



OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association
Volume III Issue No. 10 February 2024

Always an Elk

OSEA President's message



Hello Oregon Elks!

First Lady Cody and I have had the honor of representing our State Association at the Washington and Montana State Conventions over the last month. While the spaces and nature of the meetings and seminars are different, I can say that the people, the message, and the goals are the same. We have

heard about the same concerns, the echoing of frustrations and a repetition in the push to move forward with new technology and advancement in our programs.

This brings us to February and the consistent message regarding membership. All of Elkdom is working hard on getting new members, retaining current members, and cutting delinquency across the board. Only with membership can we continue to fund our goals and programs, not just with dues money, but also with sweat equity. More members increase the chance that some of those people will have the special knowledge and willingness to push our goals to fruition.

Last year Oregon finished 5th in the nation for membership growth. The OSEA leadership is committed to improving upon that mark, in fact there is a friendly wager in place with our northern neighbors in Washington State. We currently sit 9th with a projected gain of 519 members which is up 36% of where we were this time last year. We are in a good position for a shot at the top 5 again despite being behind the national average in the delinquency department. Remember, it is easier to retain a member than to find a brand new one so please, run down the 1734 delinquents and initiate the 400 candidates that are waiting. Both are so important to our future success.

That said, please accept Cody and I's sincere appreciation for the opportunity to travel and meet so many wonderful Elks. It matters not where or when we go, Elks everywhere are community centered, generous, open, sincere, warm, genuine and embarrassingly hospitable people. I am confident that anyone who walks into an Oregon Lodge will walk away with the same opinion.

At an Elks seminar in Washington or on a 7-hour delayed Amtrak ride, at the Mid-Winter Convention in Glasgow, Montana or stopped halfway up a closed winter pass, we are Always an Elk!



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Newsletter articles can be submitted to the OSEA Public Relations and Membership Committee at info@oregonelks.org.

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Grand Exalted Ruler: Elks remain committed to serving veterans in need



A small group of actors and entertainers began this great Order on February 16, 1868. Look where we are one hundred and fifty six years later: We are still here to serve those in need, proving that “Elks Care—Elks Share.” What a journey!

February is a very busy month for us as Elks. Only two months remain in the Lodge year. If you still have goals you haven't met, it's not too late. Get to work on them, they can still be accomplished. Use the next two months wisely and you certainly can get a lot done. It would be quite an accomplishment to announce to all of your Members that you have successfully reached the goals you set almost one year ago.

February is when new Officers are nominated and elected for the new Lodge year. All Lodges in our Order should elect leaders who are going to be dedicated to the affairs of your Lodge and community. The success of your Lodge programs will depend upon their leadership. Lodge Secretaries should note that February is when you must upload the Lodge directory into the CLMS2 web page. This information is extremely important so that updates are done in a timely manner.

This month we recognize our Past Exalted Rulers. We must let them know their leadership and experience is invaluable to us. A Past Exalted Rulers Night is a great way to honor them for their contributions to your Lodge. Make them feel proud of their accomplishments. During February, we recognize American Heart Month. This is when we get our Lodges and communities together in raising awareness to prevent heart disease. Proudly wear red during this month to show Elks care about cardiovascular health.

In addition to Presidents' Day on February 19, we also celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14. We remember the people we love and those who make a difference in our lives. To my wife, Wanda, thank you for being my valentine for the past forty one years. **Remember: “We Are THE Elks.”**

OSEA Lodge Improvement Fund (LIFe) Grants

The Oregon State Elks Association is pleased to announce that it will award two \$1000 grants each year to two of its member Lodges. The funds must be used for a physical improvement in the Lodge or to the Lodge property. Application deadline is March 1st to the District Deputy, grant money awards are issued in April at the Summer Convention and the project must be completed and final report filed to the State Office by October 1.

To enter the grant competition, Lodges must submit the All-American Lodge Contest forms and the completed grant application to their District Deputy by March 1. The LIFe grant application is simply one or two typed pages that must include a brief description of the project, quick timeline and simple budget as well as a “before” picture. All submissions will be electronic.

The District Deputy may forward up to two applications per district to the State Office by March 5. The State Officers will choose the winning applications at the March Officers Meeting and announce the winners at Summer Convention in April.

Judging criteria will be based upon appropriateness of the project, potential impact of the improvements and financial need.

To finalize the process, winning Lodges are REQUIRED to electronically submit an “after” photo and \$1000 in receipt copies or receipts and leftover funds to the OSEA State Office by October 1.

