



CALIFORNIA-HAWAII ELKS ASSOCIATION

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

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DUTIES OF DISTRICT LEADERS

The use of District Leaders is unique to Area 7 with few exceptions. The Past Grand Exalted Rulers of this Area for many years have depended upon appointed Lodge Advisors, District Leaders and personal contact with interested, long-time Elks for advice and support in carrying on the business of Elkdom in Area 7.

No system can work successfully without changes to keep up with modern or changed conditions. Just as with the Lodge Advisor Program, with the passing years and different conditions, sometimes the Sponsors find it necessary to appoint new District Leaders. It should be recognized that when such changes occur, they are not made from any dissatisfaction but are made only when they are in the best interest of the District and the Order. Maybe it is best to say that while the appointment of District Leaders is continuing appointments, they are only semi permanent and subject to change as the Sponsors think necessary.

The District Leader must be a Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and, in many cases, is also a Past Association President. Usually they have a second in command that can function in the event they are away from the District or incapacitated. The duties of the District Leader are those primarily involved with endorsement or selection of personnel of the Association and District. Following the practices of the District, they are responsible for seeing that the appropriate recommendations are timely made to the Association President and Association office for the appointment of District and Association Chairmen of the various committees for the coming year. The CHEA Leaders are expected to attend a meeting for this purpose which is usually held on the Saturday morning following the Homecoming Meeting of the Association President each year at a time and place specified. At that meeting each District Leader who is present has a vote in the selection of Association Officers and Committee Chairmen.

Traditionally the District Leaders also provide for the selection of an Association Vice President and a Trustee (if the position is open) from their District for election at the Convention and this information is forwarded to the Association office. Therefore a major responsibility is to call the Past District Deputies of the District into a meeting where this is done and appropriate recommendation to the Area Sponsors is made for the ultimate appointment for District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the District in the ensuing year as well.

In making the selections as above outlined, District Leaders must keep in mind that those selected will represent the Order of Elks and that they should conform to the family standards which we support. There have been some recommendations made in the past, which have been criticized for their lifestyle, or appearance, not only by the Sponsors but even more vehemently by the selectee's associates. District Leaders and Area Sponsors have a responsibility to all Elks to establish a leadership, not only knowledgeable and capable, but also above reproach.

Another responsibility of the District Leader is that of acting as an Advisor in matters of protocol as outlined in the Manual of Protocol published by the Grand Lodge. For example, a new Vice President is responsible for the proper entertainment of the President on the occasion of a visit to the District. However, the Vice President should rely on the counsel and advice of the District Leaders in making proper arrangements. The same would apply to visitations by Grand Lodge Officials.

The District Leaders represent the Sponsors and their experience and knowledge of the District and its personnel make them invaluable to the Sponsoring Past Grand Exalted Rulers. Therefore the District Deputies are requested to copy the District Leaders with the reports of their visits to the Lodges so that continuity may be established and compliance to the Statutes obtained.

There is some provision for reimbursement for expenses as a District Leader and they will be explained, but there have been many times for all of us that we have been "out of pocket" in our service to our beloved Order. The rewards come from within, a sense of pride in what we are accomplishing and the enjoyment of doing it with others who feel as we do.