

## One Big Shout-Out! The Knighted Writer, Edition 26



**Welcome Knights**, to our 26th Edition of the Knighted Writer! This month we'd like to spread the love and give a Big Shout-Out to all of our attendees and award winners at our company parties up North, and keep you on the edge of your seat for our company party down South. We also have a new Banker Brilliance challenge that taps into your creativity as well your brilliance (see below) and much more to love. Thanks again for reading, and be sure to submit your feedback about what you want to see! Party time!

### Knights Know How to Party!

NorCal had three big-time holiday bashes this year. Each party was a huge turnout and rockstar associates were recognized for their hard work in the warm company of their peers. Check out the recaps below!



**(101/Napa) Palms Grill Sonoma** - North Bay, in their competitive spirit, had a tournament with multiple minute-to-win-it games. Teams went head-to-head in trials that tested their coordination and speed, such as Tic-Tac-Toe with ping pong balls and party-cup shuffling against the clock! The winning Knights received VISA gift cards for their valiant efforts. Acknowledged Associates from this party included: Tyler Hattar (Esprit de Corps Award), Alexa Rea (Sparkle Award), Keith Van Nyhuis (Most Improved) and Andy Davis (Aptness Award). NorCal had three big-time holiday bashes this year. Each party was a huge turnout and rockstar associates were recognized for their hard work in the warm company of their peers. Check out the recaps below!

**(580/Palace/Bankers) Dave & Busters** - East Bay and South Bay also got competitive at their party



with a marathon of games at Dave & Busters which included Basketball, Racing, Trivia and Skee-ball. The teams upheld true KV spirit by cheering loudly for each other, catching the attention of all the venue's customers. The winning team members were happy to receive gift cards to their favorite stores. Acknowledged Associates from this night included: Sergio Romero (Take the Initiative Award), Anne Yim (Best Attendance), and Brandon Shing (Annual Lead From Where You Are Winner). Jeremy Rubio and Brandon Shing also won the Blackjack and Pai Gow CSQ competitions!

**(Lotus/Lodi/Cordova) Country Club Lanes -** Sacramento had a fantastic holiday party with its biggest turnout yet. Associates from all three casinos came out in full force to represent and be reunited with old friends. Many bowling and pool competitions were had, and lazer tag was a huge hit. In addition to the games, various raffles sent associates home with some sweet prizes and Ruben Morales showed his skills by winning the Jellybean Counting Contest! Acknowledged Associates from this event included: Ashley Perez & Jordan Aman (Community Service Awards), Curtiss Spriggs (Newsletter Contributor Award), and Stephen Davie (Best Attendance).



## Bike Party is Coming!

A shout-out to our SoCal casinos: our company party will be happening on Tuesday, February 23rd! Food will be provided for the event, where there'll be lots of games for your chance to win gift cards and prizes. So come over to relax, catch up with coworkers, and have a great time! All SoCal Knighted staff (and their significant others) are invited to the event, so make sure to tell all of your friends at Players casino as well!



## *This Month's **Banker Brilliance** Contest: a Lipogram Word Game!*

This month, we have a super fun Banker Brilliance challenge for all you word nerds out there. A lipogram is a piece of writing that does not contain a specific letter, usually a vowel.

Let your creativity shine and try to **rewrite our mission statement without using the letter "e."**

**Our mission:** We optimize casino games and operations by fostering a culture of leaders who are committed to integrity, innovation and service.

[Click this link to give it a shot and be entered to win an awesome prize!](#)



### Last Month's Winner: William Quinn (Bicycle Casino)

The Banker Brilliance winner for last month is William Quinn, who is one of our first two-time winners! William loves to buy Humble Bundles on Steam to benefit charities, so we've gifted him a Steam Link and a \$50 Steam Gift Card for the gaming platform service. Want a prize that's tailored to your interests? Make sure to take our next Banker Brilliance quiz! With a 100% score, you could be the next winner!



### 401K is Here!

Great news! A comprehensive 401k plan has finally arrived for all Knighted Ventures employees who complete 1 year of service! For each dollar you put in, up to 4% of your paycheck, Knighted will add 10% of that dollar into your 401k retirement. For those of you who have a hard time saving money, this is a great tool to prepare for your future. All the money taken out is pre-tax, and you can manage your portfolio online at any time. As you approach one year of service, be sure to check your email for sign-up instructions, or reach out to your HR representative.

We thank all of you for your hard work, and we hope this program brings you one step closer to your long-term goals.

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## Movers & Shakers

Let's give a Valentine's Day shout out to all the movers and shakers this month at KV! To start, Gil Casao went from the Lodi casino to Lotus while Dan Xiong rolled his way from Lotus to the Cordova casino. Mike Cuddy was down at Players helping out and is back home at the Lotus casino. Sierra Tippens was promoted from Senior Associate to Trainer!

We'd also like to welcome Pritesh Chandra, who's back as a Shift Lead from the Sunshine State. Alfred Martinez and Tony Min returned back to Bicycle from Players Casino. In the other direction, Marcus Sheely, Jazzy Bustamante, and LeVarr McCree moved from Bike to Players. Finally, we'd like to welcome Priscilla Guzman and Aida Matthews to the



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Napa Valley Casino owner Brian Altizer, second from left, flanked by world famous poker star Chris MoneyMaker and Von, co-owner of the casino. Poker legend David Negreanu also on the far right.

