



# OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association  
Volume I Issue No. 7 December 2021

## OSEA President's Message

Holiday Wishes Oregon Elks:



As winter approaches, Elks' work is very evident in our communities. Lodges are extremely busy with Christmas Basket programs, helping the homeless, elderly, youth, Veterans, and those with special needs. Pam and I continue to witness exceptional expressions of charity wherever we travel, and

although our official district visits have been completed, there is still much work to do as we enter our last few months as President and First Lady.



Our visit to NW District and St. Helens Lodge was a continuation of a lot of fun and extreme hospitality that included a dedicated limo for the weekend owned by some Lodge members, one of which was our chauffeur! We

visited some local businesses including a distillery and wine tasting shop, Halloween Town (where a movie was made), Pacific Stainless, which a Lodge Member owns, the Veteran's Bunker, which is a local charitable home that is ran and staffed by Lodge members to help any Veterans in need, and then we were introduced to various extreme weapons owned



by members and a private home range to test them on.

The trip was highlighted by a local member arranging for a flight in his private plane for Pam and I to fly around Mt. St. Helens and the neighboring mountains. We then followed the Columbia River and down the Northern Oregon coast from Astoria to Seaside, before making a pass at Saddle Mountain and then returning back to base. As I was flying from the co-pilot's seat and turning towards the crest of the crater for a better view, we encountered some turbulence on the backside of the mountain. Pam, whom this was her first flight



in a small plane, just as she does when we are driving on the road, started tapping me on the shoulder when she got nervous so I simply asked, "what...do you want me to pull over?"

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As a reminder, if you have suggestions for future issues of the OSEA Newsletter please send them to the OSEA Public Relations and Marketing Committee at [Blake.ORNCElks@gmail.com](mailto:Blake.ORNCElks@gmail.com). You can also request 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)

The pilot just smiled. But we landed safely and all is well. With our Halloween themed event we raised nearly \$3,000 for our selected charities! We had the honor of NW District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Kim Duty joining us that weekend, and I thank Vice President David Backland and the entire NW District and St. Helens Lodge for a great event.

We visited Rupert, Idaho for their Winter Convention and had a great time. They raised a significant amount of donations in support of the Betty Hise Trust for Cancer Research, and we learned a lot from the training that was offered by the Idaho State Elks Association and Grand Lodge. We also experienced a Pinewood Derby which was slightly different from the ones I built cars for and participated in as a young scout. Basically, Members selected cars and money was raised for charities. I thank Idaho State President Chuck Roberts and his wife, Mary Ellen for a sensational weekend.

Next, we visited Salem Lodge and the North Central District, and we once again raised nearly \$3,000 for our charities. Friday, I was fortunate enough to participate in a special plaque and certificate presentation by State Representative Raquel Moore-Green honoring and commemorating Salem Lodge for their 125th Anniversary. We were also treated to a local moonshine distillery, and toured the Deepwood Museum and Gardens, formerly known as the Deepwood Estate that a Charter Member of the Salem Lodge once owned. We were also driven around by a dedicated member who had connections for the use of a dealership's Mercedes SUV. The Karaoke throughout the weekend was sensational, and so was the luau which included roasted pig of course, leis, and entertainment by local hula dancers.



We also stopped by Keizer Lodge for a fantastic lunch and got to spend some time with their Officers and Members. Independence Lodge brought some of their own entertainment by way of "flocking" our house with pink flamingos, which we paid a charitable ransom to have them removed and to cover insurance so that they don't return. I thank Vice President Blake Whitson for a great weekend, and also DDGER Kim Duty for once again joining us.

We also attended the Oregon-Washington Past Exalted Rulers Association dinner and meeting in Aberdeen, Washington, and I was honored to be elected as their next President for 2022-2023. So as I leave the OSEA Presidency in a few months, I will enter the OR-WA PER Association Presidency for a year. I highly recommend and encourage any current Exalted Rulers and Past Exalted Rulers to join this fine social and charitable organization. Our next meeting will be in March, scheduled to be held at Milwaukie-Portland Lodge, so please plan to attend and join us for a great evening!

Oregon is very close to having an increase in membership this fraternal year, so I personally ask that every Member join in the drive to push us way over the top! Keep doing what you're doing. Get new Members to join us, bring back delinquent Members to rejoin us, and let's celebrate together all of our successes. Also, don't forget to nominate Elks of the Year, Officers of the Year, Citizens of the Year, Hall of Fame members, and all of the other local, state, and national recognitions offered.

God Bless, have a very merry and special holiday season with your families and friends, and stay safe and healthy. You are the Best!