New Facebook Covers

Looking to update the look of your lodge facebook page? On the Grand Lodge Social Shareables page you can now find a variety of branded and approved Facebook Covers that you can use at the top of your lodge Facebook Page. Check them out at: <https://virtualmanuals.elks.org/shareables/>



Initiate, Initiate, Initiate

So far this year Oregon has initiated 2,164 new members into our order which is fantastic. However, we have 406 candidates currently awaiting initiation into our order. We want to make sure we are getting candidates moved through the membership process within 30 days when possible. And candidates should not be waiting more than 45 days to be initiated. As we get closer to the end of the lodge year it is especially important to make sure we are getting these folks initiated before the end of the year. Right now, we have a projected membership gain of nearly 550 new members this year and we want to make sure we hit our goal of a net gain of at least 1,000 new members. And together that goal is easily achievable. Here are some suggestions to help you get your candidates initiated quickly:

- **Hold a special meeting for initiation:** You do not have to initiate candidates at a regular lodge meeting. You can hold a special meeting on a different day, or even on a weekend, to get candidates initiated if they cannot make it to your regular lodge meeting initiation due to their schedule. If you need assistance putting together an officer team for a special initiation, please reach out to the Public Relations and Membership Committee and we can help you get a team of officers together.
- **Ask nearby lodges for help:** If a candidate cannot make it to your lodge meeting but there is a lodge nearby that they could make it to ask that lodge to do a courtesy initiation for you to get that new member in. If your candidate is traveling for work, you can also reach out to a lodge where they are and ask them to initiate the candidate
- **Hold more than 1 initiation a month:** Nothing says you can only hold one initiation in a month. It might work to consider holding two to give your candidates additional options to be initiated.

We do not want to create barriers to membership. We want the process to be as easy for the candidate as possible. In the initiation we tell our members the impressions we make are likely to be lasting. If we show a willingness to work with the candidate to make the effort to get them initiated when they have made the effort to join, it will truly make a lasting impression. As always, if you need assistance with your membership program, including holding special initiations, please reach out to the OSEA Public Relations and Membership Committee at any time for assistance.

156th Anniversary of the BPOE

As we approach February 16, 2024, Elks Lodges across the nation are gearing up to celebrate the remarkable 156th anniversary of the founding of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on February 16, 1868.

With a rich history spanning 156 years, the Elks have been unwavering in their commitment to community service, making a substantial impact through donations exceeding \$12 billion. In the past year alone, their generosity reached \$399 million, reflecting their dedication to creating better communities.

Beyond financial contributions, the Elks actively invest in the future through annual college scholarships, awarding nearly \$5 million to support educational pursuits. Additionally, their commitment to community development is evident in the substantial investment of almost \$19 million through the Elks Community Investment Program. One of the hallmarks of the Elks' commitment is their support for veterans. Last year, the Elks contributed over \$39 million to Veterans Administration Medical Centers, clinics, and state care facilities, providing essential items, comfort, and organizing various activities.

Boasting nearly 1,800 lodges and a membership approaching 800,000, the Elks welcome individuals aged 21 and above who share a belief in God. To learn more about the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and to explore membership opportunities, visit www.elks.org or Join.Elks.Org.

Join us in honoring and celebrating 156 years of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, recognizing their enduring commitment to community impact, service, and fostering a sense of belonging.



Update from Camp Meadowood Springs



Happy 2024! Camp Meadowood has announced its summer camp session schedule.

Camp Meadowood Springs is a project that the Oregon State Elks Association strongly supports. Camp Meadowood is a residential summer camp providing push-in therapy for children 7-14 with communication difficulties and related disorders. Our 92-acre camp has over 30 cabins, a 100 + person dining hall, and a multipurpose modular building. The camp has a goal of over 60 campers for its two sessions this July. Our full-time staff are hard at work keeping camp ready for the summer. For more information and to get involved, email mdillardelks@gmail.com.



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Betty Hise for Cancer Research

When asked of cancer survivors a simple question... in getting through chemotherapy, what is your best advice?...

"Absolutely know you will be okay. Get up each day, get dressed. Walk tall. I took more care with my appearance when I was having chemo, than ever before. It paid off - it actually made me feel better. You will get through this - and be better for it."

"Preparation helps; if finances allow, get the house ready with items you may need. Plan for grocery delivery and online shopping. You may want to change your pharmacy to one closest to your home, preferably one that offers delivery. Ask trusted neighbors if they know of reliable, affordable pet care services in case of emergency. Get your hair cut shorter before you start chemo to transition and ease shock before you lose hair."

"Take it one day at a time. It is very daunting and frightening to think of weeks or months of treatment. Some days will be better than others. Allowing friends and family to help you is a blessing to the giver and to you. Be proactive regarding your care. Research, ask questions, be sure you have a doctor you like and trust. Every day brings you closer to the completion of treatment. Cut your hair and be mentally prepared when the rest comes out. It is ok...it will grow back."

"Remember the journey may seem uphill at times but keep that light at the end of the tunnel in sight."

The best advise comes from those who have been there! Thank you for your continued interest and support!

Respectfully Directors: Barb, Lillian, Pam, Laurie, Cassandra, Virginia, Sharon, and Helen.





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February 2024 OSEA Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 State Hoop Shoot @ Silverton
11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Ash Wednesday Valentines Day	15	16 BPOE 156th Birthday FRS Upload Due State Scholarship @ Corvallis	17 State Scholarship @ Corvallis
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22 PGER & OR Sponsor Emeritus James W Damon Birthday	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	1	2 OR/WA PERs @ Beaverton