



# OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association  
Volume III Issue No. 8 December 2023

Always an Elk

## OSEA President's message

Happy Holidays Elks!



This time of year is known for giving and loving our fellow man. As Elks we do that year round so December is a piece of cake. The only difference is that the rest of the community is more inclined to do the same which just makes us all smile a bit easier, value each other a bit more and recognize

what is really important to us in our lives.

One thing the Elks do this time of year is the Memorial Service the first Sunday in December. We gather together and reinforce our bonds of Brotherly Love while we fulfill the promise that an Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken. We hear the names, speak kind words and relive fond memories. Perhaps a few new stories are told or some nugget of history is passed on or at the very least, a smile touches our lips. We are reminded that our lives are temporary and take renewed confidence that beyond the shadow there is life everlasting. Maybe even more precious is when one looks about at those that are still with us and reminds themselves to appreciate others a little more now rather than later.

What a perfect time to take that thought outside the Lodge and into our homes as well. As we gather with friends and family at parties and functions and get-togethers throughout the month right up until New Year's Eve, the moment of fresh starts and endless possibilities. The New Year's traditions themselves reflect much of what the Elks do at Memorial Service be it Auld Lang Syne or the midnight toast. Remembering the past, accepting the future and having the comfort of knowing that we will all gather again in the end.

Remember, in person and remembrance, in life and in death,  
Always An Elk.

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## Contacting delinquent members proves effective

Lodges should aim for a 5-6% delinquency rate each year. One of the most effective ways to help reach that goal is to engage with delinquent members. This can be done through emails, letters, and phone calls made by your lodge lapsation committee. In many instances members simply forgot to pay their dues and just need a reminder. In other cases you may discover that a member had a bad experience in the lodge that you had no idea about, Or you could find out the person is experiencing a hardship and in need of relief. But you won't know these things if you do not put forth the time and effort to contact delinquent lodge members. And this is proving an effective strategy not just in Oregon but in lodges across the country.

If you need help putting together a plan to contact delinquent members visit [virtualmanuals.elks.org](http://virtualmanuals.elks.org) to learn more or contact your district OSEA Public Relations and Membership Committee Member for assistance in starting an effective lodge lapsation program today! Together we can realize a third straight year of membership growth.

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

OSEA Public Relations and  
Membership Committee  
Phone: (541) 570-9262  
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## Grand Exalted Ruler: Elks remain committed to serving veterans in need



There are so many ways to reflect during the month of December.

As Elks, on Sunday, December 3 we pay a just tribute of affection and honor to all of the Members who no longer answer when their names are called. The Elks Memorial Service is a very solemn day when we hear the

chimes of Eleven ring in honor of our deceased Members. The Members we honor on Memorial Sunday spent many hours of service to their Lodge. It is a fitting tribute to them to have their families with us at this ceremony as their names shall endure forever in our tablets of love and memory. "An Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken." May all of our deceased Brothers and Sisters rest in peace.

Pearl Harbor Day is a time to remember and honor all who died in the horrific attack on December 7, 1941. President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated in a speech to congress that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was a date which will live in infamy. Please take the time to lower the flag to half staff on Pearl Harbor Day in honor of all who perished in this horrific attack.

We will all be very busy with family and friends, shopping, sending cards and waiting for Santa to bring those very special gifts. The Christmas season brings out the best in Elks. Christmas baskets will be distributed by our great volunteers spreading goodwill and cheer during this season. Needy families will have presents under their trees and food on their table because of the efforts of Elks throughout the country. While we should always be aware of those in need, this is a time when we seem to have a greater sense of family and those who need our assistance. It is this time of the year Elks really show their communities "We Are THE Elks."

Wanda and I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas. May the joy and happiness of the Christmas season be with you always. Have a very safe holiday season.

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

## OSEA Public Relations and Membership Webinar December 18th

Due to a recording issue with the original webinar the OSEA Public Relations and Marketing Committee will be holding a repeat webinar on December 18th at 7pm to discuss various topics related to public relations and membership. This will be an opportunity to learn about various tools and resources to help your lodge run a successful public relations and membership program for your lodge. Planned topics for the webinar include:

- Public Relations - Promoting Lodge Events
- The Lodge Bulletin Contest
- Grand Lodge Tools and Resources
- The Dues Billing Program
- Membership Resources
- Reports
- Social Shareables
- Membership
- Delinquents
- Discover Elks
- You've got new members. Now what?
- Open Space for Questions and Answers

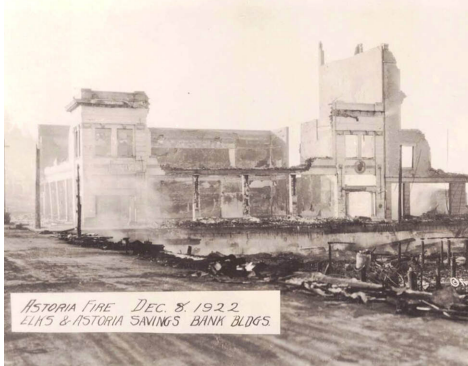
Please share with your lodge PR and Membership chairs as well as any other members who may be interested in attending. To register for the zoom training, click the following link or copy and paste it into your internet browser.