Fraternally,

Richard K Shipley  
OSEA President  
2021-2022



## A few creative ways Lodges can spread holiday cheer



The holiday season is in mid-swing. Right out of the gate is our annual Memorial Service. Although this is a somber and humble event, it is one I never miss. Some Lodges invite families of our departed Members to the service and offer lunch or snacks afterward. I try to meet with every family member to share memories and express what their loved one meant to me, the Lodge, and the Order. I always thank them for sharing their loved one with us through their journey of Elkdom, and talk about how the departed Member was always committed to the Elks.

If your Lodge has a Christmas basket program, fantastic. If not, consider starting one this year. One of my first Elks memories was riding with my father and delivering Christmas baskets from the Lodge. Just seeing the help and kindness given to families that need a little extra assistance to make their holiday more joyful is something I will always cherish. If you are starting this activity, just choose a handful of families that you can help.

Another event could be Shop with an Elk. Gather up some kids and spend the day shopping with them and purchase some gifts that they need or want to give to others. I have also participated in this event as well—the great times I experienced with those children is another memory I will never forget.

Contact your local veterans facilities. They always have a list of items that the patients or residents need. My Lodge takes the requested list and puts them in an envelope on a Christmas tree in our Lodge. Then Members can take the envelopes, purchase the item and return it to the Lodge for distribution to the facility. If we do not have time to shop, we can donate money to the tree project and have other Members that do the shopping for us. Finally, we set a date to gather together and caravan to the veterans facility. One Member dresses up as “Old St. Nick” and we then distribute the items to the veterans. What an experience.

The State Bulletin Contest deadline is coming up mid-

January. Take some time to investigate this contest in the Grand Lodge Activities Manual and submit the forms to get your state bulletin recognized.

December is not only a busy month for Elkdom, but our personal life as well. Christmas is a time for family. We all get caught up in our Elks duties, but do not forget to take some family time and enjoy everyone in your life. When I was younger, I never thought Christmas could get any better. But, as life moved forward and my children came along, the joy just kept increasing. Now that Amy and I have been blessed with grandchildren, I find myself even more overjoyed watching their faces light up, and them thinking this is the best experience they have had.

So, from my entire family, we would like to wish you all the most blessed holiday season and a happy “and healthy” new year.

~ Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills

## The Two Tafts and Oregon Elks Lodges

The top 10 scoring typical Rocky Mountain elk includes “Taft,” a Wallowa Lake bull that was scored at 391 4/8 for a typical Rocky Mountain elk in 1930.

According to David Morris of Northwest Big Game, this record setting bull is often mixed up with another one of the same name, both named after U.S. President William H Taft. But there were actually two different Rocky Mountain elk that came to be called “Taft” in northeast Oregon in the early 20th century.

While historic records indicate elk were abundant in the Wallowa Mountains and Blue Mountain Plateau, hunting had reduced numbers to a few small herds by the late 1800s, so elk were transplanted into the state to restore the population.

The first “Taft” was one of the original elk relocated from the Jackson Hole area to Oregon in the early 20th century. In 1912, 15 elk from Wyoming were released at Billy Meadows in Wallowa County followed by another 15 in 1913, and one of those was the first “Taft.”

The first Taft’s shed antlers are still displayed at the Enterprise Elks Lodge. Sheds from the second Taft (the 1930 record-setting bull) were displayed at La Grande’s Elks Lodge and are now at the Baker City Elks Lodge.

## Spotlight: Christmas Charities and the Elks, making the holidays Merry and Bright for Oregon Communities!



It is once again that time of year when pumpkin spice lattes give way to peppermint mochas, houses all around are adorned in lights, Christmas music is playing in stores, and tree lots can be found on every other corner. For some of us we are thinking about time with family and friends while others are busy trying to get everything done before the holidays pass us by for another year. But for lodges across Oregon this is also a season of charity and giving, a time to help those less fortunate than ourselves in our communities. For our December newsletter we wanted to highlight some of

the great work being done by lodges across the state to serve their communities during the holiday season.

### Cottage Grove

Cottage Grove Lodge #1904 works on several charitable projects during the Holiday Season. Starting in November the lodge has a mystery gift bag with the proceeds going



to benefit the lodge's children's Christmas party. They also collect coats for the children as well as collecting food and clothing for homeless veterans. The lodge will also be providing Christmas food baskets to needy families.

### Myrtle Creek

For at least the past 35 years the Myrtle Creek Lodge has been providing Christmas food boxes for those in need in the community. Current Lodge Secretary and Past Exalted Ruler Dick Schmidt remembers that during 1986-87, his first year as Exalted Ruler, the lodge was collecting canned good and non-perishable items for Christmas/holiday food boxes that would be distributed to community members in need. During the first few years approximately 70-80 food boxes were

distributed to families known by Lodge members to need some Christmas cheer.

Since then, the project has changed significantly. Community awareness grew, an application process was established to help monitor the project, fundraisers were held, schools, businesses and churches collected canned/dry goods and local fire departments partnered with the Lodge to deliver food boxes directly to residences of approved applicants a week before Christmas. Later on perishable items like hams, eggs, butter, bread and potatoes were added to the boxes and, more recently, toys were donated and added to help make Christmas even merrier for the kids.



