



Hello Elk Brothers and Sisters, this is Paul Escobar Historian Committee Chairman.

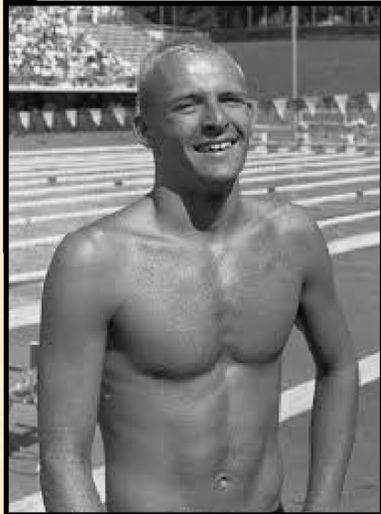


I want to welcome you to "Timeless Tracks" our Historian Committee newsletter. This is the first issue of hopefully many. Our newsletter will come out quarterly, with the next one being released in January 2026. We hope you find its content informative and interesting. The newsletter will be released electronically (on our website) and a limited number of hard copies. We are a small committee and need to find ways to keep our expenses low, going (almost) paperless is one way.

I want to thank everyone that has overwhelmingly supported our committee and given us great ideas to cover. We will do our best to find material to share. If you haven't yet, please visit our Facebook page, Garden Grove Elks Historian Committee, and join our group. If you have already joined our page, thank you and continue to visit our page. We will post interesting facts and pictures on a regular basis. We may post some fun trivia questions too.

Our committee has rapidly grown, but we will always welcome more. We meet regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00. We would love for you to be part of our committee. Please reach out to any of our committee members if you have questions. We hope you enjoy Issue #1 of "Timeless Tracks!!!"

LANCE LARSON AN OLYMPIC ELK



Lance Larson was a true icon, whose dedication to both swimming and our Lodge left an indelible mark. His legacy extends beyond his incredible athletic achievements; it lies in the warmth and genuine camaraderie he extended to everyone he met. Lance's story is a testament to the fact that true greatness isn't just measured by accolades, but by the impact we have on those around us.

At the 1960 Rome Olympics, American Lance Larson and Australian John Devitt competed in the 100-meter freestyle. Though Larson appeared to win, and his timers clocked him faster, judges controversially awarded the gold to Devitt. Chief Judge Hans Run Stromer, despite being far from the lanes and the stadium lights being dimmed, unilaterally changed Larson's time to tie Devitt's and then declared Devitt the winner. US appeals to the IOC and FINA were denied. Lance would tell the New York Times years later, "I think John Devitt has had to live many years knowing he didn't win the gold medal." It was primarily due to the 1960 Rome Olympics that a touch pad system was designed by a University of Michigan physics professor to avoid fallible human errors.

It was because of Lance's Olympian status that he always carried, with a smile, the torch for the Rick Ross Elks Olympics. Lance's widow, Past Exalted Ruler Sherrie Larson, carries on the tradition to this day. And so, Lance, we honor your virtues on the tablets of love and memory.

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B.P.O.E. Trivia

Everyone knows Lodge No. 1 was New York, but do you know which Lodge was No. 2?

Garden Grove Trivia

What year was the City of Garden Grove officially incorporated?

GG Elks Trivia

Who was the very first woman to be named Elk of the Year at Garden Grove Elks Lodge #1952?

"MADE AN ELK" COINS: A SYMBOL OF BROTHERHOOD AND TRADITION

Since the inception of the Elks, commemorative memorabilia has been a popular way to show your pride in Elkdom. From Lodge pins and pins celebrating special events like Grand Lodge Reunions, to elk tooth jewelry, to gold and silver membership card cases, to glassware and brass bookends, the list goes on and on!

One of the most interesting tokens of initiation into the Elks is the "Made an Elk" coin. Historically, these commemorative coins included the B.P.O.E. insignia, II O'Clock Toast symbol, the words "Made an Elk", and were often engraved with the Lodge number and the member's name. They served as a memento of the significant moment when a member was officially welcomed into the brotherhood.

A well-known example of a "Made an Elk" coin is the one given to Lou Gehrig upon his initiation into the New Rochelle, NY Lodge in the 1920s. This coin, roughly the size of a half-dollar, remains in excellent condition. It is engraved with New Rochelle's Lodge No. 756, and Lou Gehrig's name. This coin, accompanied by a letter of provenance from the previous owner who acquired it from the Gehrig family, was sold in 2019 for \$775.20!

The "Made an Elk" coins are more than just tokens; they are symbols of the rich history and enduring traditions of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. They represent the unity, commitment, and pride of being part of a brotherhood that has stood the test of time.



