



OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association
Volume II Issue No. 9 January 2023

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

OSEA President's message



Greetings and Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe that 2022 is over and a new year has begun. There have been a lot of ups and downs this past year, but as Elks we continue the course of helping communities across our state. We dedicate look to help Veterans, Children and those in need in our communities. Every day we prove

that Elks Care and Elks Share through our various charity projects and events.

I hope everybody received what they wanted for Christmas, I know I did. At the Corvallis Lodge, Joedy myself and numerous volunteers held a Christmas party for children, including lunch, cookie decorating, crafts and of course a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. It also included a wrapped gift for the children.



Then Joedy and I went to the Florence Lodge to help with their Community Christmas dinner that they have been doing since 2007, what a joy to see the lodge

come together along with several non members to serve a table service dinner to anyone who shows up.

As we approach the New Year we have the Hoop Shoot, and Scholarship competition. I enjoy both of these efforts as it provides proof that our youth are actually an asset for our

future that our order prides itself in investing in.

Let's continue the work that older Elks have done before us, as one day we will be the ones that new initiates look to for advice. Be free with the advice seek to be a mentor to the newer Elks. We also need to remember the oldest Elks by Serving those who served, which has been my motto this year.

I don't know what the new year hold but I believe I'm ready to be a part of it.

Again, HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Ben L. Adams Jr.
Oregon State Elks Association
President

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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. 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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Grand Exalted Ruler: January means a greater commitment to Elkdom



Helen and I want to wish each of you and your families a very Happy New Year as we welcome in 2023. New Year's Eve is a time when we reflect upon the events of 2022 with our family and friends. It's a time when new resolutions are made regarding yourself, your family, your friends, and Elkdom. The most common resolutions made

include exercising more, improving diet habits, saving money, and pursuing career ambitions.

For us, as Elks, I'm hoping that "Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm" is also added to the list. Why not add becoming more active in your Lodge by working on a committee that will assist with your community image and charitable endeavors? Get your membership retention and arrears program into full stride.

Have your membership retention committee reach out to delinquent Members and speak with them personally. There is a chance this personal touch will bring those Members back into our folds. These Members must not be forgotten. They joined our great Order for a reason. Bring that burning spirit back into their thoughts by reminding them why they joined and how much they mean to your Lodge operations.

Wouldn't it be great for your Lodge to boast a +1 membership gain in 2023? With these thoughts in mind, I hope each of you will have a very prosperous new year in Elkdom in 2023.

Let's now take a moment to reflect upon what January means to us in the Elks. January means a greater commitment to your Grand Lodge, state association, and Lodge programs. It's a time when you and your Lodge Officers should be reviewing how you stand with your Lodge per capita. If you see that your Lodge is falling short with the per capita goal, make January, February, and March your one last push over the goal line and score that touchdown. Use your Past Exalted Rulers Association and Board of Directors meetings to focus on how your Lodge is doing with all of the Lodge committees programs.

By reviewing your Lodge programs you may also begin to decide on who would deserve an award for the great work they have done for your Lodge. Some of the awards you can proudly present to Members and officers who have done so much to promote the cardinal principles of our Order are: Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Citizen of the Year.

There is no better way to say thank you for the hard work and dedication they have demonstrated. Maybe you might just get another Member of your Lodge to get involved and promote the good work your Lodge does in your community.

Another way that the Elks can be "Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm" is by participating in National Blood Donor Month, which has been observed since January 1970. Organizations such as the American Red Cross and the America's Blood Centers work together during the month to encourage people to donate blood. Perhaps your Lodge can be used as a location. You can save a life by donating blood. This is just another way we as Elks can prove that "Elks Care – Elks Share."

God bless all of you, God bless our troops past and present, and most of all, God bless America.

New OSEA YouTube Channel

Did you know that the Oregon State Elks Association has a YouTube channel? In addition to our website and social media feed on Facebook we also have YouTube channel where you will soon be able to find additional content about the association. You can find the channel by searching Oregon State Elks Association on YouTube or using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@OregonStateElksAssociation>

Currently, the channel has video about the My Elks Mobile App and videos played at last years OSEA Summer Convention in Seaside. In addition to these resources the first of our regular video updates was posted on Christmas Eve. We will be loading new videos at least once a month to the channel. If you have an idea for a future video update make sure to let your district member of the Public Relations and Marketing Committee know and maybe your idea will end up in a featured video on our new OSEA YouTube channel. And remember you can also subscribe to the channel to be informed whenever we post a new video.