The need to purchase perishables just a couple days before delivery called for funding. The call went out and was answered by several non-profit, corporate and tribal entities, as well as private citizens. In 2019 a total of \$5,500.00 was received in grants/donations. In 2020 that total increased to \$6,800.00 and for 2021 the Lodge has received over \$9,000.00 in support of our Christmas/Holiday food boxes project. This year the project will see the fire department deliver 225 food boxes to approved applicants in Myrtle Creek, Canyonville, Glendale, Riddle and Tri-City.

### John Day



The John Day Lodge kicked off the season with their annual lodge Thanksgiving meal serving over 275 meals this year. Additionally, the lodge delivered nearly 120 meals to 47 different homes for those unable to come out

an attend the meal in person. The lodge will also be holding a children's Christmas party. The lodge will also be hosting a chili dinner and awards ceremony after the light parade.

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## Toledo

The elves of Toledo Lodge #1664 are prepping their annual Holiday Food Baskets again this year for local East County Families. They plan on assisting 65 families this year by providing a food basket that will include turkey or ham and all the fixings for a holiday dinner. The boxes also include some goodies for kids in the family and usually some gloves or scarves or similar items.



The Toledo elves have provided baskets for families in the area for more than 30 years and at one point the Lodge provided more than 120 baskets to community families. The Lodge fundraisers, uses Grant funds, and gets many donations from members and others to purchase the groceries that fill the baskets. The lodge also partners with a local market to do an “Operation Round

Up” where all shoppers can round up their grocery bill and that money will go to the lodge food basket program!

Families have a 2-week application period, which starts on November 17 and runs through December 11. The lodge makes applications available at the local Senior Services, Food Share, Library, and Chamber of Commerce. Families in Toledo, Eddyville, Elks City, Harlan, Burnt Woods, Logsdon, and Siletz are all eligible to apply. Then the elves at the Lodge do their magic and fill all the boxes and ready them for distribution on December 19. And this is all after Santa and the Elves hold a Kid’s Christmas party for all the kids of the community including cookie decorating, crafts, Story time with Santa, and the annual bike give away! We at Toledo Lodge feel very blessed to be able to provide for our community! It’s what Elks do! Merry Christmas.

## Salem

The Salem Elks Lodge refers to this time as their season of charity as many of the lodge’s charitable projects take place during the months of November and December. Starting in November the lodge kicks off fundraising for their annual Christmas programs with their Turkey Shoot and community Thanksgiving meals where donations are accepted for the

Christmas programs. For the last several years the lodge has partnered with community organizations such as the Oregon School for the Deaf, The Oregon National Guard Family Assistance Program, and Easterseals Oregon to provide food boxes and Christmas presents to the children of families in need during the holidays.



For their food boxes the lodges partners with local FFA groups to get fresh produce for their boxes and includes a gift card good for meat or groceries only at Winco. The lodge puts together around 50 food boxes a year for area families. The lodge has also had a long-standing partnership with the Oregon School for the Deaf to provide Christmas presents, warm clothing, and even shoes to students in need at the school. Similarly, the lodge also works with their veterans and National Guard partners to identify the families of veterans and service members in need at the holidays and provide Christmas presents for the kids in the family. One year the lodge was able to partner with a local business to provide a new tablet for an autistic child for Christmas to use as a communication device. The lodge set a record last year of providing Christmas gifts to almost 100 children through their holiday charitable projects. All of the kids served are either children of veterans, service members, or with differing abilities.

To make all of this possible the lodge has a team of about 20 elves who work on this project each year shopping for items and helping deliver them. These elves are also relentless in helping to stretch grant dollars and donations, so the lodge can help as many people as possible. Through the use of discounts, reward programs (like Kohl’s Cash), and seeking donations the lodge elves have added almost \$10,000 in additional spending power just through the use of these programs over the last 6 years.

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In his article in the Grand Lodge Newsletter Grand Exalted Ruler Keith Mills shares that one of his first Elks memories was riding with his father and delivering Christmas baskets from the lodge. These activities can be great ways to introduce people to our organization and the good we do in our communities. Seeing the help and kindness given to families in need can have a lasting impression, just like it did for our Grand Exalted Ruler. If your lodge is not currently conducting holiday programs like those described above or others not covered you are encouraged to consider starting up a program. And if you need help, ideas, or inspiration any of the lodges above would be happy to offer their help and share any lessons learned in starting and running these programs.

