

Lakewood Rancher



MOST VALUABLE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PRO

MONTHLY NEWLETTER LAKEWOOD RANCH SARASOTA ELKS LODGE 2855

November 2019

Message from Exalted Ruler Randy Volkart



Hello, fellow Elks! Summer is over and the activity here at the Lodge is picking up.

As of this writing we have just finished a fun and successful golf tournament, and we are anticipating huge results from the Homes for Our Troops Fundraiser. Kudos to both the Golf Committee and Veterans Committee for outstanding work.

We are also anticipating the Homecoming Dinner for District Vice President, Steve Carruthers.

Our November Lodge calendar is filled with exciting fundraisers and events including Project Stand Down (benefitting our area's homeless veterans), Cocktails for a Cause and Shoebox Reception (both supporting Meals on Wheels) plus a Rummage Sale & Vendor Fair (benefitting the Harry Anna Trust Fund), the Bay Pines Picnic, the Free Lunch for Veterans, and our annual Turkey Shoot.

Do you have an idea for new event at the Lodge? Our Board of Directors encourage new events, but ask that you present them for approval before advertising. It will avoid a lot of communication breakdowns and make the event more successful.

This month's Volunteers of the Month are our Lodge Officers. Not

only do they make decisions for the Lodge, but when something needs to be done, they step up and do it. As ER, I often get thanks and praise (deserved or not), but in my 4 years in the chairs, I don't remember getting such appreciation. They don't expect anything in return for serving, but your acknowledgement of their service is always appreciated.

My thanks go to Tonya Ditty, Rick Thorson, Kathy Hogue, Jerry Ditty, Darren Simone Sr., Terry Layland, Leon Duis, Gloria Wilkinson, Brett Davis, Frank Malatesta, Ron Lee, and Frank Iannello for leading the way.

Quote of the month by Fannie Hurst, *"It takes a clever man to turn cynic and a wise man to be clever enough not to."*

November - Veterans Remembrance Month

The Order of Elks has designated November as Veterans Remembrance Month and we as Elks remember our solemn pledge that *'So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.'*

In 1917, our Order established a war

fund to care for veterans. In 1946, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission was established with the goal of serving hospitalized veterans, and to this day we are proud of our pledge to never forget the veterans in our hospitals. We also honor our servicemen and women whose sacrifices have pre-

served the freedoms we all enjoy. Let us never forget the volunteers who make our programs so successful. The men and women who donate their time to make our Elks Veterans Programs work are also heroes.

Be sure to recognize and thank them.



Brett Davis, PDDGER
Secretary

From the Lodge Secretary

Members all:

As of this writing we have received over 35 new applications this month. Many of them are from spouse and widow card holders that have graciously decided to join as full-fledged Elk members. Thank you to all who have chosen to do so.

Unfortunately, there is still a lot of misinformation about the joining process. I would like to use this month's article to explain the process since it is doubtful many members know all the behind-the-scene steps involved - as well as to explain why it can take 4-6 weeks to complete.

1. Applicant completes the application and pays the application fee (usually \$25 except Oct/Jan when it is \$1.
2. Application and payment is turned in to the Secretary by either the bartenders or deposited in the Secretary's mailbox.
3. Payment is processed and the candidate is entered into the CLMS membership system as a candidate.
4. Application is scanned and emailed to the Investigating Committee for a background check.
5. If the background check returns something unfavorable, the candidate is contacted in an attempt to clear-up any issues - sometimes the background info is incomplete or inaccurate. If unable to resolve, the application is reported as unfavorable but stays in the process.
6. All candidates, both those deemed favorable, along with those deemed unfavorable, by the Investigating Committee proceed to be balloted upon at the next general membership meeting. At that meeting, the Secretary will give the report of the Investigating Committee including any applications they deem unfavorable.
7. If balloted on favorably, the candidate is notified by email or a USPS letter inviting him/her to the next orientation and initiation which are both scheduled for the first Saturday of each month.
8. Once the candidate attends and completes the orientation and initiation they become members.

Please help us by understanding these steps when you sponsor a new member and explain to them that the process can take 4-6 weeks. Also, candidates should be reminded by their proposers that they are allowed to use the Lodge facilities as a signed-in guest of a member only, until such time as they receive their official membership card. Proposers of candidates should also refrain from telling candidates to attend the next orientation/initiation BEFORE they have received an official invitation from the Secretary. This has been an ongoing problem and must be stopped.

The entire membership team - the Secretary, Membership Committee - Investigating Committee - Orientation Committee work hard and as fast as they can to get candidates through the membership process. And while we want them to become members as quickly as possible, we must follow the required procedures as outlined above.

