

CHEA Annual Convention, San Diego

May 6–9, 2015

What a wonderful information-packed convention. The Opening Session on Wednesday night included our Elks Memorial. The Vice President from each District lit a candle for our departed Members. President Skip Henke lit a candle for the North Central District in honor of our Vice President Helena Scherrer who could not be there.

There were 55 Members from the North Central District present at the convention. A few Lodge officers were “Excused” from attending for various reasons, and a few Lodge officers were just plain “Absent.” All of this, of course, is reported to our Area 7 Sponsors and to the Grand Exalted Ruler.

Our State Membership Chairman PDD Jim Warrick did an outstanding presentation on Membership and Lapsation and, through his leadership, the Association has a plus membership for the past year.

Our District Leader PDD Marty Mello and our District Accounting and Auditing Chair Debra Mello did a marvelous presentation for the Accounting Seminar. Excited and positive comments were heard afterward. There are many changes happening in the Order and in California state law, and we are so lucky to have these very well-informed members in our District to guide us through the coming years.

During Friday’s Session our new CHEA President Donald Schultz and his core of new Association Vice Presidents were installed by PSP Art Echernacht. “Press on for Success” is our new President’s motto.

Our new District Vice President is PER Tom Ward. His Lodge visitations start on May 14 at Marysville Lodge #783. We wish Tom a very successful year!

At the Convention on Thursday and Friday, the Ritual Contest was held. This is a very daunting experience

for Judges, as they must stay awake on Thursday for 9 different teams performing the Initiatory ceremony. On Friday, only the four top-scoring teams from Thursday’s performances competed. Santa Clarita, with a score of plus 97, was this year’s winning Ritual team. Congratulations Santa Clarita!

The convention culminated on Saturday with the first highlight being the Major Project *Exalted Ruler’s March*. With a contribution of \$122,000, the North Central District helped to make this year’s record contributions of \$3,251,232.17 a huge success—what a successful year for our Purple Pig!

The Theme Children for this year are 4-1/2 year-old twin girls—the cutest little girls you have ever seen!



Twins Jayden and Peyton with mom Melissa at Convention, May 9, 2015

After the therapist and their mother spoke about her children’s disabilities, the two sweethearts sang a song for the attendees. Not a dry eye in the room.

I am proud to report that the North Central District walked away with some very nice awards this year.

Carmichael received three awards: The President’s Achievement Award for All District Lodge, the President’s Achievement Award for All State Lodge, and the Grand

Lodge Award for All American Lodge in the 1000–1500 members category.

Roseville received the President’s Achievement Award for All American Lodge in the 500–700 members category. Roseville’s PER Gary Platz received an award for Male Veteran’s Volunteer of the year.

Sacramento Lodge received an award from the State BLT Chairman for a sizeable donation from a Member to the BLT program.

We, the Members of the California-Hawaii Elks Association should have a tremendous amount of pride in what we have achieved for our Children!