



OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association
Volume III Issue No. 9 January 2024

Always an Elk

OSEA President's message



A Very Happy New Year!

While our non-Elk lives are resetting on January 1st, in the Lodge year we have hit the three quarter mark. Only three months to go before terms are expired, Officers move up, committees are reappointed (well some of them anyway) and just about anything can be accomplished with hard

work and stick-to-it-ness.

Two thoughts spring to mind. The first is to those finishing up the 2023-24 fraternal year. Finish strong! Think back to last April and May. Remember the ideas, energy and enthusiasm for a great year. Recall the excitement of Grand Lodge in July and activities of the summer and fall. Revisit the goals of membership growth, facility improvement, expanded services and reinvigorate the positive attitude. Take a moment in an officer or board meeting to go back and read the minutes then, depending on the results, give yourselves a pat on the back or recommit as the case may be.

For those looking forward to new roles in the 2024-25 fraternal year, start now. Use the time to set yourself up for success next year by finishing this one strong and active. Next year's ERs should be getting commitments to committees, learning more about the lodge processes, getting officers lined out and thinking about goals and priorities. Always be mindful of those in office now, it is still the Exalted Ruler's year but be involved in the budget process and ask the questions. Finally, don't try to cram everything into next year. Prioritize and pick one or two to concentrate on, otherwise you will start many and simply put out fires to get through.

Remember, finishing strong or getting ready for the BEST YEAR EVER. Always An Elk.

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Membership update!

The latest Grand Lodge Membership Report has Oregon with a projected gain of 150 members. We still have three months left to INITIATE-INITIATE-INITIATE to reach our goal of a net gain of at least 1,000 new members. Currently 19 of our 49 lodges and 3 of the 5 districts are showing a projected gain with several very close to a projected gain.

In addition to getting new members in the door we need to continue to focus on delinquent members. Nationally we are 7.8% delinquents, but in Oregon we are 8% with 1,883 delinquents still on our records. As we enter the new year take time to reach out to these delinquent members and encourage them to pay their dues for the year. Use the persons sponsor, PER's, and others in your lodge to help you do this. Remember, every delinquent we convert to paid up adds 1 more person to our net gain for the year!

Our goal should be to reduce delinquent to as close to 5% as possible. And if we can all make reaching out to our delinquent members our new years resolution for 2024 we will easily make that goal.

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

OSEA Public Relations and
Membership Committee
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Grand Exalted Ruler: Elks remain committed to serving veterans in need



Wanda and I want to wish each of you a very happy new year as we welcome in 2024. New Year's Day is a time when we reflect upon the events of the past year and plan for the upcoming year. New resolutions are made to improve health, diet, and other ambitions. For us as Elks, it should be our resolution to improve our Lodge

and our Order.

January is the beginning of the last quarter of the Lodge year. Get your membership retention and arrears program into full stride. Have your committee reach out to delinquent Members. This personal contact could very well bring that Member back into our folds. Remind them of why they joined and how much they mean to the Lodge. It would be great for your Lodge to have a +1 membership gain in 2024.

You and your Lodge Officers should be reviewing how and where you stand with your Local Lodge goals for the year. Should you see you are falling short, make January, February, and March your last big push to meet those goals. Your Lodge has all the assets needed to meet those goals with the right plans. Use your Past Exalted Rulers Association, Board of Directors, and Lodge committees to analyze what is needed to declare victory.

This is also a great time to review your hard-working Members and decide who deserves an award for the great work done for your Lodge. Some of the awards you can present to a Member and Officer who has done so much to promote the 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. You may involve other Members to promote the good work that your Lodge does in your community. Finally, the Auditing and Accounting Committee should review Lodge books and report at the last meeting of the month.

Remember "Elks Care — Elks Share" and "We Are THE Elks." God Bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

Top Lodge difference makers deserve recognition

With only three months left in the Lodge year, Exalted Rulers are looking at their successful year and the team that helped them. Rewarding the team builds on the established framework and ensures continued support to our communities, our veterans, and our youth.

Exalted Rulers have many avenues at the Grand Lodge level to achieve this. The most common are the Elk, Officer, and Citizen of the Year. Requests for these certificates must be sent to the Grand Secretary's Office prior to March 31.

Each year our Grand Exalted Ruler establishes goals for each Lodge to strive. To recognize the achievements of the Exalted Rulers and Lodges in reaching those goals, Grand Lodge has "Making A Difference" citation awards. 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 outlined in the Grand Lodge Program booklet on page 38. The criteria for each award is specific and requires supporting documentation.

These awards are available through your area Grand Lodge Committee member. Entry forms are listed in the Fraternal Committee area on elks.org. Go to "Forms and Contests" and find the link for "Outstanding Members – Certification Request for GER Special Commendation Award." The forms were also made available to each ER on the thumb drive distributed during the Grand Lodge Session. All awards can be submitted for approval starting January 1 and must be postmarked by March 31.

Other certificates are available to each Exalted Ruler. The "Grand Exalted Ruler's Outstanding Service Commendation" certificates are used to recognize two persons performing good works for their Lodge. These team members are always on hand and make the ER's job easier.

Every Lodge that shouts out GER Shook's motto "We Are THE Elks" should have more than enough Members to recognize. Your Area Fraternal Committee member is ready to assist and make it simple to pat them on the back.

2023 OSEA lodge bulletin contest information and deadlines.

It is that time of year again to be thinking about lodge contests, especially the Lodge Bulletin Contest. This is a great way to get recognition for the outstanding publications your lodge is putting out as well as your hardworking bulletin editors.

