



OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association
Volume I Issue No. 4 September 2021

OSEA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Warm Greetings to all Elks!

As we leave summer and some of the extreme hot weather behind us and prepare for fall and a more moderate climate in Oregon, let us please not forget that many of our communities are still suffering from illnesses, homelessness, poverty, despair, and depression. Please continue to reach out

and offer help if you are able to, because as Elks, that is what we do. As we rebuild our Lodges from lost revenue and lost membership the past year and a half, embrace the new members that we initiate and show them the positive reasons that we all joined and became united as an Order. As American citizens, we may not always agree with our Government's policies and laws at the National, State, and Local levels, and although it is our democratic right to disagree, it is also our obligation as Elks to comply with them.

The OSEA Officers met in Baker and made some tough decisions regarding accomplishing our goals this year, and setting the stage for addressing upcoming goals yet to be defined in upcoming years. First and foremost remains clear and continuous communication. We are working closely with each other to do what is best for the Oregon membership who have put their faith in us to lead them. We are also working under the guidance of and with the support of, Grand Lodge to ensure that we remain in compliance with its goals and plans. Besides a great meeting, we had some social time together and I extend a personal thank you to 1st VP Ben Adams and his wife Joedy for planning our menu for the weekend, and to Past OSEA Trustee Chairman Francis Estep and his wife Lillian for preparing our meals. Also, thank you to Trustee Ed Parmer for heading



up a terrific golf outing, and congratulations to the team of Ed, Trustees Steve May and Randy Morgan, and VP Frank Zaccone for winning our

Scramble event. Also, thank you to VP Nick Bettencourt and his wife Cody for organizing our annual horseshoe tournament, in which congratulations are extended to Sergeant at Arms Bill Rhoads and Inner Guard Joel Buoy for taking home the trophy. Finally, I would like to thank PSP Jerry Endicott and his wife Cindy for hosting our event yet again at their home

(Continued on next page)

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- OSEA Presidents Message - Page 1
- Lodge Milestones: Salem 125th Anniversary - Page 2
- Face Mask Frequently Asked Questions - Page 3
- Coming Soon: Billboard Marketing Campaign - Page 3
- District Spotlight: Southwest District - Page 4
- 2021 Veteran Service Volunteer of the Year - Page 5
- OSEA August 2021 Calendar - Page 6

As a reminder, if you have ideas for articles for future issues of the OSEA Newsletter or suggestions of what you would like to see included please send them to the OSEA Public Relations and Marketing Committee at Blake.ORNCElks@gmail.com. You can also email to be added to our new email distribution list to receive these newsletters and other updates directly in your inbox.

Oregon State Elks Association
6950 SW Hampton St Suite 232
Portland, OR 97223
osea2@outlook.com/503-716-8668

OSEA Public Relations and
Marketing Committee
Phone: (541) 570-9262
Email: blake.ORNCElks@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

I want to personally congratulate our OSEA Secretary, Emma Pletz, who has been awarded the 2021 National Veterans Service Volunteer of the Year award, which will be formally presented to her at Fall Seminar in Oregon City in mid-October. I hope that everyone plans to attend Fall Seminar as there will be a lot of good training and out of state dignitaries attending, including Grand Lodge and other State Associations. There will also be a VIP dinner on Friday night, several special luncheons and dinners, entertainment, and of course the President's Reception Saturday afternoon! Everyone is invited so please get your registration forms in soon. Past OSEA Trustee Chair Ginny Van Loo and Past OSEA Elk of the Year Tom Nodurft are heading up the event with a lot of help from Oregon City Lodge as well as other Lodges.

Under Community Services, I encourage all Lodges and Districts to start considering who they would like to nominate as Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Hall of Fame, and other special recognition.

Please stay true to your obligation, stay safe, and stay involved.

Fraternally,

Fraternally,
Rick Shipley, OSEA President 2021-2022
503-780-8742
richardkshipley@gmail.com



**LODGE MILESTONES: SALEM ELKS LODGE
125TH ANNIVERSARY**

Back in 1973 the Salem Elks held its first event at their Turner Rd property where their lodge is now located. The event, which was held outside on a cement dance floor was called An Evening Under the Stars. Last month the Salem Elks celebrated another Evening Under the Stars,



this time as a belated celebration of the lodge's 125th Anniversary which occurred back in April. The anniversary party was attended by OSEA President Rick Shipley as well as several other members, and guests. Throughout its history the Salem Elks lodge has withstood

the test of time, moving locations, witnessed two world wars, and is now navigating its way through it's second global pandemic. Through it all the lodge has continued the mission of the Elks and even with the lodge shut down much of the last year due to COVID-19 managed to keep all of their charitable projects running giving back more than \$50,000 in charitable contributions to the Salem community. In addition to their anniversary party, the lodge was also honored with a proclamation from the City of Salem as well as a resolution passed unanimously by both the Oregon House of Representatives and Senate. The lodge is looking forward to many more years of service ahead. The lodge also some of its anniversary pins (pictured above) still available for \$5 each. Proceeds benefit the lodge charitable program. Contact Salem PER Blake Whitson to get one at blake.orncelks@gmail.com. Pictured below, Salem Elks Past Exalted Rulers at the anniversary dinner.