Registration link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAofuyrrD0pE9DBdYP9FHZFE2AofTzRDV\\_J](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAofuyrrD0pE9DBdYP9FHZFE2AofTzRDV_J)

You can email PR & Marketing Chair Blake Whitson at [blake.orncelks@gmail.com](mailto:blake.orncelks@gmail.com) to request the sign up link. This session will be recorded and shared on [oregonelks.org](http://oregonelks.org) for those unable to attend. If you are unable to attend but have a question you would like answered you can also email those questions to Blake Whitson and if time allows submitted questions will be answered in addition to those asked by live attendees.

## The historic Astoria Lodge No. 180

The Astoria lodge was chartered in 1890, sponsored by Portland Lodge #142. It is currently the second oldest chartered lodge in Oregon having been around for 133 years. The original lodge building was opened in 1910 and was in use until it burned down during the Great Astoria Fire of 1922. The fire started in the early hours of December 8th. The fire burned for over 11 hours and destroyed nearly the entire business



district with over 220 businesses burned down over nearly 30 city blocks. More than 2500 residents also lost their homes in the fire.

Following the fire, a new 3-story building was built on the site of the old lodge. The building was designed by architect Charles T Diamond in an American Renaissance style. The building was constructed between 1923 and 1924 and was dedicated in late 1924 and has served as the home the Astoria Elks Lodge since. Today the lodge is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.



The lodge is housed on the third floor of the building which also housed five apartment style rooms that back in the day were used for dignitaries when they made visits to the lodge. These rooms still exist today but are mainly used for storage. In the 1950's the building underwent some changes with removal of a racket ball court and the addition of an elevator and



bowling alley. The bowling alley, located in the basement, has four lanes but is not currently functioning. The lodge hopes to be able to revitalize it one day and get it back to

operational.

Recently the St Helen's Lodge held their lodge meeting at the historic Astoria Lodge and used it as an opportunity to help Astoria raise money to replace their aging boiler. This meeting was attended by 164 members from 13 lodges, including members from three lodges in Washington. Oregon State Elks Association President Nick Bettencourt and Grand Trustee Joe Basil were also in attendance. The members present raised over \$5,000 for Astoria which was more than enough to replace their boiler.



To learn more about the historic Astoria Lodge you can contact the lodge at [elks180@gmail.com](mailto:elks180@gmail.com) or by calling to the lodge office at 503-325-2806. The Astoria Lodge meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at 7pm. If you would like to discuss having your lodge history featured email the OSEA Public Relations Committee at [blake.orncelks@gmail.com](mailto:blake.orncelks@gmail.com).

## Elks In Action: veterans spotlight

The Elks have a saying that so long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will not forget them. Elks around Oregon spent the last month giving back to veterans who have served our country. Here are some reports on veterans activities from around the state:

### Serving our Veterans Facilities



Residents and staff of the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles (OVHTD) were surprised with a BBQ style lunch cooked up and delivered by local Elk members on Sat., Oct. 21. More than 190

residents and staff dished up burgers, homemade potato salad and beans in the courtyard at the Home, and enjoyed time eating together.

Led by Elk veterans committee support leaders, PERs Dr. Robert Wymore and John Buckley from Hood River Lodge #1507, they joined forces with a handful of Elk members, the Home's food service staff and the Home's team to ensure as many residents as possible and staff received food and beverages outdoors and in the Veterans Home.

The Home's Activities Director Jade Lange said they always appreciate the generous support that the Elks provides their residents and others. "The Elks are an amazing group of people that continue to support the Veterans through donations year-round, special funding for needed items, and are always happy to help with whatever the Veterans might need or want, Lange said. "We are truly blessed to have the support of the Elks since the opening of the Veterans Home back in 1997."

### Welcome Home Boxes

Emma Pletz and Ken Crawford of Milwaukie Portland #142 were recently honored at a gala by Do Good Multnomah, an organization supporting veterans on all levels, by presenting them the 2023 Challenge Coin. Emma has helped set up three brand new buildings for Do Good with Welcome Home

kits as well as putting together kits as a continuing support to veterans going into permanent housing. Ken is constantly dropping off towels and bedding at the Do Good warehouse to help with their efforts to get veterans out of shelters and off the streets and into permanent housing.



### Salem Lodge

Salem hosted its annual veterans day lunch free to veterans and their spouse/caregiver. In addition the lodge also completed 25 welcome home boxes to assist homeless veterans transitioning to stable housing.

