



OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association
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Always an Elk

OSEA President's message



Hello Elks!

One of the things about serving as OSEA President is that you get to raise funds for something you care a lot about. While Cody and I care about EYES and Meadowood and Veterans, we care a lot more about the Lodges of Oregon. We believe that if a Local Lodge is kept open even one more year, the charity

and work they do is worth more than any amount we could ever raise for any one charity in a year. Because of this, I am excited to announce the start of a new OSEA Program called the Lodge Improvement Fund, or LIFe for short.

In a nutshell, the OSEA is going to give two lodges \$1000 each to make physical improvements to their property. To apply, the Lodge must submit their All-American Lodge form to the District Deputy (which is now required anyway) along with a "before" picture of what you want to improve and a one page summary outlining your project timeline, budget and goals. The DDs, DLs and our sponsor will forward pass one or two applications per District to the State Officers who will choose two winners. The winning Lodges will receive a \$1000 check at Summer Convention. Go home, complete the project by Oct 1, send an "after" picture and receipt copies for \$1000 to the State Secretary by October 10 and you are done. If you spend less, just send the leftover money back. We will give it out next year.

The initial funds will be those monies collected by Cody and I in our travels this year. The OSEA has been asking Lodges to update, now we are helping out and giving it back. While there are plans to expand the LIFe fund to give even more back to our Lodges, these grants represent the spirit and intent of the LIFe fund moving forward. We all know a little

project that members can see can spark the next and then can snowball into growth and success. I hope that happens every time for those Lodges who apply, win and utilize these monies for years to come.

Fraternally

Nick Bettencourt

Oregon State Elks Association President

Fall Seminar Reminder

Unable to attend this years OSEA Fall Officers Training Seminar? You can find presentations posted in the My Elks Mobile App on the Fall Seminar Tab of the OSEA Page. In addition materials will be posted to the Fall Seminar Page under the Members Resources section of www.oregonelks.org. If you are not registered for the members resources section on our website you can request access using the request form on the website. Once your membership has been verified you will be sent a link to complete your registration. For those of you attending in person we look forward to seeing you in Salem.

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

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Grand Exalted Ruler: ENF grants allow Lodges to boost their benevolence



October is the birth month of the greatest program of our Order: The Elks National Foundation (ENF), known as the “Great Heart of Elkdom.”

Established in 1928, the Foundation helps build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet the needs

in areas where Elks live and work. The best source for the most current information about the ENF is the Foundation’s website at elks.org/enf. Spend some time there. You’ll be amazed by what the Foundation is doing.

I especially want to call your attention to the Foundation’s Community Investments Program. The Foundation has allocated nearly \$16 million for Lodge community service grants. This grant program allows your Lodge to complete more for your communities.

I urge all Lodges to take the time to educate yourselves about these grant programs. The Beacon, Gratitude, Spotlight, Impact, and Freedom Grants could be very helpful to your community. Each grant has a specific deadline to apply for funding. Find that need in your community and get it done with one of these grants. This will ensure people in your community know that “We Are THE Elks.” Other programs that ENF funds include: Scholarships, youth activities, veterans service and remembrance, Elks Veterans Memorial maintenance, and much more. It is very important to let our Members know about the great work ENF does.

I challenge every Member of Elkdom to support the ENF. Be sure to tell new Members about all the incredible things the ENF makes possible on a local, state, and national level. The charitable, educational, and benevolent causes supported by the ENF are the most important financial contributions made by our Order and deserve the continued support of every Member.

Red Ribbon Week is the nation’s oldest and largest drug prevention program. Red Ribbon Week is celebrated from

October 23-31. There are many ways to celebrate. Have your local elected officials issue a proclamation, have your Members distribute red ribbons to schools, and encourage Members and friends to wear red ribbons.

The struggle to educate our youth about drugs and assist them in making informed decisions must be advanced at the community level. Our national, state, and Local Lodge Drug Awareness Programs encourage volunteers to listen, educate, and mentor, thereby letting our communities know that “We Are THE Elks.”

Finally, the Auditing and Accounting Committee should review Lodge books and report at the last meeting of the month. October has the fall holidays of Columbus Day and Halloween. Trick or Treat. Please be safe. Remember “Elks Care — Elks Share” and “We Are THE Elks.” God bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

Membership Topics to discuss with your Lodge

Membership is one the top focuses this year as we attempt to move into the top 5 states for a membership gain this year. Check out the following ideas and resources to help your lodge have a successful membership program.

Fast track Initiations

- Use metrics to help Lodges understand the length of time it is taking them to bring in Members
- elks.org/leadership/reports/clmsMembershipReports.cfm
- Grand Exalted Ruler Months: September and October

Membership Tools

- Why do people join?
- Tools useful for membership retention
- Membership Guide virtualmanuals.elks.org/membership-guide/

Marketing Tools

- Marketing Guide virtualmanuals.elks.org/marketing-guide/
- Shareables virtualmanuals.elks.org/shareables/
- Mobile app my-elks.com

Don’t forget to join the Grand Lodge Marketing & Membership Facebook Group.

