



OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association
Volume I Issue No. 3 August 2021

OSEA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings Fellow Elks!

Pam and I had a great and extremely fruitful trip to Tampa for the Grand Lodge Convention. We kept our Oregon Hospitality Room open as much as possible, and it was fun to have a lot of other state members join Oregon members and guests as we often had a packed house! Many of us watched the 4th of July fireworks

from our room and we also saw the fireworks when Tampa won their second consecutive Stanley Cup. According to Suzi Simonelli, the first female Florida State President, and a close friend of my wife, Pam, we can legitimately check off a bucket list item of surviving Hurricane Elsa as it touched down in Tampa as a Category 1. We thoroughly enjoyed all of the friendships and camaraderie, and it was particularly exciting to carry the Oregon Flag and also observe Keith and Amy being installed as the Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady of Elkdom. I also wish to extend my congratulations to all of the District Deputies who were installed in Tampa.

Gateway and Gresham Lodges are now united to become one, Gateway-Gresham Lodge #1805 (also affectionately known as G-G #1805). The celebration afterward was great for everyone, and we even got a sneak preview of future performances by the "Gateway Showtime Review" although I am sure they are going to be renamed now that the two Lodges have merged.

I was very fortunate to participate in a children's quilt presentation (595 quilts to be exact), to the Oregon Elks Children's Eye Clinic by Hillsboro Lodge Members and the Exalted Ruler. The clinic remains closed to those who are not immediately part of patient care, but we hope to have it opened again soon for Elks to visit.



We had a sensational time at the Montana State Elks Association Convention and again re-acquainted ourselves with existing friendships while making many new ones. It was actually Keith and Amy's first official visit as they kick off their year of travel to states throughout our country.

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As a reminder, if you have ideas for articles for future issues of the OSEA Newsletter or suggestions of what you would like to see included please send them to the OSEA Public Relations and Marketing Committee at Blake.ORNCElks@gmail.com. You can also email to be added to our new email distribution list to receive these newsletters and other updates directly in your inbox.

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

I received a call and email from Washington Past State President, Jim Howes who has put me in contact with Bloodworks NW who promotes blood drives for area hospitals. The Washington Elks are celebrating August as Blood Drive month, and invites Oregon to do the same. I will be sharing more information about the program as we look into it further, but the idea is that you can register with Bloodworks NW and cumulative credit will be given to the Elks organizations.

Milwaukie-Portland Lodge #142 initiated 69 new members at a recent meeting. Although I was unable to attend the Initiation ceremony due to a law class I was taking, I was able to come in for the rest of the meeting and then visit with some of the new Members and others afterward. Congratulations to them for a job well done!

After a Celebration of Life on July 24 for Joy Malone (wife of Vice President Steve Malone), who passed away during the pandemic, Pam and I attended the groundbreaking of Independence Lodge as they started construction of a new Lodge building.

On August 20-21, we will have our annual OSEA Officers meeting and social event in Baker at Past State President, Jerry Endicott and his wife, Cindy’s house. I expect robust business discussions, spirited play on the golf course, and a tenacious horseshoe tournament. We also plan to attend the 125th Anniversary of Salem Lodge on August 28th.

Stay true to yourself and to your obligation as an Elk, enjoy the outdoor weather as much as possible, and please continue to help others as you can.

Fraternally,
 Rick Shipley, OSEA President 2021-2022
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SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE

PHOTOGRAPH BEST PRACTICES

How many of you have posted a great photograph of an event at the lodge only to get a call from your district, or even the state, Public Relations and Marketing chair to tell you that you needed to take it down? Sometimes this can be because the image shows the Elks in an unflattering light, or show questionable behavior, or even be embarrassing for individuals in the photograph. Photographs posted to the lodge social media or web pages can also land the lodge in legal trouble if the photograph adversely affects someone in the picture (e.g., a member applying for job has their prospective employer find pictures of them playing a drinking game at the lodge). To avoid these issues here are some “best practices” to keep in mind when posting photographs:

1. **Do not post** or share pictures without consent, especially of minors. Always ask before posting and for minors have a signed release from a parent or guardian to use their image.
2. **Do not post** or share full names or tag individuals in photographs that are publicly posted. You can ask for consent to post the name of an adult, but the names of minors should never be used in full and only first names with the parents’ consent.
3. **Do not post** or share pictures of the bar, drinking or other “vice” activities such as gambling or smoking. These activities may be fun and show good times at your lodge, but they also contribute to a negative perception of the Elks as a bar and not a charitable organization.
4. **Do not post** or share a picture that someone would be ashamed for their family, friends, or employer to see. Keep in mind that nothing is private on social media. Assume if you share something embarrassing that someone will see it who probably shouldn’t.
5. **Do not post** or share pictures of hospitality rooms or hosted bars on lodge pages.
6. **Do not post** or share pictures that show activity in violation of federal, state, or local laws and/or ordinances. For example, if local ordinances dictate minors cannot be in certain areas DO NOT post a picture of a minor having their birthday party in that area.

If you have any questions, please contact your district Public Relations and Marketing Committee Member for further assistance.