FACE MASK FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Governor has announced that the Oregon Face Mask Mandates to include requiring masks be worn both inside at all times as well as outside when distancing cannot be maintained regardless of vaccination status. These measures are being taken due to the increased spread of the COVID-19 Delta Variant as well as the increased hospitalization rates. At this time it could be helpful to address some frequently asked questions/comments:

1. **We are a private organization and do not have to comply:** This is incorrect, while we are a private organization open to only members and guests we are still required to comply with the mandate. The Administrative rule clearly defines a business as “an individual, organization, or entity engaged in commercial, industrial, or professional activities” and an indoor space as “anywhere indoors, including but not limited to public and private workplaces, businesses, indoor areas open to the public, building lobbies, common or shared spaces, classrooms, elevators, bathrooms, transportation services, and other indoor space where people may gather for any purpose”. These definitions clearly include our lodges.
2. **What kind of face covering is acceptable:** The rules define a face covering as “a cloth, polypropylene, paper or other face covering that covers the nose and the mouth and that rests snugly above the nose, below the mouth, and on the sides of the face. Face coverings are not a covering that incorporates a valve that is designed to facilitate easy exhalation, mesh masks, lace masks, or other coverings with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents”. This means that face masks need to be properly worn and not held against the face, worn below the nose, and that material such as shirts, jackets, mesh, or napkins cannot be held against the face in place of a face covering as defined above..
3. **When can I take my face covering off:** When you are seated at a table actively eating or drinking, engaged in activity that is not possible while wearing a mask, or singing a song for Karaoke you may remove your mask. When walking up to the bar, playing pool, playing poker, or otherwise not engaged in one of the exempted activities you must wear your face covering at all times.

4. **I am not able to wear a mask:** If someone is unable to wear a mask due to a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act a lodge should offer reasonable accommodations. However this does not mean someone can come in and not wear a mask. Examples of reasonable accommodation include providing curbside service for carry out meals, pick up windows, etc.. For accommodations related to lodge meetings, please consult with your District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler or District Advisor.

Under the administrative rules, a lodge is responsible under the rules for enforcing the mask mandate and can be fined up to \$500 per day per violation if reported. For further information on mask mandates you may consult with the Oregon Health Authority or your local public health agency.

Additional resources on face masks:

- <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-face-coverings>
- <https://www.adasoutheast.org/ada/publications/legal/ada-and-face-mask-policies.php#t4>
- <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=280702>

COMING SOON: STATWIDE BILLBOARD MARKETING CAMPAIGN

The OSEA Public Relations and Marketing Committee is moving forward with a planned statewide billboard marketing campaign set to launch later this year. The committee is currently looking into potential sites for the billboards but the plan is to have one billboard in each of the seven districts. The billboards are also being designed to focus on the Elks charitable community involvement. Some local lodges have done similar local campaigns in the past. The Salem Elks Lodge ran a billboard for two weeks highlighting the lodge veterans commitment and charitable giving. That billboard, pictured below, led to an increase in on-line traffic to the lodge website and social media as well as an increase in visibility. If you have a location suggestion or would like more information contact the Public Relations and Marketing Committee member for your district.



DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT:

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Ashland #944 ~ Brookings #1934 ~ Coos Bay #1160
 Coquille Valley # 1935 ~ Grants Pass #1584
 Myrtle Creek #1943 ~ Roseburg #326

The Southwest District spans from the Souther Oregon Cost into the Umpqua River Valley. An area with rivers, valleys, and mountains as well as the home to Southern Oregon's Timber Industry.

MYRTLE CREEK #1943: The Myrtle Creek Elks Lodge delivered checks for \$500.00 each to three local food banks as well as the Roseburg Special Olympics from their Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. In mid-June the lodge also presented eight \$500.00 scholarships (total of \$4,000.00) to local high school seniors from proceeds raised at their annual Elks Scholarship Golf Tournament held at the Myrtle Creek Golf Club.

Lodge activities during July and August include Music in the Park summer concerts and the 3-day Myrtle Creek Summer Festival where the lodge had their fried bread wagon, beer garden and burgers & hot dogs on the deck. The lodge PER Association also sponsored an open-air flea market/silent auction with all proceeds going to veteran charity programs. The lodge is excited to have initiated 15 new members on August 31! Oktoberfest German-theme dinner and a return performance by the Roseburg German Band. All proceeds from the door cover charge will go to the annual lodge Christmas food basket program



COOS BAY #1160: The lodge has been holding a health fair every Wednesday for the last two months. They have also been hosting hamburger nights on the first and third Fridays of every month as well as Wednesday night dinners. The lodge currently has 2 new applicants for membership and continues to recruit new members.