Rick Ross Elks Olympics

We will be celebrating the 13th year of our District Games. Originally called The Elks Olympics and recently changed to The Rick Ross Elks Olympics to honor its founder, Rick Ross PER. During Rick Ross' ER year (2012-13) he wanted to create an event that would bring all our district lodges together. In the summer of 2012, London hosted the Olympics with Michael Phelps winning his 22nd medal (mostly gold) and Saudia Arabia, Qatar and Brunei entering a female athlete for the first time. Rick was inspired by the games and thought that our district could organize its own set of games and have a friendly competition. Instead of the 100m Dash, we had the Tray Race (later named the Phil Marquez Tray Race). Instead of Basketball, we had Hoop Shoot.

At the beginning, Rick did not expect that his idea would grow over the years. Since the first year, the Elk Olympics (aka RREO) has continued to grow and so has the comradery in our district. Members from every lodge look forward to September and Opening Ceremonies at our Lodge. In the past, Garden Grove Lodge #1952 had our own Olympiad Lance Larson, light our "Olympic Torch". Last year, we had 380 participants and gave out a total 141 Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. Although Rick has moved back East, we keep him updated on what is going on. Two years ago, there was a changing of the guard and Eric Skillman and Paul Escobar took the reins as RREO co-chairmen. Rick left some very large shoes to fill, but the two have managed to continue the tradition that Rick has left behind with the assistance of a fabulous committee comprised of members from all the lodges in our district.

The RREO continue to grow! Over the last two years, Pickleball and Axe Throwing were added. This year Archery will be added. Please keep an eye out for the sign-up poster, it will be hung in the Game Room. There is an event for everyone, so please consider participating and enjoying the camaraderie of fellow Elks in our district!

GET READY TO "TRUNK OR TREAT"



Trunk-or-treating is a form of Halloween tradition which often serves as an alternative to trick-or-treating in the United States and Canada. Beginning in the 1990s, it usually involves candy or other treats being handed out from the trunks of vehicles, typically on Halloween night, although this tradition is held in the days preceding the annual celebration on October 31. It is intended to

be a safer alternative to trick-or-treating.

This annual tradition was begun in the 1990s by church organizations and their associated groups as a "fall festival" for an alternative to trick-or-treating in churches and was also created as a result of "discomfort with some of Halloween's themes". While trick-or-treating involves going to homes or buildings to receive candy, trunk-or-treating is associated with candy being handed out or served from the trunks of vehicles. Additionally, trunk-or-treating avoids street crime or car danger that may be associated with normal trick-or-treating.

Our Youth Actives Committee will be having a trunk or treat event in October. It will be held on October 26th in the parking lot near the park entrance. There will be a contest for the best decorated car! So, please join us! Decorate your car and hand out treats to kids from our community. It will be a fun night and hopefully the start of a new tradition. It is also Pizza Sunday, so grab a pizza to go and enjoy the night.

THE JOLLY CORKS

Since 1868, America's foremost fraternal organization has been recognized by the noble creature that is the symbol of the Order. The elk is a peaceful animal but will rise in defense of its own in the face of a threat. The majestic creature is fleet of foot and keen of perception.

But the roots of the association are admittedly shallow, predating the Order's official kickoff by only a few months. A small group of entertainers, wishing to continue their social gatherings on Sundays, began to meet regularly as the "Jolly Corks," a name derived from a bar trick introduced by the group's organizer.

In November 1867, Charels Vivian and some of his entertainment friends gathered for drinks. It was suggested that the group play dice for their refreshments. Vivian mentioned that he had never played dice but had a game he wanted to share. He took 3 corks and gave two to his friends. He explained that the last person to hold up his cork paid for the drinks. After a countdown, 3-2-1, Vivian and one other, passed their hands over their corks while the third, eager to lift his cork from the bar, was both first and last to pick it up, and consequently was 'stuck' for the round."

While Jolly Corks meetings were held with regularity, apparently no form nor substance resulted, except for the adoption of a toast to members of the group not in attendance. This was the genesis of the eleven o'clock toast.

Shortly before Christmas in 1867, only a few months after the fellows began to meet, one of their number died, leaving his wife and children destitute. This event gave rise to the notion that, in addition to good fellowship, the Jolly Corks needed a more noble purpose in order to endure, and serving not only their own in need, but others as well.

Story compiled from multiple sources Elks.org.



Charles Vivian, the original Jolly Cork



VETERANS DAY Honoring Those Who Served

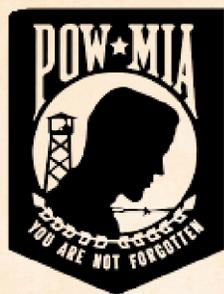
While many Elks believe we played a role in creating Veterans Day, we did not; although we wholeheartedly support all veterans, the holiday's origins lie elsewhere. Here is a brief history of Veterans Day and how it came to be.