Lodge Spotlight: What lodges in Oregon are doing

Last month we started a new section in the newsletter to highlight all the incredible things we do to aid those in our communities every day. From projects supporting veterans to assisting students with disabilities our lodges contribute millions in charitable giving annually. These works deserve to be highlighted and shared both to celebrate the great works our lodges are doing but to also help inspire other lodges who may be looking for new projects or ideas for ways they can support their communities. If your lodge has a project or program, you would like to share you can submit an article to your district Vice President and Public Relations and Marketing Committee Member who will submit the articles to the OSEA Newsletter for consideration. Articles should be no more 200 words and may include a picture. Pictures should show the activity described in the article, should not show anyone drinking or smoking, contain no offensive clothing or images, and if showing a minor you must submit proof of release from the child's parent or guardian to allow for the photo to be used.

Florence Elks Lodge #1858 - Community Christmas Dinner



The Florence Elks Community Christmas Dinner was started in 2007 and has occurred on Christmas Day ever since. Even during COVID the lodge did a drive-thru dinner for those in the community. Normally the lodge will serve 500 to 800 FREE sit down dinners from noon to 3pm to Elk members and citizens of the community of Florence. The menu consists of turkey and all the trimmings, including pumpkin pie! This year OSEA President Ben Adams Jr. and his wife Joedy too time out of their schedule to volunteer at the Community Christmas Dinner. The lodge would like to thank all of the volunteers and the community of Florence for making this another successful event.

Salem Elks Lodge #336 - Christmas Giving Program



What started as helping one family of a homeless veteran who has houses right before Christmas seven years ago has grown into the Salem Elks Lodges largest project of the year. This year lodge volunteers shopped for 110 kids for Christmas. These kids are referred to the lodge from the various community partners the lodge works with during the year such as the Oregon School for the Deaf, Easterseals Oregon, the Oregon National Guard, and VetCare. In addition to the toys and clothing for the children the lodge gave each family a \$100 Winco gift card for groceries as well as 12 additional \$50 Winco cards for homeless/recently housed veterans without children. The lodge is still adding up all the receipts but early numbers show the lodge assisted 42 families

and 110 children with over \$13,000 in charitable giving. The lodge uses a mixture of Elks National Foundation Community Investment Grants and member donations to complete the project.

Toledo Elks Lodge #1664 - Welcome home box shopping

The Lodge Elves from Toledo Elks Lodge pulled off another successful Holiday Food Basket Program. This year the lodge filled 60 food boxes with groceries for local families. This project provided food for 238 individuals in the Toledo/Siletz area. The lodge had over 20 volunteers helping to get all of the food and to fill the boxes. This represents over 90 volunteer hours our members, and even a few non-members, contributed to complete our project and assist those in our community. In addition the weather was good for the lodge delivery drivers. The lodge has had feedback that all that received the baskets were thankful to the lodge for the gift of their food basket.

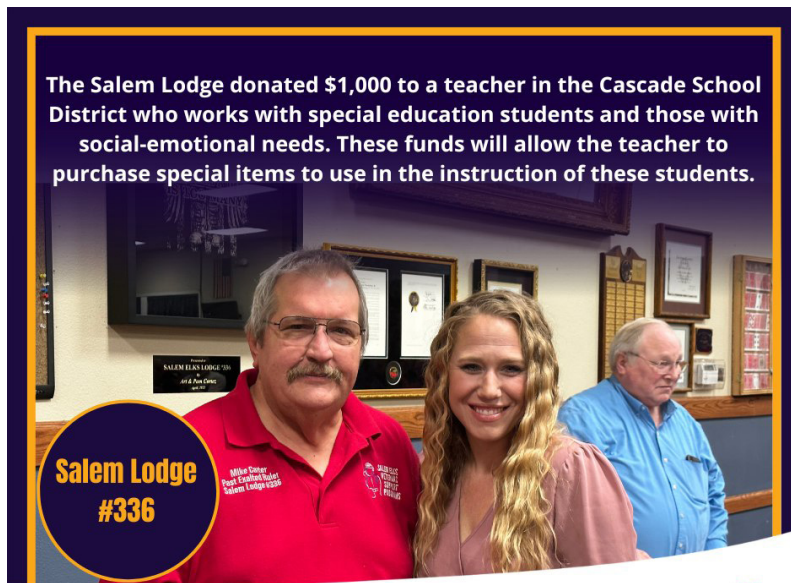
Lodges all over Oregon - Christmas Projects