Remembering 9/11

The following remarks were delivered by OSEA President Nick Bettencourt at the Albany 9/11 Remembrance marking the 22nd anniversary of the attacks.



Good Morning,

My name is Nick Bettencourt and I have the honor of serving as the State President of the Oregon State Elks Association and

to represent all Oregon Elks at today's ceremony.

September 11th, 2001, was the day of infamy for the 21st century. It was a day that will live in the annals of courage and patriotism. Today we pay tribute to those who were lost and those who survived. The heroes at ground zero who in life and death, wear an indelible badge of honor. We celebrate not only them, but all of our fellow Americans, for the intended victims of this attack were not just the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, or the people on flight 93. The targets were not just the symbols of America, but the very spirit of America, and the intended victims were all 330 million of us. The attacks on September 11th were intended to break our spirit, but instead, we emerged stronger and more unified.

As Americans, we felt a renewed Patriotism, belief in the rule of law, and respect for human life. We were more determined than ever to live our lives in freedom and in the conflict that was brought upon us, we were determined to prevail over evil until we ultimately triumphed.

As Elks, we felt a renewed devotion to the cardinal principles of our order.



Charity. The Charity that was conveyed by millions of Americans to their fellow man in a time of need. The lending of a shoulder to cry upon and a helping hand to those in distress. The giving of one's self, time, and spirit to aid and comfort their fellow Americans.

Justice. May all victims of those who resort to violence and terror to further their agenda be rewarded with justice, for while justice is not vindictive, it is exacting.

Brotherly Love. To risk one's life for a total stranger in need is not only courageous, but divine. In the face of that kind of selflessness, we can no longer call each other strangers but brothers and sisters. Those who risk their lives for others display love for their fellow man.

And finally, Fidelity. Fidelity to the principle that every man, woman and child is created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights and that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

President Ronald Regan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." That is why it so very important for us to never forget the men and women who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Those of September 11th have a special place for they did not know they would be fighting that day.



While we came together today to remember the victims and honor the survivors, let us not forget to celebrate the unity and galvanization this tragedy

created in us as Americans. I would ask and even challenge all of today's Americans to honor the memory of those we lost on September 11th by acting a little more like the Americans of September 12th. God Bless the souls of those who were lost, the men and women of our nation's Armed Forces, our first responders, each of us here today and God bless America.

Elks Preschool Vision Screening Program marks 20 years!

Since 2003, the program has provided free vision checks for more than 65,000 toddlers, about 15% of which have needed glasses. The program's \$350,000 annual budget is fully supported by the Oregon State Elks Association.

"A screening that lasts just a few seconds can save a child's sight," explained program director Joanna Vaughan, M.B.A., who is also an assistant professor of ophthalmology in the OHSU School of Medicine.

About 80% of early learning is done visually, and children can fall behind in school without clear vision. Vaughan has heard directly from kids – some of whom have danced and admired posters on the wall that they could see clearly for the first time after they received glasses – that correcting vision issues can make a real difference. Teachers have also told her that behavioral issues in some children decline or disappear after they get glasses.

When caught early enough, treatments like patches, special drops and glasses can help affected eyes catch up. But if not treated by age 7, children can be left with permanent vision loss. The ideal timeframe to treat amblyopia is between the ages of three and five, when children attend preschool. In its 20 years, the Elks Preschool Vision Screening Program has correctly identified at least 1,000 kids with amblyopia.

In addition to amblyopia, the program also screens for farsightedness, near-sightedness and astigmatism, which causes vision to be blurry or distorted. When a potential vision issue is flagged, the program sends a letter to a child's guardians that recommends they make an appointment with an eye doctor for further evaluation and treatment if needed. To encourage timely follow-up, the program also calls guardians, provides a list of trusted providers who are accepting pediatric patients, and offers bilingual support to make an appointment if needed. Oregon Health Plan, the state's Medicaid and children's health insurance plan, covers pediatric eye exams and prescription glasses.

With guardian permission, the program team also follows the children they screen for years afterward to evaluate the accuracy of their screening practices as well as to track pediatric vision trends. The team has published 19 peer-

reviewed papers, presented at numerous medical and health conferences, and advises other organizations on vision screening best practices.

Kosmo Quiroz Acero was three years old when the Elks Preschool Vision Screening Program visited his Head Start classroom in 2011. Vision screeners found a potential problem and referred him to the OHSU Casey Eye Institute, where a pediatric ophthalmologist diagnosed him with amblyopia in both eyes. The physician showed his mother, Delfina Acero Chuma, how to help her son place an eye patch over one eye at a time, which sharpens vision in the other eye by forcing it to develop further. Routine use of prescription eye drops and prescription eye glasses also helped improve his vision.