REMEMBER TO INITIATE CANDIDATES

Nationwide the Elks were down about 40,000 members last year due to the pandemic and its impact. However, in just the first three months of this year the Elks have already initiated about 11,000 new members and have over 12,000 candidates awaiting initiation. If all of these candidates are initiated that means the Elks will have gained back more than half of last year's losses in just the first three months of this year. So, remember to get those candidates initiated and let's get back to growing Elkdom with a gain in membership!

LODGE MILESTONES

In July we saw the merger of the Gateway and Gresham Lodges into the Gateway-Gresham Lodge #1805 and the long-awaited groundbreaking on the new building for Independence Lodge #1950.



GRAND LODGE NATIONAL CONVENTION

There isn't much that can get some of us up at 2 am but heading to the Grand Lodge National Convention is one of those times we haul ourselves out of bed and head for the airport to catch our flights out. This year was no different with many of the Oregon State Elks Association members flying out early in the morning on July 3rd headed for Tampa where we joined over 6,000 of our fellow Elks to celebrate our order and conduct its business following the cancellation of the Baltimore convention last year.



This year we hit the ground running with sessions starting early on Sunday July 4th covering a range of topics from public relations to

the Drug Awareness Program. Members also gathered to help prepare for the celebration of the election of T. Keith Mills as Grand Exalted Ruler for 2021-22 on Monday. The festivities officially kicked off with the opening ceremonies Sunday evening during which Oregon's flag proudly

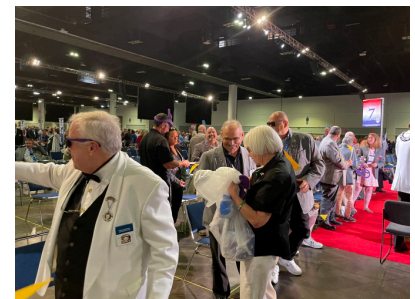


made its entrance into the convention waived by OSEA President Rick Shipley and Past State President Kim Duty. Members received reports on the Elks efforts to restore displays and improve the experience at the Pearl Harbor National Historic Site, the Elks Drug Awareness

Program, the Hoop Shoot, and our national Most Valuable Student scholarship winners. The ceremonies ended with the keynote address by Grand Exalted Ruler Paul Ryan after which the celebrations began with the Party Crashers Band and ended with a spectacular fireworks show over the bay to celebrate the 4th of July.



Monday's session started promptly at 8am and among the business of the day was the nomination and election of the Grand Lodge Officers for 2021-2022 including a man many of us know personally, T Keith Mills from Caldwell Idaho lodge as Grand Exalted Ruler. Members from Oregon and Washington helped with the celebration of the election of our new GER by helping toss trinkets to the crowd of delegates.



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**GRAND LODGE NATIONAL CONVENTION
(CONTINUED)**

In addition to the election and celebration we got to hear from Grand Exalted Ruler Elect Mills as he accepted his election. In addition, delegates heard more reports from the Grand Lodge committees and had the chance to attend more sessions to learn more about a range of topics such as the Financial Reporting System and more. By the end of Monday, we started to understand that we may be in for a memorable trip to Tampa in more ways than one.



Tuesday saw an eventful day that started off with our group photograph at 7 am before the day's sessions. But as we were going through the day's business of hearing committee reports, the GER Elect's program remarks, and the legislative results, Hurricane Elsa was making its way towards Tampa. Many of the afternoon breakout sessions ended up shortened or cancelled as we all prepared to



shelter in place to ride out our first hurricane. Thankfully the storm changed direction and kept us from getting the worst of it, and many delegates commented

that we have had greater winds and rain in Portland. But, according to the Florida State Elks Association president, we can officially mark off our bucket lists going through a hurricane. Due to the possibility of a hurricane, it was decided to reschedule our planned dinner cruise to Wednesday night. Those familiar with the plot of Gilligan's Island appreciated the re-scheduling.

One advantage of a potential hurricane is that the last day of sessions was delayed from 8 am to 10 am giving delegates a chance to sleep in or to grab a good



breakfast before the last day of the convention. The day's sessions consisted of the annual Elks Memorial Service which pays tribute to those members we lost this past year as well as to install the incoming Grand Lodge Officers for the new year. Following the session, members had a chance to explore Tampa before Oregon and Idaho members set sail on our delayed dinner cruise around the bay. The cruise



included a fantastic dinner as well as dancing on the top deck as we sailed back into Tampa. But our historic trip to Tampa was not quite over yet. Later that night the Tampa Bay Lighting, defending Stanley

Cup champions, won their second straight Stanley Cup Championship. To say the city came alive in celebration would be an understatement.



All in all, the Tampa trip was a great chance to meet Elks from across the nation. Members were able to meet and connect with Elks they have talked with and met online all for the first time in person. Members also explored Tampa from historic restaurants like Columbia, to the eclectic offerings of the historic Ybor City district. Our time in Tampa included the celebration of a new Grand Exalted Ruler from our own Area 8, celebrating the 4th of July, a hurricane, and a Stanley Cup win. But through it all, the common thread was that it was great to be an Elk, it was great to be an Elk in Tampa, and it was great to be back at our Grand Lodge National Convention. We look forward to the next convention in 2022 in Atlanta, Georgia.





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AUGUST 2021 OSEA CALENDAR



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 NC District Augsut 3L Meeting	16	17	18	19	20 State Officers Meeting Baker City	21 State Officers Meeting Baker City
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Salem Elks Lodge 125th Anniversay Celebration
29	30	31				