Lodges across Oregon engaged in numerous projects to spread holiday cheer across our state and ensure that more than 2500 kids had a Christmas that was merry and bright. Lodges were asked to submit their Christmas Projects to the OSEA using an Online [google form](#) to submit details about their projects. So far 13 lodges have submitted details about their project, which if you have not submitted you can still use the form to submit your project details. But with just those 13 lodges, Oregon Lodges helped provide Christmas to 2,539 kids in 1,373 families and 246 veterans. Lodges spent \$72,281 on toys, clothing, good, and more for these families. Lodges used a mixture of Elks National Foundation Community Investment Grants, member donations, toy and food drives, fundraisers, and more to be able to pull off these incredible projects.

But lodges cannot accomplish any of these great things without the fantastic volunteers we have in our order. The 13 lodges who submitted so far had 394 volunteers who put in near 2,200 volunteer hours to help those in need. The value of these volunteer hours comes to an additional \$62,502 worth of charitable contributions. Combined with the amount of goods and items donated lodges contributed \$134,783 to serving those in need this Christmas Season.

And it does not matter how big or small a project was, helping make a difference in the life of even one child, one veteran, on family is what we are all about. If you have not completed the google form about your project, we will still be collecting responses until January 15th. And don't forget to also complete your charitable giving reports so that we can add these projects into our overall charitable giving for year. This past year Oregon was once again in the top ten in the nation coming in at number six. Let's make sure we are tracking our charitable giving this year and shoot for being in the top five for next year!

Elks Making A Difference Every Day



Are you looking for ways to promote your charitable event? Could you use professionally produced graphics about your event to share on social media, in your newsletter, or to share with local media?

The Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing team has made it easier than every to get professional graphics to highlight the outstanding work your lodge is doing. You can submit your project details and an image at elks.org/MakingADifference. You will then receive the formatted image that can be used on social media in the lodge bulletin, and even submitted to local media. If you would like to have a feature image like this created to highlight how you are making a difference in your community submit an image and write up to elks.org/MakingADifference. You can also look at examples of what other lodges have submitted!

Making A Difference Everyday
elks.org/MakingADifference



Setting a plan helps incoming officers

By Anthony Markarian, Committee Chairman

A new year beginning is the perfect time to reflect on the goals you set for your Lodge, in addition to establishing new goals for 2023.

Setting goals can help us move forward as officers and build bonds that will carry on forever. Create a road map for your team to follow by introducing new ideas while setting goals for your officers to follow. The next corps of officers will continue your ideas as an Exalted Ruler and as a team of officers. You might have three months left as a leader, so the incoming officers need to be included in the goal setting. Working together to achieve these goals helps us define what we can be in Elkdom.

We have determined that, on average, most Lodges have only been reporting a fraction of their charitable data. Using the calendar from your monthly newsletter should always be the guide to completing your report. We established a new monthly Government Relations report that asks specific questions reminding Lodge Chairs there is more work that needs to be done, like improving your relationship with your local government.

It's a lot of work—this Lodge Committee cannot be run by one person. Every Lodge Chairperson should enter your monthly contributions into CLMS themselves; your Lodge Secretary has the discretion to make this available to you. This will save your Lodge Secretary valuable time and energy and the Chairperson will have a better idea of his or her job. Every Lodge Chairperson should be sending the last three-year totals (easily found on elks.org) to their local government. Every mayor, council member, and county supervisor needs to know how much your Lodge has contributed. Your report should include all the grant and scholarship opportunities that ENF has to offer.

Elks membership drive pushes pedal to the metal

By Rick Gathen, Membership Marketing Manager

Momentum is building for a gain in Membership.

Last year we achieved a 25,926 net gain in membership. This has generated remarkable momentum for this fraternal year. We are now in the homestretch of the year—the final numbers for the 2022–2023 Lodge year will be recorded on March 31. We are projecting 90,000 new Members will be added to the rolls this fraternal year. We are also trending towards lower than average cancellations.

Membership retention is the key to sustainable membership growth. If this all pans out, we will be in a strong position for another robust gain in membership.