Now 15, Kosmo can see well with the help of eye glasses. He's currently a junior at Cleveland High School in Southeast Portland and is considering becoming an engineer.

to learn more about this and the other great things made through our state major project, EYES visit [EYES.OregonElks.ORG](https://www.eyes.oregonelks.org)

Visual Committee Fundraiser

The Visual Committee is raffling off a set of corn-hole boards and flag beanbags. These boards (pictured below) are made from recycled blue pine from the 2021 Bootleg Fire. Tickets are currently on sale for \$5 each with the winner to be drawn on April 27, 2024 at the Summer Convention in Seaside. Tickets can be purchased from the EYES Directors, Visual Committee members, and the OSEA State Officers.



Essay Contest participants will consider Bill of Rights

The topic for this year's Americanism Essay Contest is "What the Bill of Rights Means to Me." This is the second year to have the new divisions and monetary prizes. The contest has separate divisions for fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. For each division, first place wins \$1,000, second place earns \$500, and third place gets \$250. There are some very important dates to remember. If you miss your deadline, your essay will be ineligible to win. Keep in mind that all initial essays should go to the Local Lodge first for judging. It is important to communicate this information to your schools and teachers. Keep in mind that you should send your essay to the Elks Lodge nearest your home, and only to one Lodge! Each level of judging will send the top three in each division to be judged on the next level.

Deadlines

- Student/teacher sends essays to Local Lodge: No later than December 15, 2023.
- Local Lodge sends to District Chair: No later than January 31, 2024.
- District Chairman sends to State Chair: No later than February 28, 2024.
- State Chair sends to Contest Administrator: No later than March 31, 2024.

Rules

1. No more than 300 words. Essays must be typed or legibly printed in ink (by the entrant).
2. Must be submitted to the Lodge nearest their address.
3. The participant must be identified by name, grade, school attending, and the sponsoring Elks Lodge on the essay itself.
4. The cover page provided on our website must be attached to the essay. This cover sheet will follow the essays through every level of judging.

Judging and scoring

1. Originality. Avoid the use of clichés and worn-out words and phrases. 30 points.
2. Development of the theme. Stay focused on ideas and thoughts. Don't ramble. 40 points.
3. Mechanics and neatness. Use proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. 30 points.

Publicize your contest via social media, newsletters, and e-mail blasts, as well as through local newspapers and radio. Prizes at the local level are also a good idea for increasing participation. National winners of first, second, and third place in each division will be announced in our spring newsletter.

Betty Hise for Cancer Research

A big thank you in advance to Hillsboro Lodge #1862 for their upcoming Betty Hise for Cancer Research fundraiser planned around the well known UofO & OSU Rivalry Game, Friday November 24th. Hillsboro's event is named 'Bakin' Bacon for Betty' and is a competition around favorite bacon recipes. Crunch on, bacon-lovers! As the saying goes, either you like bacon or you're wrong! Contestants will register their bacon entrees on the MyElks App or contact Cathy Kingery (503-317-9283, cathy@cathykingery.com). Registered dishes will meet their match on game day starting at 4pm and all bacon fans are invited to join in the Bakin' Bacon fun. Tasting tickets are being sold at \$1/each or \$5/6 and \$10/12. Judges will be the tasters. Winners and 'Fan Favorites' will be announced at game halftime. Thank you to all participating in the 'Bakin' Bacon for Betty' entrees and tasters! Who said "that's too much bacon..." No one ever!

Bakin' Bacon for Betty
Fundraiser for Betty Hise Cancer Research

Register to enter your favorite bacon dish using MyElks App or the QR Code below.
Registration fee is \$10 per dish, due upon entry
Tasting Tickets are \$1/each or \$5 for 6 or \$10 for 12
The competition starts at 4 pm
Judges will be the taste testers and Fan Favorites will be announced at Halftime.

RAFFLE BASKETS
GAMES
PRIZES

UofO & OSU Rivalry Game
November 24th- Kick Off 5:30pm

Thank you to all, for your continued support of cancer research.

Directors Deb, Sheri, Lillian, Barb, Pam, Laurie, Cassandra and Virginia.



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October 2023 OSEA Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 OSEA Presidents Visitation @ Central Gateway-Gresham	7 - Eye Clinic Open House OSEA Presidents Visitation @ Central Gateway-Gresham
8	9	10	11	12 OSEA Fall Seminar @ Salem	13 OSEA Fall Seminar @ Salem	14 OSEA Fall Seminar @ Salem
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Idaho State Convention	27 Idaho State Convention	28 Idaho State Convention
29	30	31	1	2	3 OSEA Presidents Visitation @ North Sherwood	4 OSEA Presidents Visitation @ North Sherwood