Thank you everyone for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

Brett

MOST VALUABLE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Meet the Class of 2019 – Michelle Qin

Charles Bukowski wrote, "I guess the only time most people think about injustice is when it happens to them," but Bukowski never met Michelle Qin, a 2019 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by Santa Barbara, Calif., Lodge No. 613.

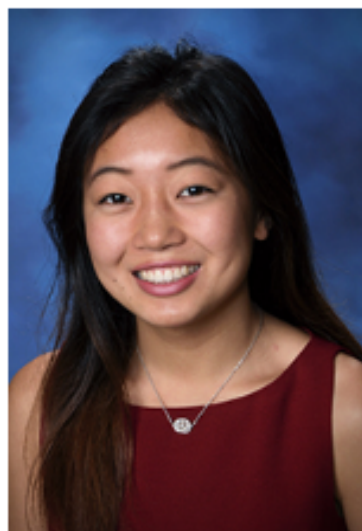
As a freshman in high school, Michelle saw photos from her friend's mission trip that portrayed the injustices in La Antigua, Guatemala—home to the biggest landfill in Central America—that were affecting impoverished families.

From nearly 3,000 miles away, Michelle acted. She founded Together to Empower, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering girls and women not just in Guatemala, but around the world. Together to Empower shows that "everyone has the potential to change the world. After all, our world will only get stronger with girls and boys in the lead, together."

"We've held summer coding camps for girls, organized fundraisers to support women in Uganda, and published the book *What is a Woman?* to empower the beauty and diversity of the female image," Michelle says.

Michelle proves that everyone has the potential to think about injustices—not just the ones happening to or near them. When she was recognized as one of America's top 10 youth volunteers by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards in 2018, she leveraged the honor not only as an opportunity to open new doors for herself, but to promote her cause as well.

"I've dedicated a lot of my time and energy into Together to Empower and, in many ways, I see the evolution of the organization mirrored in my personal growth and understanding," Michelle says. "Starting Together to Empower and organizing these different, empowering projects these past four years has made such a meaningful impact on me, which I know will continue to inspire me into the future."



For these reasons, as well as her ability to excel in academics, Michelle was chosen to receive a 2019 Most Valuable Student scholarship. She is currently attending Stanford University. One day, Michelle hopes to become a force in the tech industry. But today, she's happy to join the Elks family.

"I'm looking forward to joining a network of passionate individuals and change-makers from across the country," Michelle says. "I hope to continue to give back to my community, be a role model for others, and make a positive impact no matter where I go."

For 2019-20, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$2.87 million to fund the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, which includes 500 four-year scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$50,000. For more information about the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, including eligibility and deadlines, visit enf.elks.org/MVS.

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Lodge Officers 2019-2020

Exalted Ruler	Randy Volkart
Leading Knight	Tonya Ditty, PER
Loyal Knight	Rick Thorson, PER
Lecturing Knight	Kathy Hogue
Secretary	Brett Davis, PDDGER
Treasurer	Gloria Wilkinson
5 yr Trustee	Jerry Ditty
4 yr Trustee	John Piper, PER
3 yr Trustee	Darrin Simone Sr. PER
2 yr Trustee	Terry Layland
1 yr Trustee	Leon Duis
Esquire	Frank Malatesta, PSP
Chaplain	Kay Thorson
Inner Guard	Frank Iannello
Tiler	Ron Lee
Lodge Advisor	Brett Davis PDDGER

PER Association

President - Tonya Ditty
Vice President - Darrin Simone Sr
Secretary - Rick Thorson

Committees

Activities - Tonya Ditty, PER
Community Projects - Rick Thorson, PER
Youth Activities - Randy Volkart, ER
Hoop Shoot - Joe Halpin
Soccer Shoot - Randy Volkart, ER
Drug Awareness - Sarah Davis
Fraternal - Randy Volkart, ER
Americanism - Rick Thorson, PER
ENF - Brett Davis, PDDGER
Flag Day - Rick Thorson, PER
Elks Memorial Day - Randy Volkart, ER
Lodge Activities - Norma Perugino
Veterans - Tom Sweeney
Accident Prevention—Terry Layland
EFELT - Clay Wakefield
Elks Training - Tonya Ditty, PER
Entertainment - Norma Perugino
Government Relations - Rick Thorson, PER
Inter-Lodge Visitation - Brett Davis, PDDGER
Investigation - Don LaFrance, PDDGER
Orientation - Darrin Simone Sr., PER
Ranch Hands - Tonya Ditty, PER
Ritualistic - Frank Malatesta, PDDGER, PSP
Scholarship - Dawn Fallon
Sickness & Distress - Joanne DiCarlo
State Major Project - Kathy Hogue & Joanne DiCarlo
Website - Kayla Goddard