

CALIFORNIA-HAWAII ELKS ASSOCIATION

2026

CONVENTION SCHEDULE PROGRAM



111th ANNUAL CONVENTION

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
MAY 13 - 16, 2026

Elks Care - *Elks* Share

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TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.--Registration—*Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa, “Celebrity, Polo Room”*

3:00 p.m.--Pre-convention Meeting--*Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa, TBD*
 Association President, Convention Committee, Executive Director and Convention Center Staff

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.– CHEA Meetings Committee – *Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa, Hospitality Room 517*

REGISTRATION, CHEA OFFICE AND BLUE COAT PICKUP

OFFICE HOURS AND LOCATION

Registration	CHEA Office	Blue Coat
<i>Celebrity Building, Polo Room</i>	<i>Celebrity Building, Mission Hills Boardroom</i>	<i>Celebrity Building, Business Center & Meeting Planner Office</i>
Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.		
Wednesday – 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.	Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.	Wednesday – 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.
Thursday – 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.	Thursday – 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.	Thursday – 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
Friday – 7:00 a.m. until Noon	Friday – 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.	Friday – 7:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.--Registration
 --“*Celebrity, Polo Room*”

9:30 a.m.--CHEMPI Board of Trustees Meeting, Barbara Knox, Chairman
 -- “*Ambassador Ballroom 1*”

10:30 a.m.--CHEA Board of Trustees Meeting, Robert Lenk, Chairman
 --“*Ambassador Ballroom 1*”

12:00 Noon to 4:30 p.m.--Ritual Practice, *Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa*
 --Grillo Division, “*Celebrity, Oasis Ballrooms 1, 2 & 3*”
 --Duitsman Division, “*Celebrity, Oasis Ballrooms 5, 6 & 7*”

12:15 p.m.--DDGER Designate Luncheon Meeting with PGERs Grillo and Duitsman
 --“*Ambassador Ballroom 2*”

1:00 p.m.--First Vice President's Meeting with Vice President Designates and CHEA Committee Chairmen
 --“*Ambassador Ballroom 5*”

2:00 p.m.--Past Association President’s Meeting
 --“*Ambassador Ballroom 3*”

OPENING SESSION--VISITORS WELCOME --“*Celebrity Ballroom*”

7:30 p.m.--Musical Presentation – TBD

8:00 p.m.--Opening remarks, Association President Scott Stephens, presiding

Call to Order by Association President Scott Stephens

8:03 p.m.-- Invocation by Nicole Sato, CHEA Chaplain

8:06 p.m.-- Pledge of Allegiance by Marie Nunez, CHEA Sergeant at Arms

8:08 p.m.-- National Anthem by Michelle Giacobuzzi, Palm Springs Lodge No. 1905 Vocalist

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 (continued)

8:10 p.m.--Introductions by Association President Scott Stephens

1. Frank Buso, President, Arizona Elks Association
2. James Lynch, President, Nevada State Elks Association
3. Jesse Gallo, President, Utah Elks Association
4. CHEA Past Presidents, Spouses and Widows

8:15 p.m.--Introduction and Remarks by Barbara Knox

8:20 p.m.--Introduction of CHEA Sponsors by Association President Scott Stephens

8:25 p.m.--Introduction of Grand Exalted Ruler by Louis J. Grillo, Past Grand Exalted Ruler

8:30 p.m.--Brief message by Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Exalted Ruler

8:35 p.m.--Announcements by Association President Scott Stephens

8:40 p.m.--**MEMORIAL SERVICE**--by Past Association President Marty Mello

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.--Registration--*“Celebrity, Polo Room”*

7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.--Preliminary Ritual Contest--*Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa*
Grillo Division, *“Celebrity, Oasis Ballrooms 1, 2 & 3”*
Duitsman Division, *“Celebrity, Oasis Ballrooms 5, 6 & 7”*

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION--VISITORS WELCOME--*“Celebrity Ballroom”*

8:00 a.m.--Call to Order by Association President Scott Stephens

8:02 a.m.-- Invocation by Nicole Sato, CHEA Chaplain

8:05 a.m.-- Pledge of Allegiance by Marie Nunez, CHEA Sergeant at Arms

8:08 a.m.--Introduction of CHEA Officers and other guests by Association President Scott Stephens
(Each group escorted to stage and introduced by Association Sergeant at Arms, Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Tiler and Assistant Tiler)