Finally, remember the joyous feeling of this season. There is a song by the group Trans-Siberian Orchestra called "Old City Bar" which is about a Christmas eve miracle. But some of the lyrics stand out as especially applicable to our order and the works we do not just during the holidays, but year round:



**"If you want to arrange it this world, you can change it if we could somehow make this Christmas thing last by helping a neighbor or even a stranger to know who needs help You need only just ask" - Trans Siberian Orchestra "Old City Bar"**

*From the Oregon State Elks Association we wish you all a Merry Christmas*



## New Lodge Sign Opportunity

Lodges in Oregon have a new opportunity to get some updated signage for their facilities. These signs are made from aluminum with a thermoplastic core. The signs are approximately 3ftx4ft and weigh about 18 lbs. These commercial grade signs are designed to be mounted on an exterior wall of your building.

The cost is \$450 per sign, but the OSEA with support from our state sponsor PGER Roger True and the PGER Special Projects Fund will cover half of the cost of each sign making the total cost to a lodge \$225. If your lodge is interested in getting one of these new signs please email the state office for an order form or contact your district Vice President.



## Photo Use Reminders

With the holiday season comes many parties at your lodges. Some are for kids, some are for families, others are for adults only. Here are some pointers to keep in mind when taking and posting pictures from your various holiday activities.

1. If taking photographs of minors, do not post them or print them without a signed photo use release from the child's parent or guardian. Note, this needs signed by a parent or guardian. A grandparent or unrelated adult (IE family friend) cannot give authorization for a photo use release.
2. Keep in mind pictures should not show members or guests drinking alcoholic beverages or engaged in other activity that does not reflect positively on the Elks or our charitable works.
3. Avoid taking or posting pictures of anyone who has had a bit too much holiday cheer.

If you have any questions on photo usage please contact a member of the OSEA Public Relations and Marketing Committee. They will be happy to answer any questions you have.

## Betty Hise for Cancer Research

Idaho reports on fundraising for Betty Hise for Cancer Research at their fall convention in Rupert, Idaho. Their live and silent auctions were enjoyed by the gathering of Elks to the tune of \$11,140.00!!

### WAY TO GO IDAHO!!

For many years, Betty Hise for Cancer Research has supported Mountain States Treatment Institute (MSTI) in Idaho. MSTI has several locations and of recent has been renamed St. Luke's Cancer Institute (SLCI).



A \$5000 check from Betty Hise for Cancer Research was presented to St. Luke's Cancer Institute by Judy Gessford, Betty Hise Advisor from Boise Idaho (pictured above). The donation took place St. Lukes new new 42,000 sq.ft. facility in Nampa Idaho in a room funded by Betty Hise for Cancer Research, the radiation treatment lobby. Receiving the funds are Christen Wilmer, Director of Major Gifts, and Tammie Eslinger, Manager of Clinical Research. Since early 1990's, St. Lukes Cancer Institute has had a stem cell program using patient's own donated stem cells. Since that time, 400 transplants have been completed in Boise. In 2012 a need was identified for Allogeneic Transplants, a much more powerful treatment that involves use of donor stem cells that patients have to travel to outside transplant centers. SLCI coordinates the care including after care back at home. Allogenic Transplants are needed for patients whose own bone marrow is involved with disease such as cancer cells. As noted on the check, our funds were directed at 'Allo Research'. More on that to come...

Continuing with our Betty Hise Director introductions...



Our 2 second year Directors, Barbara Smith from Bend Lodge # 1372 says "I'm excited about being a Director and would like to help raise as much money as possible for cancer research. I have lost family members to this dreadful disease and my 92 year old mother is a cancer survivor!" Barbara loves working with the other Directors and has great respect for each. "We all bring a different experience to the board." She is thankful for this opportunity. Lillian Estep from Burns Lodge #1680 is very proud to be a Betty Hise Director "I knew Frank and remember how truly important supporting research in Betty's name was to him. It is exciting to see all the ways we are able to raise monies for cancer research. Donations small or large they are all very important! I am honored and enjoy working with the other Directors on this very special board."

As always we all thank everyone for your interest and support! Betty Hise for Cancer Research Directors, Pam Shipley, Laurie Flatt Roberge, Barbara Smith, Lillian Estep, Deborah McFerron, Sheri Bowers, Jan Lowe & Diane Deseve

## How to be Featured in a Future Issue

In this months spotlight we feature the Christmas projects of several Elks Lodges. In prior issues we have also featured lodges in the various districts in the state. If your lodge has a project, special celebration, or other thing that you think would make a great feature for the newsletter you are encouraged to submit it to us. Submissions can be sent to Blake Whitson at [blake.orncelks@gmail.com](mailto:blake.orncelks@gmail.com).

The more information and pictures you can provide the better! We can also work with you to send us all the information that will make for a good spotlight article to feature your lodge!



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# December 2021 OSEA Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Elks Memorial Service	6	7 80th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor	8	9	10 Condon Annual	11 Condon Annual
12 Condon Annual	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas!!
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	1 Happy New Year!!