



Kona Hawaii Elks Lodge

2616

50th

ANNIVERSARY



January 2022

Vol 43 Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM JOHN RICHARD SMITH, PDDGER, Special Representative



Aloha and Mahalo, for allowing me the Honor and Privilege to work with you. in renewing and refreshing the order of Elks in Kona, Hawaii.

You are some of the BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH!

The Kona-Hawaii Elks Lodge #2616 is on track to become the undisputed best place to meet the friendliest and finest people on the West side of the big island.

Two years ago December 2019, we started this project, and it has been quite the task; however, the rewards have been far more significant than any reasonable expectations. It was never a goal to dispose of or forget any of the arduous and outstanding work that so many great Elks had done before us. However, it was time for the newer and younger members to pull their weight and do their part.

The dream or expectation was to proceed in a way that would show that we are "HONORING THE PAST EMBRACING THE FUTURE."

The first six months were grueling, trying to remain open and pay off the debt acquired over the prior two years.

And we were dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Well, that, with everyone's hard work, understanding, and volunteer hours, was accomplished In record time.

We spent the next six months looking for a property we could afford to purchase, a new home, a forever home.

While struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic and our financial history, we soon realized that this objective would have to be placed on hold. Still, it was more than evident if we remained stagnant, we would never move forward; we would continue to flounder. Taking from Peter to pay Paul is very fatiguing. Its effect is to remove the joy of serving Elkdom only to be replaced with a constant struggle, and we would never accomplish our goal of acquiring a forever home.

One year ago, December 2020, we started an earnest search for a more appropriate facility to house and to be home to the Kona-Hawaii Elks Lodge # 2616. At this time, our Exalted Ruler Lourdes passed, and that unexpected loss cast a dark cloud over us all.

Early in the first quarter of 2021, we were blessed to find the old theater available at such a reasonable price that we could easily afford it and make it the jewel it will soon be. Call it karma or just good clean living, but this opportunity was like a breath of fresh air to the members who have worked so hard for so long, Yes they were revitalized and ready to hit the road running again.

On 1 July 2021, after a great deal of research and several meetings informing and explaining our plan to every interested member and our leadership, we have moved to the home of the Kona-Hawaii Elks Lodge's # 2161 to 75-170 Hualalai Road. We have quite a crew of great volunteers who sincerely care about every member and the home for their Lodge; they have worked tirelessly for the last six months, and their labor of love certainly is visible to anyone and everyone who cares to look.

One of the concerns of a few of our members was the lack of operational air-conditioning in most areas of the building.

Well, those concerns can be put to rest as the landlord has, under the negotiated lease, completed the installation of the most energy-efficient air conditioning systems available on the market today with a value of \$105,000.

The member's lounge is well on its way to becoming the envy of most any social area in Hawaii. We have already hosted a few Christmas parties in the game room section of the member's lounge.

A brand, new walk-in cooler that is 20 feet long, 10 feet wide 8 feet tall with a state-of-the-art refrigeration system has been shipped and should be here in the first two weeks of this month. We will be pouring the concrete floor for the dining area of the member's lounge on 4 January 2021.

We have eight members and or local vendors who have purchased and donated 8, 85 -inch Sony Bravia televisions.

They are currently in the process of being installed in the member's lounge, so we will have the benefit of watching Sporting events like no other facility in Kona.

We expect to have the Elks Café operational and open from 6 AM to 2 PM, offering a variety of coffee drinks breakfast, breakfast sandwiches, and lunch by mid-January. We are also looking for input from members as to what they would like to see for the name of their café / coffee shop. Stop in and fill out a card with your recommendation for the name of your new café and coffee shop.

We have also gotten authorization to expand our liquor consumption area to include a 40' x 40' outdoor beer Garden on the North-West side of the building that will more than meet the needs of the members who periodically prefer to be in open-air conditions.

Our laundry facility is on its way to being completed soon; it will consist of two stackable washers and dryers. We will do all of our laundries in house.

The kitchens needs will be met by one.

And the dining needs will be met by the other one. Having independent machines will prevent cross-contamination, and This will significantly reduce the cost of operation by eliminating the need to send out cleaning.

