



# CALIFORNIA DEER ASSOCIATION CHICO CHAPTER

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Deer Friends:

A 30th anniversary is a milestone, and thanks to you, our 30th anniversary event was a landmark evening we'll never forget.

The CDA Chico Chapter Banquet and Auction on March 21, 2026, once again surpassed our record for the most money raised in an evening. We're still balancing the books, but total profit is expected to surpass \$250,000 for conservation programs in the state. That doesn't count the \$50,000 sale price for the Golden Opportunity Tag, proceeds of which benefit state Department of Fish and Wildlife projects for deer, elk, bighorn sheep and pronghorn.

The event again sold out all 500 tickets weeks in advance. The loyalty of our members is inspiring. When members purchase dinner tickets, they are asked to provide a member number. A lower number means they've been with CDA Chico since the beginning, or close to it. We're always amazed at how many low numbers we see for the oldest CDA chapter in the state. That longtime dedication to CDA's important cause is impressive.

In all those 30 years, we've now raised nearly \$4 million, plus close to an additional \$1 million for the DFW fundraising tags. We truly make a difference for wildlife in California when we pool our resources and work together.

Our dinner committee wants to thank the 500 people who filled the room and contributed generously to the event. We feel very comfortable surrounded by like-minded sportsmen and sportswomen.

We realize it's a chaotic evening and it's easy to miss something, so here are some highlights:

- 50 live auction items.
- 34 silent auction prizes.
- 100 general and 24 women's raffle prizes.
- A youth raffle where every person in attendance 16 or younger won a prize. Items included a lifetime hunting license, a guided turkey hunt, a shad fishing trip and three firearms – a .410, a .22 and a .223.
- Special raffles throughout the evening, including one that awarded a Weatherby 7mm-08 to everyone at the winning table; a drawing for a lifetime hunting license; and a 50/50 cash raffle.
- The 30th anniversary rifle – a Henry .30-30 lever action – that went for \$21,000.
- Deer hunts on the renowned Bell Ranch for a first-time hunter and another for two people.
- A package honoring John Wayne that included a custom lever-action rifle engraved with John Wayne's likeness.
- Deer and turkey hunts on the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, returning to the auction after a hiatus due to the Park Fire.
- A "Happy 250th Birthday, America" package that included a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol, a Second Amendment Smith and Wesson firearm and a decanter honoring our president.
- A limited edition CDA Knife of the Year.
- Sports memorabilia, including a jersey signed by 49ers legend Joe Montana.
- Several coveted hunting and fishing trips.
- And of course, the auction for the head table in 2027, which sold for \$11,000.

The "Happy 250th Birthday, America" item was our annual veterans appreciation package, which allowed CDA Chico to make a \$2,500 donation to the Chico Air Museum to support its "Salute to Vietnam Veterans" event this weekend at the museum. The event runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 2. Admission is free.

We want to thank Down Range Indoor Shooting Range and Durham Guns and Ammo for their continued support. In fact, we urge all of you to support the many businesses that donated to our dinner and continue to support the CDA Chico Chapter. They were all listed in our program and we can't thank them enough.

If you have any feedback on the event, please email us at [cda.chicochapter@gmail.com](mailto:cda.chicochapter@gmail.com). And mark your calendar now for our 31st dinner, which will be Saturday, March 20, 2027. We'll see you there.

One last reminder: We still have a few tickets left for an opportunity to win a tule elk hunt in the late summer or early fall this year. It's a five-day guided bull elk hunt near Paso Robles. Learn more and purchase your tickets here: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/chico/event/tuleelkoppportunityhunt/>.

## **Thank you from the 2026 CDA Chico Chapter Committee:**

Tyler Gullick – Co-Chairman  
Kurt Steindorf – Co-Chairman

Andy Wood  
Steve Deadmond  
Scott Miller  
Mark Stuenkel  
John Millard  
Mike Mann  
JB Bertagna  
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Lance Whittaker  
Chris Hall  
Jack Griffiths  
Marshall Haslem  
Nick Ghimenti  
Brandon Shannon  
Isaac Garst  
David Little

Les Doll  
Dick Bragdon  
Lenora Griffiths  
Floyd Harris  
Aly Pickering  
Nate French  
Brittney French