



# OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association  
Volume III Issue No. 5 September 2023

Always an Elk

## OSEA President's message



Hello Elks!

There is still some confusion regarding our major project so a quick explanation might help. The Oregon State Elks Association Major Project is Elks Youth Eye Services Inc., EYES for short.

To start, the Oregon Elks were helping a specific doctor at OHSU to purchase equipment to research

the cause of the specific propensity of blindness in premature births. Our support continued from there. The hard working, generous and charitable Elks of Oregon continued to donate goods, labor and finances to the department of OHSU that dealt with eyesight in children.

Eventually the department was located into its own building which, due to a large contribution from Paul Casey, became known as the Casey Eye Institute. Meanwhile, the Oregon Elks created the EYES Corporation as their official Major Project to organize the charitable efforts supporting the works of the medical staff at OHSU. That committee did their work so well that eventually, when OHSU decided to build a new building just for the Children's Eye Clinic, Oregon Elks were able to donate millions for the naming rights leading to the current Oregon Elks Children's Eye Clinic, but the clinic is not our major project.

In order to protect the funds of our members and reserve our organizational right to choose our benefactors, the Elks Youth Eye Services, Inc. is the Oregon State Major Project. This allows for the Oregon Elks to support any cause deemed worthwhile through EYES. While the Oregon Elks Children's Eye Clinic is the current recipient of our concentrated support, and will continue to be for the foreseeable future, having EYES as the official Major Project allows the Oregon Elks the

freedom and option of pivoting should a more pressing need arise down the road.

Regardless of its name, the organizational structure or who sits on the Board of Directors, the Major Project for the Oregon State Elks currently helps children see. While many groups and individuals support OHSU, the Oregon Elks may lay claim to a portion of the credit for the advances and assistance that are offered to children all over our state, our country and even the world.

Always an Elk. Whether helping to buy a single piece of equipment in the 1950's or naming an entire building in 2020, we must remember that we are Always an Elk and our actions can lead to big things.

Fraternally

Nick Bettencourt

Oregon State Elks Association President

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Newsletter articles can be submitted to the OSEA Public Relations and Marketing Committee at [info@oregonelks.org](mailto:info@oregonelks.org).

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



OSEA Public Relations and  
Marketing Committee  
Phone: (541) 570-9262  
Email: [info@oregonelks.org](mailto:info@oregonelks.org)

## Grand Exalted Ruler: Community service builds foundation for our future



Labor Day, the “unofficial end of summer,” is observed on the first Monday in September. In addition to marking the beginning of fall activities and sports, the holiday pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. In honor of this national holiday, please accept my thanks for all you do for Elkdom. Your dedication truly exemplifies that “Elks Care — Elks Share.”

Our Lodge activities will once again move at a very fast pace. It is time to take a look at what the fall season means to us as Elks. September is the beginning of the District Deputy Lodge visits. These visits will provide a look into your overall Lodge operations. Be sure to plan for the visit with your Lodge board of directors by completing the audit items, building a self-inspection checklist and all the other information needed by the DD. This will give you ample time to prepare your Lodge for a successful visit.

The end of this month will bring an end to the first half of this Lodge year. This is an excellent time to see how you stand with your goals for the year. Are you on track to meet those goals or are adjustments needed? By evaluating where you are now, you will be better prepared to make those decisions.

The reopening of schools in your communities presents us excellent opportunities to encourage our youth. Supporting local sports programs and any youth-related activities are great ways to show your Lodge support and community spirit! Look into and apply for the many Elks National Foundation program grants. These grants are available to financially assist in your community partnerships with our youth. Remember, “We Are THE Elks” and we take pride in helping the youth of today grow into the leaders of tomorrow.

It is also a time to seek out your school guidance counselors and provide them with the applications to apply for grants that can aid students with much needed financial support. Please follow the Elks website for deadlines to apply for these grants. Don't wait; act quickly.

The Elks support Patriot Day on September 11 each year in memory and honor of all those who lost their lives during those horrific attacks, including the first responders and community members who sought to help the crash victims. The Elks have developed a Patriotism Week Proclamation that I encourage all Lodges across our great country to embrace. The proclamation is located in the Fraternal Committee section of [elks.org](https://elks.org) in a pdf format: [elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/files/patriotismWeekProclamation.pdf](https://elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/files/patriotismWeekProclamation.pdf).

Please take the time to download this very important proclamation. Have your local government officials place it on their agenda to recognize our freedom and to honor our nation.

Remember “Elks Care — Elks Share” and “We Are THE Elks.”

God bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

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## Scholarship Update

The OSEA Scholarship Committee would like to remind all Elks that the 2024 MVS Scholarship Contest is in full swing. As School is back in session we need all your support to make this another successful year. Please don't forget about our Vocational Grant program, the emergency education grant, and our Legacy Scholarships. For more information contact your Lodge Scholarship Chairman.