Our membership is growing at an unprecedented pace; we have already obtained +1 status at this point of the year; we have more members in good standing now than we did at the beginning of this Elke year on 1 April 2021. We still have approximately 50 members that are delinquent. Please help us encourage them to pay their dues. Every delinquent member that returns to Good standing is another +1 for the Kona-Hawaii Elks Lodge # 2616. We are seeing an actual good number of members who left the order quite some time ago that are happy, excited, and eager to re-join and have been doing so, and I am so happy to say we have them back in the herd. Now is a perfect time; if you know anyone who used to be in good standing or who you believe would be a positive addition to our membership, please invite them in. We are on track to having more members on 31 March 2022 than we have ever had!

As the omicron variant of COVID-19 is exploding on the big island, we are progressing with caution & due diligence. Every member needs to understand that even amid this pandemic.

The financial situation of your Lodge,
The Kona-Hawaii Elks Lodge #2616 is in the Best, most secure, and sound condition it has ever been during my tenure as a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. There is a lot of work that still needs to be done; this is not an inexpensive endeavor. Your support is not only appreciated but needed. Support can be measured in many ways. Sometimes it might be in the form of a financial donation or if you have spare minutes, those too are very much appreciated and needed or sometimes just participation at our events & dinners.

I sincerely look forward to seeing you at the Lodge. I understand the times are trying, but do yourself a favor, take a break, come in and spend a minute with your fellow members. You will leave with a much better feeling.

Fraternally

John Richard Smith, PDDGER

Special Representative

808-333-4270

JohnRichardSmith@KonaElks.org

"HONORING THE PAST EMBRACING THE FUTURE"

Message from the ER



On Elks Memorial Day, Sunday, December 5th, the lodge performed the sacred ritual for those Elks that “will come no more but will never be forgotten or forsaken”. We gathered on that day to honor Ernie Knapp, Cornell Linerud, Lourdes Hernaez (PER), Natalie Clark and Pat Pastor and to remind ourselves that “their virtues are written on the tablets of love and memory”. They will be missed.

Attendance at our major events on the December calendar was the best ever. Our Christmas and New Year’s parties were attended by the maximum number of Elks and Elk guests allowable. Best of all, we were able to open up the upper half of the new Elks lounge giving all those who attended a taste of what is to come in January.

January has arrived and I am delighted to report that rapid progress towards the completion of our Elks lounge (makai bay) continues to be made. The final pouring of the concrete to complete the leveling of the floor will be the first week in January.

For those interested, our local Hoop Shoot will begin on January 15th and any Elks who wish to attend the event may do so. It will be at the gymnasium next to the aquatic park. The time will be posted in the weekly blurbs.

This being the time for New Year’s resolutions, consider donating on a regular basis to the Elks National Foundation and to CHEMP; set a goal to recruit a number of new members for the lodge; volunteer to help with the meals and remodeling projects in the lodge; make it habit to stop by the Kona Elks at least once or twice a week and mingle with your fellow Elks.



NICOLE JOHNSTON
ESTEEMED LEADING
KNIGHT

This time of year reminds me how much I miss my family as I'm sure many of you do. It has been nice to have my fellow Elks around me to fill the void. We have missed many of you this holiday season and I personally hope to see you in the lodge soon. Celebrate with us these amazing holidays and celebrate an exciting new year.

Nancy Albright, Membership Committee Chairman

This has been a very big and exciting year for the lodge, making the move to a larger facility, that we intend to be "A Very Central Gem of the Community." If you are not yet involved in some way with the upgrading of our new Members Lounge, Elks Cafe, Large Central Theatre, or the Lodge Event Center, please treat yourself to a very rewarding endeavor, giving back to your lodge and community! Just come in for a beverage and a dinner, and ask about all the ways you can contribute to the venture...

I challenge you to dig out, and read, your booklet, "What It Means To Be An Elk" (or ask the bartender, secretary or E.R. for one). "The Elks Point Of View" reads (paraphrased) as follows: The Benevolent and Protective Order of The Elks, of which you are an important part, believes that laughter is better than tears, and a kind word more powerful than a frown. The dream of a better world becomes reality when shaped by enough willing hearts and hands.

I can't wait to see where the next year brings us! Wishing you nothing but happiness in the new year.



NANCY ALBRIGHT
CHAIRMAN OF
THE MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE & TRUSTEE



ART CHANG
ESTEEMED
LOYAL KNIGHT

Thanks for everyone's support while we transition our lodge. We are working very hard to get our lodge up and running. Please be patient and thank you for your support.