ROSEBURG #326: Since the beginning of the lodge year, Roseburg has been busy. The PER Association held its annual smoked pork chop and smoked tri-tip dinners and raised money for lounge improvements.



The lodge also held a raffle for a travel trailer and after drawing the winning ticket was able to donate around \$22,000.00 to Umpqua Community College. The lodge also held it's annual Poker Run in June and raised a record amount of money for Camp Millennium; a summer camp for kids dealing with cancer.

The annual community Graffiti Weekend in July was a huge success. At the end of August, Roseburg held the John Little Kid's Shopping Spree. This involved Lodge Members escorting 30 grade school students with \$200.00 to purchase new school clothes at our local Fred Meyers store. This was accomplished with donations from our members, community, and a Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation. Future events include: PER BBQ Chicken dinner in September, Annual Haunted House and crab feed in October, and Roseburg's 125 year celebration in November.



2021 VETERAN SERVICE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - EMMA PLETZ

The past year and a half have been tumultuous, to say the least. Longstanding projects were shaken up, canceled, or reworked entirely. Lodges scrambled to navigate ever-changing guidelines, trying to serve veterans while ensuring everyone's safety.

One woman who handled the roller coaster of last year with grace and determination is Emma Pletz of Milwaukie-Portland, Ore., Lodge No. 142. From serving National Guard families to helping veterans shelters open for business, Emma Pletz found a way to keep serving. That's why she is the 2021 National Veterans Service Volunteer of the Year! Pletz wears many hats. As the State Secretary for the Oregon Elks Association, she makes sure the Voluntary Service Representatives receive the funds they need every month to serve veterans in facilities across the state. As Grants Coordinator for her Lodge, she secures the Freedom Grant every year, using the funds to serve local National Guard families. The Lodge goes above and beyond with this project, working closely with battalion leadership to identify families in need and tailor the food boxes to meet the needs of those families.

They partner with local businesses to include fresh bread, produce, and toys for children. They host a food drive at the Lodge to supplement the boxes. This year, the food baskets were as essential as ever, with many Guard members coming back from deployment, unsure if their usual jobs were still there.

"Many had no idea how they were going to have a Christmas and then they saw what they were receiving and were awestruck that all of that food was for them," Pletz recounts. "There were tears. It was hard at times to make sure that they understood they could take as many toys as they needed to make sure their kids had a nice Christmas." Thanks to the Lodge's advocacy, the amount of donated supplies, and thrifty spending, they even had funds left over, which they shifted to buy fresh produce for the veterans food bank. Not a penny was wasted!

Pletz doesn't stop at one issue though. She and her Lodge are active in the Welcome Home Kit program and have provided 57 kits of needed home supplies for newly

housed veterans since February of 2020. It was through this program that the Lodge learned about a new veterans housing unit opening in Portland that needed community support.

The Lodge wasted no time in connecting with the staff for the new Robert J. Breitung Veterans Building, who were thrilled to receive the call. "The director declared the Elks 'angels from heaven' and said she had no idea how she was going to furnish all the apartments." Using Spotlight Grant funds, state funds, the Welcome Home Kit program, and a truckload of donated supplies, the Lodge was able to completely furnish all 28 units at the newly opening housing facility.

When the pandemic delayed construction, Pletz's home became the storage space. "There were boxes all over my house! My living room and hallway became a warehouse, with just a path to get through for 4 months," she jokes. When construction was completed and the shelter opened, each veteran received a full kit of home supplies and a new bed. The Lodge can rest assured that their efforts were certainly appreciated. "The veterans were SO EXCITED. We could hardly get the items stacked in the commons room before they wanted to start snooping. A few helped us sort and deliver to each room of the facility. We brought flags, balloons, and cupcakes to make it a celebration. The veterans enjoyed not only the new additions to their apartments but visiting with the Elk members. They couldn't wait to take their items inside their rooms and start enjoying them."

When we called Pletz to share the news, she was thrilled and shared part of her motivation for serving veterans. "My dad was a WWII veteran, and I'm from the Vietnam era. It's been very gratifying to help veterans." When we asked her how she pulled it off, she shared, "Honestly, I'm exhausted." Well, we know why.





Oregon State Elks Association
 6950 SW Hampton St Suite 232
 Portland, OR 97223
 (503) 716-8668
 osea2@outlook.com

SEPTEMBER 2021

OSEA CALENDAR



@OregonStateElksAssociation

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 20th Anniversary of 9/11.
12	13	14	15	16	17 Presidents Visit to Southeast - Ontario	18 Presidents Visit to Southeast - Ontario
19 Presidents Visit to Southeast - Ontario	20	21	22	23	24 Presidents Visit to Northeast - Hood River	25 Presidents Visit to Northeast - Hood River
26 Presidents Visit to Northeast - Hood River	27	28	29	30		