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## Fall Seminar 2023 Important Information

Registration for the 2023 OSEA Fall Seminar hosted by the Salem Elks Lodge is now open. You can register, find hotel information, as well as the lodge social agenda online at [fallseminar23.salemelks.org](https://fallseminar23.salemelks.org).

The registration page also has an instructional video on how to register for the Fall Seminar using our registration platform Tock. If you have questions on registering or how to navigate the Tock platform contact Fall Seminar Chairman Blake Whitson directly at 541-570-9262 or by emailing at [blake.orncelks@gmail.com](mailto:blake.orncelks@gmail.com).

Finally, the hotels are asking to have reservations by 9/15/2023. If we do not have sufficient reservations by 9/15 the hotels will reduce the size of the room block. As a result if you book after 9/15 you may not get the Fall Seminar rate. All hotel information can be found at [fallseminar23.salemelks.org](https://fallseminar23.salemelks.org).

## Discover Elks!

This year the [Oregon State Elks Association](https://www.oregonelks.org/) is making an unprecedented investment in promoting Elks Lodges across Oregon.

Starting September 1st, we're going to have a streaming advertising campaign called Discover Elks that will run for 7 months. These ads will be 15 or 30 seconds and they'll be on streaming video platforms such as Hulu, Paramount plus, and others, so you'll see streaming ads about the Elks in your community.

These ads are going to be targeted to the areas around every single Lodge in our state, so North, East, West, Central and South, everybody will get a chance to see these ads.

We themed these ads Discover Elks because we're inviting people in communities across Oregon to discover the Elks and what we do for our communities for the very first time. We're also extending an invitation for those who might have heard about us to Re-Discover the Elks, who we are and to consider joining us again.



In addition to our streaming ads we have launched three new platforms to coordinate with this campaign. One is on Facebook under [Discover Elks](#), the second is our [YouTube channel for Discover Elks](#), there you can find our streaming ads as well as additional ad content that we've created specifically for social media. These ads can be shared on your Lodge Facebook page or even your Lodge website and

if you send out bulk messages to your Lodge via email you can include links to these videos as well

These videos, as well as our streaming ads, will invite people to visit our third platform, [discoverelks.org](https://discoverelks.org). This is our brand-new area 8 membership portal that people who see our ads, want to learn more and even join our order, can go to, [discoverelks.org](https://discoverelks.org), and pull up the state of their choice, any of the area 8 States, and submit a membership interest form. This form will then be taken by our Discover Elks team, get populated into a membership application and forwarded to the appropriate Lodge for further follow-up to bring these individuals into our order

We hope this investment in Elks awareness will help us reach our goal this year of a net gain of over 1500 new members.

This program is a partnership between ourselves, the Elks Youth Eye Service and our friends down at the Washington State Elks Association who are doing the exact same campaign and we've made these resources available to all of The Lodges, both in Washington and Oregon, as well as all eight member states of area 8. So, Alaska, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Idaho can all participate in these ads as well.

We are stronger together.

We hope you enjoy our efforts and if you would like to help invite your community to discover the Elks visit [discoverelks.org](https://discoverelks.org) or any of our new resources today.

You can watch a program introduction video for Oregon on our state [YouTube Channel here](#).





## Elks Youth Eye Service (EYES) Bend Eye Clinic Grand Opening

As clarified by our State President, Nick Bettencourt, EYES is our Oregon State Elks Association Major Project. Although most Oregon Elks recognize our extensive charitable work in support of the Oregon Elks Children's Eye Clinic in Portland, there is another great reason to celebrate our Association's involvement. EYES is proud to announce that we had a Grand Opening ceremony at our new Oregon Elks Children's Eye Clinic in Bend, Oregon on August 25th. The Welcome was kicked off by Andreas Lauer, MD, Director and Chair of the Casey Eye Institute. We were also treated to a Clinic Overview and Introductions by John Davis, MD, Clinic Director, Oregon Elks Children's Eye Clinic, Bend. Joining Dr. Lauer from our Portland clinic were additional doctors and staff who met with the Bend staff to help celebrate the special occasion. After group introductions and extensive congratulatory messages and thank you's, we were given a tour of the facilities, which included three treatment rooms, some testing rooms and equipment, office spaces, and a small refreshments/break area. There are other occupants in the leased building, but we occupy much of the first floor. The clinic is small in footprint, but very large in capabilities. 42 surgeries were completed



b e t w e e n  
January and  
July, 2023, and  
1137 clinic visits  
There are now  
132 more days  
per year that  
an eye care  
provider can see  
patients in Bend.

Besides the EYES Directors and clinical staff from OHSU, there were Officers and representatives from Bend Lodge and a few other Lodges, as well as former State Officers, Spouses, and Guests. There were also some other charitable organizations in attendance, who were extremely complimentary of the Elks' hard work and contributions. Finally, a group photo was taken, and we are sure that many such photos will be taken at this site for many years to come!