Veterans Day, observed annually on November 11, honors all military veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces. Although many Elks have thought there was some truth to the idea that the Elks helped to create the holiday, the holiday traces its origins to the end of World War I. On November 11, 1918, an armistice was signed between the Allied nations and Germany, effectively ending the war. One year later, in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as Armistice Day to commemorate the peace and honor those who fought.

In 1938, Armistice Day became a federal holiday, originally dedicated to the veterans of World War I. However, following World War II and the Korean War, there was a push to recognize veterans of all wars. In 1954, Congress amended the law, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans," and President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the change into law. Veterans Day was thus established as a day to honor all American veterans, living or deceased, for their patriotism and service.

For a brief time in the 1970s, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday in October under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. However, due to public sentiment and historical significance, it was returned to November 11 in 1978. Unlike Memorial Day, which honors those who died in military service, Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans. It is marked by parades, ceremonies, and moments of silence across the country, with a central observance at Arlington National Cemetery.

Veterans Day remains a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by those who serve and a national opportunity to express gratitude for their contributions to peace and freedom.



National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter. Since then, each subsequent president has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the third Friday in September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

A national-level ceremony is held on every National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Traditionally held at the Pentagon, it features members from each branch of military service and participation from high-ranking officials.

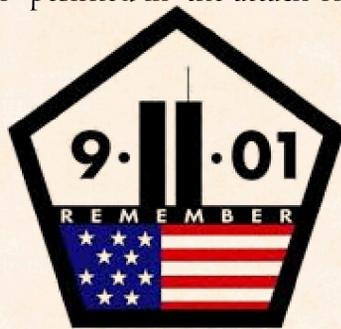
In addition to the national-level ceremony, observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities.

No matter where they are held, these National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned, as well as those who remain missing.

Found at www.dpaa.com Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Those whom we lost September 11, 2001, will forever hold a cherished place in our hearts and in the history of our nation. By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001, Congress authorized the president to designate September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day" to perpetuate the memory of those who perished in the attack on America and to pursue peace and justice in the world and security at home.

The flag of the United States is flown at half-staff and on all U.S. and establishments Americans are also



encouraged to display flags in and outside their homes. Additionally, a moment of silence is observed to correspond with the attacks, beginning at 8:46 a.m. (Eastern Daylight Time), the time the first plane, American Airlines Flight 11, struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Patriot Day is not a federal holiday; schools and businesses remain open in observance of the occasion, although memorial ceremonies for the 2,977 victims are often held.



In 1946, Frank Hise was walking by a playground in Corvallis, Oregon, when he saw a group of kids playing basketball. But what he really noticed was the kids on the sidelines who weren't competing. So Hise stopped the game and lined the kids up for a free throw contest, where the playing field was more level. From the free-throw line, differences in height or speed didn't matter. It was the first iteration of what we now know as the Elks Hoop Shoot.

The program went national in 1972. State winners from 42 states competed in eight regional semifinals, with the winners advancing to compete in the first-ever Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals on March 17, 1973. The contest took place during halftime at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Championship game in Kansas City with 24 Finalists taking their shot at the championship. Since 2016, the finals have called Chicago, Illinois home.

Mark your calendar for November 15th for our lodge's Hoop Shoot competition at the lodge. It is open to boys and girls ages 8-13 years old. Please see Eric Skillman for questions.

THE ELKS LODGE & THE SYMBOLISM OF ANTLERS

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE), commonly known as the Elks Lodge, is a longstanding fraternal organization rooted in American tradition and community service. Founded in the 19th century, the Elks chose the elk as their symbol because it embodies qualities the organization values: strength, grace, peacefulness, and a protective nature. As a native North American animal, the elk serves as a fitting emblem for an organization committed to charity, brotherhood, and patriotism.

A central visual symbol of the Elks Lodge is the head of a male elk with antlers, which appears prominently in the organization's emblem. These antlers, whether depicted in artwork or displayed physically, carry deep meaning. In Elks Lodges across the country, you may find either brass or natural elk antlers used as part of the décor. Brass antlers are durable and polished, representing timelessness and tradition, while natural antlers offer an authentic connection to the animal that inspired the symbol.

The choice between brass and natural antlers often depends on the individual lodge's preferences, the local availability of materials, and even the architectural or historical character of the lodge itself. This variety reflects the Elks' balance between honoring tradition and adapting to modern times.

Despite evolving over the years, the Elks remain deeply committed to their core values and rich history. The antlers—whether cast in brass or grown in the wild—serve as a constant reminder of the noble qualities the organization strives to uphold. In this way, the Elks Lodge not only preserves a meaningful symbol but also continues to celebrate the spirit of community and service that define the organization.