Association Officers
Association Trustees
Major Project Trustees
Past Association Presidents
District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers
Grand Lodge Committeemen
Grand Lodge Officers
Past Grand Exalted Rulers
Grand Exalted Ruler

8:30 a.m.--Introduction of CHEA Vice Presidents by Scott Stephens, Association President

BAY—Angelique Horton
CENTRAL—Michael Patterson
EAST CENTRAL—Eric Lee Patton
HAWAII—Miles Nakatsu
INLAND—Wayne A. Ball
METROPOLITAN—Anthony Roman

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 (continued)

NORTH—Brian Favero
NORTH CENTRAL—Regina Stephens
NORTHEAST—Danny Parker
NORTHWEST—Henry Geiger
ORANGE COAST—Kealoha Jenkins
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY—Mary Garcia
SOUTH—Carlos Weir
SOUTH CENTRAL—Ernie Sigala
SOUTH CENTRAL COAST—Eric Koyanagi
SOUTH COAST—John R. Corbin
SOUTHEAST—Michael Gilligan
WEST CENTRAL—Angela Moore
WEST CENTRAL COAST—Gail Marcum

8:40 a.m.--Credentials Report by Barbara Knox, Association Convention Chairman
8:43 a.m.--Association Treasurer's report by Robert "Bob" Cassetta, CHEA Treasurer
8:46 a.m.--Association Secretary's report by Diane Farrens, CHEA Secretary
8:49 a.m.--CHEA Board of Trustees report by Robert Lenk, Chairman
8:58 a.m.--Constitutional Amendments by Timothy C. Martin, PGELK, CHEA Executive Director
9:00 a.m.--National Veterans Service Awards, John Hardman, Chairman
9:10 a.m.--Bequest and Living Trust report by Linda Valenty, Vice Chairman
9:18 a.m.--President's Achievement Awards, Jamie Jasso, Chairman
9:26 a.m.--Lodge Activities Presentation, Rudy Guerra, Chairman
9:35 a.m.--Nomination and Election of 2026-2027 Officers
9:50 a.m.--Acceptance Speech by Lynn Glick, Association President Elect
10:00 a.m.--Grand Lodge Committee Reports
 10:00 a.m.-Judiciary by Melvin R. Keeter
 10:20 a.m.-Public Relations & Marketing by Patrick Akes
 10:40 a.m.-Questions and Answers from the Panel
 11:00 a.m.-Announcement of seminars Friday afternoon
11:05 a.m.--Benediction by Nicole Sato, CHEA Chaplain
 --Adjourn

LUNCHEONS

12:30 p.m.--First Lady's Luncheon Social Hour-- "*Ambassador Ballrooms 1, 2 3 & 4*"
1:00 p.m.--First Lady's Luncheon and Entertainment-- "*Ambassador Ballrooms 1, 2 3 & 4*"
1:00 p.m.--Secretaries, Trustees and Club Managers Luncheon-- "*Celebrity Ballroom D*"
 Conducted by CHEA Board of Trustees Chairman and Business Practices Chairman
1:00 p.m.--Exalted Rulers, Leading Knights, other Officers and Members Luncheon-- "*Celebrity Ballrooms E, F, G & H*"
 Conducted by Association President Elect Lynn Glick. Topics: Grand Lodge Judiciary by Melvin R. Keeter, Member,
 and Financial Reporting System by Debra Mello, Member.
1:00 p.m.--DDGER, PDDGER and Lodge Advisors Luncheon-- "*Ambassador Ballrooms 5, 6 & 7*"

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 *(continued)*

3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.--Grand Lodge Judiciary Available to Answer Questions--*"Hospitality 517"*

EVENING

Association President's Dinner (Association Blue Coat or Suit)

6:30 p.m.--No Host Cocktails--*"Celebrity Ballroom"*

7:30 p.m.--Dinner--*"Celebrity Ballroom"*

Introduction by Louis J. Grillo, Past Grand Exalted Ruler

Address by Grand Exalted Ruler, Bryan R. Klatt

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.--Ritual Contest Finals Practice--*Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa,*
Grillo & Duitsman Divisions, *"Celebrity, Oasis Ballrooms 1-4"*