We now have over 400 members in our lodge with 15 more candidates in the line-up to become members. We still have members who have not paid their dues. If you know any of these Elks or you sponsored their membership, encourage them to come in, visit awhile and pay their dues. As we move into 2022, I ask all my fellow Elks to make a strong effort to recruit new candidates.



TERRI THOMAS
SECRETARY

January

EVENTS LISTED BELOW MAY CHANGE DUE TO COVID REGULATIONS

2022

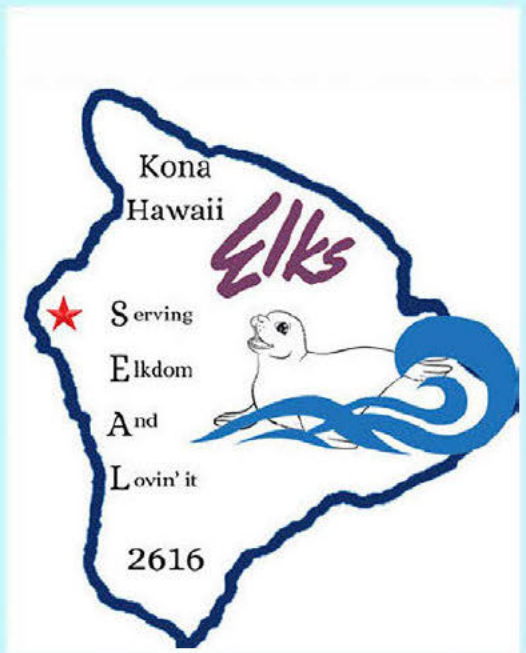
CHECK WEEKLY BLURBS FOR MORE INFO ON EVENTS LISTED

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						¹ CLOSED New Year's Day
² NFL BREAKFAST	³ HAMBURGER MONDAY	⁴ CAFÉ MENU PER Meeting – 3pm	⁵ SANDWICH NIGHT	⁶ BAR OPEN House Committee – 7pm BAR MENU	⁷ CAFÉ MENU	⁸ DINNER FOR VISITING PGER, BOB DUITSMAN AND HIS WIFE BETH
⁹ NFL BREAKFAST	¹⁰ HAMBURGER MONDAY BOD Meeting – 7pm	¹¹ CAFÉ MENU	¹² CHICKEN WITH FRIES OR COLE SLAW POKER NIGHT	¹³ ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING	¹⁴ STEAK Quiet Birdmen	¹⁵ CAFÉ MENU LOCAL HOOP SHOOT BEGINS
¹⁶ NFL BREAKFAST	¹⁷ HAMBURGER MONDAY Activities Meeting – 7pm	¹⁸ CAFÉ MENU	¹⁹ SANDWICH NIGHT	²⁰ BAR OPEN BAR MENU	²¹ CAFÉ MENU	²² CHEMPI FUND RAISING DINNER
²³ NFL BREAKFAST	²⁴ HAMBURGER MONDAY	²⁵ CAFÉ MENU	²⁶ MEATLOAF	²⁷ ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING	²⁸ CAFÉ MENU	²⁹ OFFICAL OPENING OF COMPLETED ELKS LOUNGE
³⁰ NFL BREAKFAST	³¹ HAMBURGER MONDAY					



KONA ELKS LODGE # 2616 OFFICERS (2021-2022)

Exalted Ruler	James Booth
Esteemed Leading Knight	Nicole Johnston
Esteemed Loyal Knight	Art Chang
Esteemed Lecturing Knight	Dominique Miller
Secretary	Terri Thomas
Treasurer	Bridget Livingston Smith
Inner Guard	Bobbi Goss
Chaplain	JD Richwine
Esquire	Wendi Wasson
Trustee (5 yr)	Nancy Albright
Trustee (4 yr)	Marylou Tolentino
Trustee (3 yr)	William Reece Jr.
Trustee (2 yr)	Cyndee Strahm
Trustee (1 yr)	Richard Scritchfield
Presiding Justice	Leslie S. Miller
Forum Mediator	John Richard Smith
GL Alternate Designate	John Richard Smith