For this years contest we are again using three divisions:

- Small Lodges - Membership under 300 members
- Medium Lodges - Membership of 301-550 members
- Large Lodges - Membership of 551 or more more members

Additional Bulletin Contest Rules/information:

- Lodges can submit any three issues published between Jan 1 2023 and Dec 31 2023, they DO NOT have to be consecutive. Issues submitted that were published prior 1/1/23 or later than 12/31/23 will not be accepted.
- Lodges MUST submit their lodge bulletins in electronic format (PDF). Physical copies will not be accepted.
- NEW THIS YEAR: Lodge DO NOT need to submit their verified membership count. District chairs have already been provided with your membership counts and which contest division you are in.
- Lodges NEED to submit the name of their bulletin editor as we will be recognizing editors as well. This is so we can again recognize bulletin editors as well as lodges,.
- The use of unauthorized or prohibited graphics WILL result in disqualification. Any graphic that has an artist watermark or comes from social media sites we have been directed not to use it can result in disqualification.

Deadlines

Lodges should submit their three issues and name of their bulletin editor to your district Public Relations and Marketing chair or designate, no later than February 1 2024. Late submissions cannot be accepted.

- North - David Backlund backlund.osea@gmail.com
- Central - Lysie Winstead lwinstead142@gmail.com
- West - Sharron deMontigny demontigny@proaxis.com
- East - Wade Kaseberg wadekaseberg@icloud.com
- South - Ted Romas fultonny63@gmail.com

Discover Elks Updates!

We are continuing to see a positive response to our streaming advertising campaign that we have been running since September. In addition to the streaming ads we have made all of the ad content available on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@DiscoverElks> as well as on our DiscoverElks Facebook page. We have over 30 videos posted with members from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana sharing why they are Elks and talking about all that we do.

So far these ads have been seen by over 300,000 people on a variety of streaming platforms and our videos have an impressive 85% or better completion rate. In streaming ads anything over 70% is considered good, our completion rate is fantastic. We are also tracking increased traffic on our Discover Elks Platforms as well as our state website and Facebook pages. So people are reaching out to learn more about us. We have also sent membership referrals to several lodges that have come in via the Discover Elks membership form.

In the new year we are continuing to push the Discover Elks campaign and have several new ways that you can help be a part of this. First is we will have Discover Elks merchandise available through a licensed vendor. We are starting with bumper stickers and hats, other items will be added as we go that you can use personally or in your lodge to help promote the Discover Elks program.

And finally, we will be adding a new "shareables" section to the www.discoverelks.org website which will include our videos that you can share to your social media pages. In addition, we will be adding the audio files for the ads so if you have a local radio station that would be interested in running the ads as a PSA the audio files will be available for use. And of course we continue to encourage you to like and follow the Discover Elks and OSEA Facebook pages and YouTube channels and helps us share content promoting the Elks to your friends and family.



Nomination time for Veteran Volunteer of the Year



Each year, E N V S C recognizes outstanding volunteers from each state who have demonstrated their commitment to veterans and military members

in need with the Veteran Volunteer of the Year.

Last year, Kentucky presented this award to Michelle Anderson for leading monthly interactive events for veterans. Anderson took flowers to the VA hospital, organized supply distributions, delivered beds to Fisher House, hosted meals, and provided entertainment for veterans. Her contagious attitude and passion for service have engaged other Elks Members in veterans' service.

In Alabama, the Veteran Volunteer of the Year award was given to John Ray. As a Voluntary Service Representative, Ray visits veterans at the Bay Minette VA every month, hosting bingo, providing games and fishing equipment, and being there to give support. He was described in his nomination as steadfast and second to none.

Do you know volunteers like these in your community? Now is the time to nominate fellow Lodge Members for this award. Eligible nominees may be active in the Elks Voluntary Service program, as Lodge Veterans Chair, as State Veterans Chair, or in another volunteer capacity serving veterans in need. Both Elks Members and their spouses are eligible for this award.

Please submit nominations for this award to your State Veterans Chair no later than January 31. Individual states may have earlier deadlines to submit a nomination. Once the State Veterans Chair receives all the nominations, two winners from each state will be selected.

The nomination form is available at elks.org/vets/volunteerawards.cfm.

Betty Hise for Cancer Research

Hillsboro Lodge #1862 fundraiser themed 'Bakin' Bacon for Betty' was a great success attended by over 100 bacon enthusiasts. Their fun around 'Bacon for Betty' brought in \$2500 being donated for cancer research! Way to go Hillsboro and surrounding bacon tasters!

Bacon entries numbered 36 creative uses of bacon! See photo of trophies titled 'Bacon for Betty 2023' 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and Fan Favorite. Winners were as follows:

- First place: Lori Siebern PER Hillsboro #1862 with bacon truffles
- Second place: Brenda Jeter Loyal Knight Eugene #357 with bacon wrapped dates
- Third place: Cathy Kingery Leading Knight Hillsboro #1862 with bacon sloppy joes
- Fan Favorite: Kathy Moroccosmith from Hillsboro #1862 with bacon cannoli's.



A sampling of bacon tasters/judges included PSP Rick Shipley and friends seen filling out their ballots and many enjoying the event.



Fun signage "When someone says bacon is bad for you calmly tell them to shut up and that you hate them" "I want someone to look at me the way I look at bacon"

Thank you Hillsboro Lodge and bacon lovers!! Your fun fundraising is appreciated!

Thank you to everyone from Directors Barbara, Lillian, Pam, Laurie, Cassandra, Virginia, Sharon and Helen.



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January 2024 OSEA Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Washington Elks Convention Sea-Tac	19 Washington Elks Convention Sea-Tac	20 Washington Elks Convention Sea-Tac
21	22	23	24	25 Montana Elks Convention Glasgow	26 Montana Elks Convention Glasgow	27 Montana Elks Convention Glasgow
28	29	30	31	1	2	3