - \$20

##### **Lodge Meatloaf**

*Meatloaf smothered with gravy,  
with mashed potatoes and vegetables*

##### **Island Chicken**

*Macadamia-crusted chicken with orange  
brown butter sauce, snap peas, ginger rice*

##### **Corned Beef and Cabbage**

*Served with boiled potatoes, carrots and  
our chef's nine-grain mustard sauce*

#### OPTION 2 - \$25

##### **English Cut Prime Rib**

*Creamed spinach and mashed potatoes  
au jus, creamed horseradish*

##### **Grilled Fresh Salmon**

*Citrus butter sauce or plain with house tartar  
house tartar, wild rice and vegetables*

#### OPTION 3 - \$35

##### **Prime Top Sirloin & Shrimp**

*Peppercorn or Béarnaise sauce  
baked potato and vegetables*

##### **Chilean Sea Bass**

*Delivered fresh, finished with lemon  
caper sauce and choice of two sides*

##### **Rack of Lamb**

*Mint jelly or mango chutney,  
herb-roasted potatoes and vegetables*

##### **Dessert**

*Flourless chocolate cake, fresh pie of the day  
or turtle cheesecake*









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1751 S. ELK LANE, SANTA ANA, CA 92705

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