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Americanism
 Auditing & Accounting
 Community Activities
 Scholarships
 Public Relations
 Hoop Shoot
 Fraternal
 Membership
 PER Association
 House Committee
 Government Relations
 CHEMPI
 ENF
 Drug Awareness

Ron Cole, PER
 Jane DeMello
 Bill Steffenhagen
 Julie Lederer
 Nicole Johnston
 J.D. Richwine
 Ron Cole, PER
 Nancy Albright
 Larry Kniffin, PER
 William Reese Jr.
 Steve Rousseau
 Nicole Johnston
 Bridget Smith
 John Richard Smith, PER, PAVP, PDDGER



PAST EXALTED RULERS

2020-2021 Lourdes Hernaez

2019-2020 John Meserve

2018-2019 Barbara Nance

2017-2018 Laurence Kniffin

2016-2017 John Richard Smith

2015-2016 Joseph Reynolds

2014-2015 Vern Ungerecht

2013-2014 Mary Reynolds

2012-2013 Ron Cole

2010-2012 Barbara Nance

2009-2010 Martha Kawai

2008-2009 Bill Stockly

2007-2008 Chuck Kohn

2006-2007 Allen Nance PER

2005-2006 Annette Rodrigues

2004-2005 Daniel Malakie

2003-2004 Allen Nance

2002-2003 Angie Kawai

2001-2002 Mary Reynolds

2000-2001 Richard Skarnes

1999-2000 Bonnie Hodkinson

1998-1999 Douglas McLeod

1997-1998 Jonathan Hodkinson

1996-1997 Vern Ungerecht

1995-1996 Dave Paton

1993-1995 John Granahan

1992-1993 Vern Ungerecht

1991-1992 Richard Holly

1990-1991 Joseph Reynolds

1988-1990 Douglas McLeod

1987-1988 Ken Driskell

1986-1987 George Glaser

1985-1986 Robert Wilson

1984-1985 David Hawkins

1983-1984 Max Crittenden

1982-1983 Ron Serrao

1981-1982 Anthony Arruda

1980-1981 William Reeves



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JAN. FIRST LAST			JAN. FIRST LAST			JAN. FIRST LAST		
01	Richard	Dickum	11	Tom	Lawson	19	Neil	Barnett
01	Philip	Miranda	11	Lisa	Schjelderup	21	Donald	Buchnowski
03	Catherine	Kexel	12	Rosie	Blair	24	Todd	Miller
03	Bonnie	Schwirian	13	James	Buehler	24	Joe	Zapataoliva
03	Brendalynn	Torado	16	Rudy	Ai	25	Bradley	Ariel
04	Charles	Perez	16	Mark	Russell	25	Lowell	Baird
05	Christopher	Schlarb	17	Holly	Lyons	25	James	Rath
06	William	Lederer	18	Robin	Barrett	30	Thomas	Pomorski
07	Ray	Kester	18	Gene	Tomita	30	Brian	Powers
08	Mary	Reynolds						



- Happy -
Birthday



WE NEED YOU!

***Please continue your
support of YOUR Lodge!***

ELKS DELINQUENT ON DUES AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

Ai, Rudy

Anthony, Michael Dean

Ariel, Bradley K

Asbach, Richard

Benlein, Janice Lynn

Bianchi, Caroline

Blake, Peter A

Boudreau, Shawn H

Brown, Michael J

Buchnowski, Donald Frank

Butler, Ron

Clay, James C

Coakley, Jeffrey

Cohen, Mark Howard

Cruse, Estelle

Dawson, Dondi

Dehmer, Kalani Ak

Drysdale, Kelly

Eugenio, Veronica

Freitas, Kaeo

Gallo, Thomas F

Gerrits, Ryan H

Gomez, Jim

Grogan, Steve

Hughes, Susan

Johnson, Ellen L

Kitzmiller, Ernett Malhui

Korkes, William

Meadows, Leonard

Meyer, Margaret L

Oftedal, Robert

Parnell, Janet

Payne-Wetzel, Darlene Elizabeth

Preston, Gary

Richter, Oskar

Riley, Glenn

Rodman, Malik

Rubino, Kathy

Schwirian, Bonnie

Sisson Jr, Randall Keith

Springer, Gary Dean

Sue, Cavan

Webb, Sandra M

Wigzell, Terry

Yee, Garry Wo

Young, Dennis

Zapataoliva, Joe



New Years Eve



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Thank You!

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