## *An Interview with Brian Altizer, Owner of Napa Valley Casino*

**How did you get your start in the California gaming industry?**

I came to California in 1996 to work as a dealer at the California Grand. I was planning on going to work at Casino San Pablo, but a friend got me the audition at the Grand because I didn't have to cut my long hair to work there. The first time I entered a California card room was the Bicycle Club about 1994. I was in awe..... At the time there was no place on the planet earth that had more poker games. I felt like I was in heaven!!

**If you weren't the owner of Napa Valley Casino, what would you be? In other words, if you were to start it all over, what other career would you have chosen?**

If I wasn't in the casino business, I think I would have tried to stay in the music business. I was a semi pro musician from the time I was 16 until I was 31. I never was able to make a good living playing music only, but it is the only other industry that I have had a passion for.

**What's your favorite card game?**

My favorite game changes from time to time. Right now my favorite game to play is Duce to seven lowball triple draw. I can only play it at the Bellagio in Las Vegas or at the Rio during the World Series of poker.

However, my wife likes to play and we may one day try to spread the game at Napa Valley Casino just for fun. Besides poker, I love to play Gin.

### **Do you have a favorite casino related story or joke?**

My favorite casino story is how I met my wife in 1994. She was dealing poker and I was a player. She pushed into the 3/6 hold em game I was playing in and I saw her for the first time. The very first hand that she dealt me I had the losing hand in the bad beat jackpot. It was love at first deal!!

### **What's your favorite casino or gambling movie?**

I have two favorite gambling movies, both very different. First is Casino (an obvious choice). The second is Owning Mahoney, based on a true story of the sickest gambler I've ever seen.

### **What accomplishment(s) have given you the most satisfaction? Why?**

Becoming owner of Napa Valley Casino and turning it from a one game room into a 10 table room along with the fact that there is very little employee turnover. I know that we (my wife and I) have created an environment that makes our customers want to come back and our employees want to stay with us.

### **What do you think is the most interesting thing about the California Gaming industry?**

I think the direction of the industry is very interesting. I've seen how it had changed in the last 20 years and know that there will be at least that much change in the next 20. New games, Internet Poker, technology changes and even the possibility of sports betting will all be factors and how they play into our industry. Let's see how it all shapes out.

### **Was there a moment when you realized what your calling was?**

When the CGCC first started the Key Employee licensing I was working as a floor man and had to be licensed. The analyst assigned to my application told me that this was almost the same level of licensing that card room owners had to go through. It was then I thought.....how do I get one of these places. It was then I knew what I had to do.

## **Employee Spotlight: February 2016**

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We'd like to recognize three awesome KV associates this month: **Quynh Tran** from Bicycle, **Joanna Fajardo** from Lotus, and **Janet Velasco** from 580!

### ***Quynh Tran***

Quynh grew up in Vietnam and moved to the United States when he was 19, first living in Kansas and Oklahoma before his last move to Southern California (his decision to move was because he met his wife here!). Studying Kinesiology and Psychology in college, he's currently involved in his Masters degree in Business Management. In his free time, Quynh likes to play tennis (he was a tennis director for Joel Ross at one point!), and also likes to ski even though he feels he's not that good at it.



Quynh is considered one of the most positive and helpful Gaming Associates by both his peers and his Supervisors: he's trusted to handle any types of games and limits, and always focuses on the task at hand. Described as "always smiling" and "always humble," he is a prime example of what it means to go above and beyond for his team. His Supervisors consider him a great role model!

### ***Joanna Fajardo***

Joanna Fajardo has been getting rave reviews from her supervisors! Not only has she worked at the Lotus, Napa, and Cordova casinos, but she has also taken the initiative to invest in herself to learn Pai Gow Poker and Tiles on her own by coming into work an hour early everyday to practice. At work, she is always positive and a team player with the willingness to work a sixth day, overtime, and bounce around between shifts when needed.

Fun fact about Joanna is that she has a Chindo dog named Darth Loki! She has trained her dog to learn many different games (including Tiles) and cool tricks. If you see her, ask her about the cool tricks Darth Loki can do!

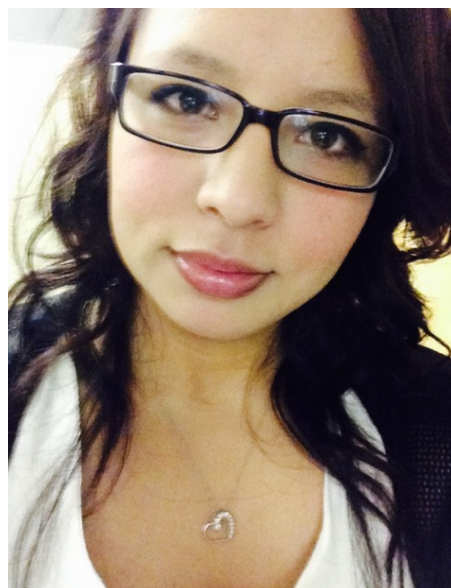
**Janet Velasco**

Our supervisors have said on multiple occasions the she is one of our most reliable employees through her flexibility to work 6 days and various time slots.

She demonstrates her drive by continually improving on her table skills in all areas, from table control to hand speed. Even more so, Janet has shown the above mentioned qualities with a commendably positive attitude that makes her a pleasure to work with.

Off the floor, Janet is a photography enthusiast. She loves taking outdoor pictures especially pictures in the rain which outline different colors and dimensions. She also likes going to the gym, not just for the healthy lifestyle but also for the sense of accomplishment when tackling a challenging endeavor.

Quynh, Joanna, and Janet will be receiving gift cards in appreciation of their efforts. Congrats to the three of you - keep up the great work!



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