On a separate note, the EYES Directors have authorized the sale of tickets to win Custom Cornhole Boards made from recycled Blue Pine from the Bootleg fire to help fund

our Major Project. Each ticket is \$5.00 and can be obtained from OSEA Officers, EYES Directors, or Members of the Visual Committee. The drawing will be held at the Summer Convention on April 27, 2024.

For more information regarding EYES, please feel free to reach out to any of the 5 Directors. For more information on the Visual Committee, please reach out to your District or State Visual Committee Chair.

On behalf of all of the Directors and Visual Committee, we wish to extend our heartfelt thank you for the tremendous support Oregon Elks continue to provide EYES.



## 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.



## Elks Honoring the 22nd Anniversary of September 11th

Local Elks Lodges throughout the United States, Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and the Panama Canal will celebrate Patriots Day on September 11, 2023, with appropriate celebrations and observances. Contact your local Elks Lodge for more information.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has made more than \$12 Billion in donations since we first began 155 years ago. Last year alone, the Elks donated approximately \$499 million in cash, gifts, and time to make our communities better places to live. The Elks are one of the premier patriotic and charitable organizations in the United States of America.

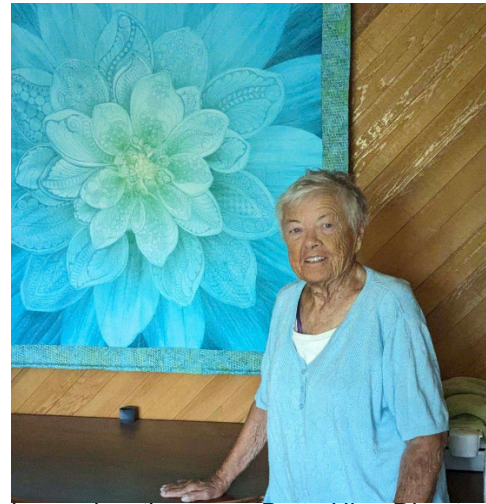
Since 1931, the Elks National Foundation has helped students recognize their academic dreams. Each year, we award \$4 million in college scholarships to at least 800 outstanding, service-minded high school seniors. Once you're an Elks scholar, you're family. The Elks Community Investment Program will award nearly \$16 million towards enriching our communities. The Elks National Foundation also granted \$10 million to the state Elks associations through State Charities Grants, Special Project Grants, and Bonus Grants, which help fund each state's charitable activities.

The Elks National Veterans Service Program will direct \$5 million to our nation's veterans and military members, with a special focus on service to those in need. Our volunteers direct service to veterans in more than 330 facilities each month.

There are nearly 1,800 Elks Lodges across the country, with a total membership of around 800,000. Elk's members must be American citizens at least 21 years of age and believe in God. To learn more and to join us in service, visit [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org). For membership information, visit [Join.Elks.Org](http://Join.Elks.Org)



## Betty Hise for Cancer Research



Highlighting the expertise and generosity of past Betty Hise for Cancer Research Director, now Advisor, Doris Kelly of Redmond, OR. Doris's late husband Dave Kelly was a Past State President 2002-2003. Doris

began her time as a Betty Hise Director and was partnered with the late Joy Malone in 2012. Doris continues to be active as an Advisor. Recent Betty Hise Board Meeting was in her home. Doris is very talented and gifted in sewing and quilting and recently donated quilted wall hangings at the Summer Convention Betty Hise fundraisers in both Idaho and Oregon. Thank you to Doris and Idaho silent auction winning recipient Keith Mills, PGER and current Oregon/Idaho Sponsor, and Oregon's silent auction winner Treva Spence, Secretary Burn Lodge #1680. Your support is appreciated!

Also highlighting a recent donation of \$1000 received from Ed Northcut of Salem Lodge #335, in honor of his late wife Marilyn who passed in February. Ed's donation was 'In memory of my wonderful wife Marilyn who was a Grand Lady everyday of her life!' Marilyn was a cancer survivor from 1991! Ed's donation is appreciated!

Likely everyone knows of someone whose life has been impacted by cancer. Words of wisdom by cancer patients include "Cancer is just a chapter in our lives and not the whole story." "Giving in to the darkness offers no benefit." "There's almost always something to smile about."

Thank you to all who support this cause of finding a better treatment for cancer. Betty Hise for Cancer Research Directors, Deb, Sheri, Barbara, Lillian, Pam, Laurie, Cassandra and Virginia.



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

# September 2023 OSEA Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Past State Presidents Meeting - Redmond Casual	8 Past State Presidents Meeting - Redmond Casual	9 Past State Presidents Meeting - Redmond Casual
10	11 Patriot'sDay Celebration - Albany OSEA Business	12	13	14	15 OSEA Presidents Visitation - East District @ Heppner OSEA Semi Formal	16 OSEA Presidents Visitation - East District @ Heppner OSEA Semi Formal
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 OR/WA PER Association @ Ocean Shores OSEA Business
24	25	26	27	28	29 OSEA Presidents Visitation - South District @ Lakeview Hawaiian Theme	30 OSEA Presidents Visitation - South District @ Lakeview Hawaiian Theme