*Under the
Spreading
Antlers of
Protection...*





Appreciation of the Elks' **11 O'CLOCK TOAST** and its origin requires that we go back long before the BPOE came into existence. One of the main contributions of Charles Vivian was to deliver into the hands of newborn Elks the rituals and traditions of a fraternal organization started in England around 1010 A.D., the Royal and Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

The RAOB, or Buffaloes also practiced an 11 o'clock toast in remembrance of the Battle of Hastings in October of 1066. Following his victory, William of Normandy imported a set of rules. Among those rules was a curfew requiring all watch fires and bonfires to be extinguished at 11 o'clock each night. From strategically placed watchtowers that also served as early fire-alarm posts, the call would go out to douse or shutter all lights and bank all fires.

The hour of 11 quickly acquired a somber meaning, and in the centuries that followed, became the synonym throughout Europe for someone on his deathbed or about to go into battle. Thus, when the 15 Jolly Corks voted on February 16, 1868, to start a more formal and official organization, they were already aware of an almost universally prevalent sentiment about the mystic and haunting aura connected with the nightly hour of 11, and it took no great eloquence by Vivian to establish a ritual toast similar to that of the Buffaloes at the last hour each day.

Given our theatrical origins, it was almost mandatory that the pre-1900 Elks would be expected to compose a beautiful toast extemporaneously at will. Regardless of the form, however, the custom is as old as the Elks.

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Each month, the Garden Grove Elks Lodge proudly presents its Elk of the Month award to recognize outstanding service and dedication among its members. This prestigious honor is open to all Elks, regardless of how long they've been part of the lodge — from newly initiated members to long-standing veterans. What matters most is the commitment and contribution demonstrated during that specific month.

The Elk of the Month is selected based on their involvement and efforts that go above and beyond to support the lodge and its members. Whether it's volunteering at events, helping with lodge operations, or simply being a positive and active presence, the recipient reflects the values and spirit of the Elks community. The award can also serve as a motivating recognition for newer members, encouraging continued engagement and participation in lodge activities.

While the final decision is typically made by the Exalted Ruler, input from a committee or other members may be considered to ensure a well-rounded recommendation process. The honoree is formally recognized during a lodge meeting and receives a special red badge to mark the achievement.

The Elk of the Month award not only celebrates individual dedication but also strengthens the unity and mission of the Garden Grove Elks Lodge by shining a light on those who make a meaningful difference each month.

The Ritual Tradition at Garden Grove Elks Lodge

The RITUAL is a foundational tradition of the Elks, performed by each lodge during the initiation of new members. Designed to build camaraderie and instill the core values of the Order, the ritual involves coordinated performances from four principal stations: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. Each station plays a vital part in welcoming new members and reinforcing the ideals of Elkdom. The Lodge Esquire also plays a key role, and is instrumental in explaining, instructing, and demonstrating the ceremonial movements that unify all Elks.



2025 Ritual Team Garden Grove Elks Lodge No. 1952

L-R: PAVP Mark Mahoney (All-State Coach), PER Sherrie Larson (All-State Candidate), Paul Escobar (Tiler), Jim Hernandez (All-State Inner Guard), Jen Van Dyne (All-State Lecturing Knight), Terese Caiazzo (All-State Loyal Knight), Chris Garland (All-State Exalted Ruler), Alice Salinas (All-State Leading Knight), Sue Sawyer (All-State Esquire), PDDGER David Skelton (All-State Chaplain), PER Eric Skillman (Coach)

At the Garden Grove Elks Lodge, the ritual is taken to the next level. Unlike some lodges that read their parts, Garden Grove members memorize and perfect their performances. This dedication has led the Lodge to regularly compete—and succeed—at the district, state, and even national levels. Garden Grove has built a reputation for outstanding performance in ritual competitions across all tiers. The ritual not only honors tradition but also strengthens the bonds among members, making it a cherished part of the Garden Grove Elks Lodge history.

SPECIAL WINTER ISSUE coming in December!

B.P.O.E. Trivia Answer

Philadelphia. It was initially called "Lodge B" because they didn't think there would be more than 26 lodges!

Garden Grove Trivia Answer

1956. The official date of incorporation was 6/18/56. Garden Grove was founded in 1874 by Dr. Alonzo Cook.

GG Elks Trivia Answer

*Bertha Smith
Look for her photo in the Lodge!*

PLEASE LOOK FOR OUR NEXT QUARTERLY EDITION - COMING IN JANUARY 2026
GARDEN GROVE ELKS HISTORIAN COMMITTEE