This success is owed to Elks around the country, who have been louder and prouder in their service to their communities than ever before. The Membership and Marketing Department is helped by recruitment resources such as the join.elks.org website, which gives prospective Members information on how to apply to join the Elks and provides inspirational messages explaining why it is great to be an Elk. Make sure you initiate all your candidates before March 31, 2023.

Ready. Set. GROW!!!! All Gas. No Brakes!

Ready. Set. GROW!
All Gas. No Brakes!

Schedule a new member initiation today.

Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org



Changes for the OSEA Lodge Newsletter Contest for 2022-2023

During last years summer convention several individuals raised questions about the OSEA Lodge Newsletter Contest. One of the main areas of question was the categories based on lodge size. In prior years there have been three categories:

- Small lodges under 400 members
- Medium lodges 401-700 members
- Large lodges over 700 members

These categories put 28 lodges eligible as small lodges, 13 as medium lodges, and 9 as large lodges. Further complicating the categories was a result of redistricting which put 4 of the 9 "large lodge" all in one district and left no lodges eligible in that category in at least 1 district. As a result, we will be keeping three eligibility categories but based on the size of our lodges we are making the following changes:

- Small lodges under 300 members
- Medium lodges 301 to 550 members
- Large Lodges over 550 members

This will make 16 lodges eligible as either small or large lodges and 18 eligible as medium sized lodges. And each category will have at least 1 lodge eligible in each category.

In addition, in prior years lodges had to submit 3 consecutive issues published between January 1 and December 31 for consideration. This year we will be changing to model the Grand Lodge State Association Newsletter Contest which DOES NOT require consecutive issues. Lodges will be able to submit any three issues they feel are their strongest issues for consideration.

Finally, all lodges are encouraged to submit PDF files for consideration. And all judging at the state level will be based on electronic PDF copies of the newsletter. This will cut down on the amount of printing for judging as well as allow the judges to review newsletters in full color even if the lodge does not print their newsletter in color.

Submissions will be due to your district Public relations and Marketing Chair no later than Feb 1. Judging must be completed and winners sent to the state chair by Feb 28th.

Certificates celebrate special talents in your Lodge

Pretty much everyone is aware of the awards and certificates available from Grand Lodge for their Lodge, including Elk, Officer, and Citizen of the Year who have been selected by their Lodges. Requests for these certificates must be sent to the Grand Secretary's Office prior to March 31 of your Lodge year.

As an Exalted Ruler, you have a way to recognize an additional two of those special unsung heroes in your Lodge. You know, the ones that just seem to always be there doing things without really being asked but making the Lodge and its activities better.

These recognitions are Grand Exalted Ruler's Awards allowing for each Exalted Ruler to issue up to two "Grand Exalted Ruler's Outstanding Service Commendation" certificates for persons performing outstanding service to their Lodge. Order forms and instructions may be downloaded from elks.org or from the thumb drive distributed to Exalted Rulers at the Grand Lodge session. Requests are sent to the Area Fraternal Committee Member postmarked in time to process the certificates, beginning January 1 and no later than March 31 of the Lodge year.

We also have two additional "Grand Exalted Ruler's Special Citation" awards that your Exalted Ruler and Lodge (one each) may obtain for their year. These may be awarded to Exalted Rulers who participate in six of the nine required programs during the year and to each Local Lodge that participates in six of 11 required programs during the year. The required programs are listed on the application forms available online on the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee website or on the thumb drive distributed to Exalted Rulers at the Grand Lodge session.

The "Grand Exalted Ruler's Special Citation" for ER and Lodge requests are available through the Area Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Member upon receipt of a formal written request from the Exalted Ruler, supported with dated copies of cover letters, programs, news releases, bulletin notices, etc. attesting to participation by the Lodge family in the appropriate activities. Requests begin January 1 and must be postmarked by March 31.

Your Area Committee members are available for you to contact them should you have any questions or make suggestions regarding our GL Fraternal Committee Awards or processes. We are here to assist you and your Lodge as you "Promote Elkdom With Enthusiasm!"



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January 2023 OSEA Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 WA Mid-Winter Convention - SEATAC	13 WA Mid-Winter Convention - SEATAC	14 WA Mid-Winter Convention - SEATAC
15	16	17	18	19	20 OSEA Presidents Visitation - Central District @ Keizer	21 OSEA Presidents Visitation - Central District @ Keizer
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4