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.--Major Project Piggy Bank ***Walk-A-Thon***--*"Celebrity Foyer"*

7:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon--Registration--*"Celebrity, Polo Room"*

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon--Ritual Contest Finals--*Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa,*
Followed by Eleven O'clock Toast Contest until 5:00 p.m.
Grillo & Duitsman Divisions, *"Celebrity Oasis Ballrooms 1-4"*

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION--VISITORS WELCOME--*"Celebrity Ballroom"*

8:00 a.m.--Call to Order by Association President Scott Stephens

8:01 a.m.-- Invocation by Nicole Sato, CHEA Chaplain

8:02 a.m.-- Pledge of Allegiance by Marie Nunez, CHEA Sergeant at Arms

8:03 a.m.--Americanism by Larry Perez, Americanism Chairman--Essay Readings and Awards

8:11 a.m.--Youth/Soccer Activities Committee, Jim McCloskey, Chairman

8:15 a.m.--Enrique Camarena Award by Susan Good, Drug Awareness Chairman

8:24 a.m.--Resolutions by Tim Martin, PGELK, CHEA Executive Director

8:26 a.m.--Remarks by Frank Buso, President, Arizona Elks Association

8:29 a.m.--Remarks by James Lynch, President, Nevada State Elks Association

8:32 a.m.--Remarks by Jesse Gallo, President, Utah Elks Association

8:35 a.m.--Remarks by Past Grand Exalted Rulers, Area 7, Louis J. Grillo & Robert L. Duitsman

8:40 a.m.--Pre-Installation Rally

9:00 a.m.--10:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.--Theme Child Photo Opportunity, *"Celebrity Foyer"*

9:00 a.m.--Installation of Officers by Past Association President, Ted G. Talbot

9:15 a.m.--Acknowledgment by Lynn Glick, new Association President

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026 (continued)

- 9:25 a.m.--Presentation of blue coat to Lynn Glick, new Association President
- 9:29 a.m.--Benediction by Nicole Sato, CHEA Chaplain
- 9:30 a.m.--Adjourn into seminar workshops
- 9:45 a.m.--Exalted Rulers, Leading Knights, other Officers and Members Workshop-- "*Ambassador Ballroom 4*"
Conducted by New Association President and New Committee Chairmen for Membership, Lapsation, Lodge Activities, Public Relations, and Ritual Contest & Training
- 9:45 a.m.--Secretaries, Trustees, and Club Managers Workshop-- "*Ambassador Ballrooms 1, 2 & 3*"
Conducted by CHEA Board of Trustees Chairman and Business Practices Chairman
- 12:15 p.m.--CHEA Board of Trustees, "*Rancho*"
CHEMPI Board of Trustees, "*Mirage*"
CHEA and CHEMPI Boards of Trustees joint meeting, "*Rancho*"
- 3:00 p.m.--New President's Reception-- "*Ambassador Ballrooms 1, 2, 3 & 4*"

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

FINAL BUSINESS SESSION--VISITORS WELCOME--"Celebrity Ballroom"

- 8:00 a.m.--Call to Order by Scott Stephens, Association President
- 8:01 a.m.--Invocation by Nicole Sato, CHEA Chaplain
- 8:03 a.m.--Pledge of Allegiance by Marie Nunez, CHEA Sergeant at Arms
"Proud to be an American"
- 8:05 a.m.--Recognition and Presentation to Scott Stephens, Association 2025-2026 President
- 8:10 a.m.--Major Project report by Barbara Knox, Chairman, CHEMPI Board of Trustees
- 8:20 a.m.--Presentation of Theme Child
- 8:45 a.m.--Piggy Bank report by Robert "Bob" Farrens, Chairman
- 8:56 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.--***Exalted Ruler's Piggy Bank March***
- 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m./10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.--Theme Child Photo Opportunity- "*Celebrity Foyer*"
- 10:45 a.m.--Ritual Contest Report and Awards by Nancy Kulinski, Chairman
- 11:50 a.m.--Benediction by Nicole Sato, CHEA Chaplain
- 11:55 a.m.--Closing by Scott Stephens, Association President