### Bend Lodge

Bend Lodge - November 10th saw our volunteer staff cooking and serving 100+ Marine Veterans at the annual Marine Corps Birthday Dinner. Then on Veterans Day members of the FlashBack Cruisers car club, some being members of BPOE 1371, transported our veterans in the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Bend. Following the parade, the lodge provided a free hot lunch to 24 veterans and family members.

### Beaverton Lodge

The Beaverton Lodge hosted an evening celebrating our US Veterans. The Lodge welcomed veterans and guests to a delicious Prime Rib or Salmon Dinner. Veteran's enjoyed their meal for free thanks to a generous donation from the Sgt Mad Dog Wells Foundation. Our evening began with the colors presented by the Oregon Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. Oregon State Veterans Committee Chairman explained how we as Elks assist Veterans in their time of need. It was truly a beautiful night where you could feel the heartbeat of Elkdom, the pride we all share as we listened to "God Bless America" by Lee Greenwood. In conclusion, a video presentation honored each branch of our armed forces and gift baskets were won by Veterans. The evening closed with the Civil Air Patrol returning the flags to their stations

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## Elks In Action: veterans spotlight Continued Hood River Lodge



Hood River Lodge hosted a Veterans Day Breakfast event. They served about 280 members of their community, free of charge, thanks to the food being donated by Safeway. The lodge also raised about \$2,000.00 to support our monthly social group and relief aid work.

### Myrtle Creek



Myrtle Creek Lodge held a special veterans recognition program after their Friday night dinner. During the program each veteran in attendance received a special pin in recognition of their service. A total of twenty pins were presented to veterans in attendance. Earlier that week the lodge also hosted a veterans stand down event in the lodge hall where they distributed 60 backpacks filled with supplies

### Toledo



The Toledo Lodge was honored and humbled to serve prime rib dinner to more than 50 veterans and their families. The Lodge was decorated beautifully, and volunteers and officers were decked out in tuxedos and gowns as a show of their respect to the men and women who have served and are serving our country. The Lodge held a brief ceremony which included presenting the flags of each branch of our military and a short speech given by USAF Airman 1st Class - Retired, Ray McBride. He served in Vietnam from 1964-1965. All in attendance were rapt in what he had to say. It was a very moving speech. After the ceremony dinner was served which included specially created patriotic cupcakes, provided by a local bakery, for dessert.

### Seaside



Seaside Elks Lodge #1748 held a Veterans Celebration with the lodge officers, two Boy Scout Troops, a Cub Scout Troop, and the mayor of Seaside reading the city's Veterans Day Proclamation. Each Military Flag was presented and posted by the Scouts. Veterans in the audience stood and saluted as their flag was placed. Their military branch song was played and sung by the audience. Each Veteran then individually approached the US Flag, saluted, spoke their name, service branch and rank. Each Veteran then lined up and was presented a "shot" of Pendleton Whiskey, Military Edition. All waited until each Veteran had a glass, then drank together. As the toast ended, the audience stood and clapped for them. A free spaghetti dinner was served after the program. Approximately 67 people attended the program. Volunteers had earlier pinned photos of living Lodge Member Veterans on the lodge hall wall. Photos had the name, date, and rank of the Veteran. Photos of our many deceased Lodge Members were displayed on a table. Photos had the name, date, and rank of the Veteran.

### Sherwood

The Sherwood "Robin Hood" Elks Lodge 2342 had the privilege of honoring our local Veterans. Our Loyal Knight Grace Wagner did an excellent job combining the Veterans Day and the POW/MIA Remembrance Day Services. She drives the lodge's passion for our Veteran Heroes through these ceremonies throughout the year. The lodge had approximately 60 people in attendance and very positive feedback of our service. The VIP Veteran Hero in attendance was Frank Heyl. Mr. Heyl is 100 years young with 40 of those years committed to military service. His long and distinguished resume includes tours during World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam spanning across multiple military branches. The service was followed by a generous and delicious meatloaf and mash potato dinner which was free to our Veterans. This event was open to the public in order to honor any Veteran that wanted to attend.

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## Elks In Action: veterans spotlight continued

### Roseburg



It takes a lot of shopping carts to restock the Clothes Closet at the Roseburg VA! Elks VA Services Representative, Scott

Harvey, along with VA Program Director, Traci Palmer, purchased several grocery carts full of clothing, shoes, toiletries, and non-perishable food items to be given out to low-income Veterans in need that come to the Roseburg VA campus. Tuesday, November 14th, a "ribbon cutting" ceremony was held at the Clothes Closet as part of the "Grand Re-Opening" in which they introduced the addition of a non-perishable food pantry and changed the name to the 'Clothing & Food Donation Room'. Everything from dental floss to coats are stocked and available. All items are brand new and donated by the Elks, as well as by a few other 'service' organizations. It is in a constant state of restocking, as there is plenty of need in our area. The Clothing & Food Donation Room is located in Building 2 and is open daily Monday thru Friday from 8 to 3 and manned by 2 of the sweetest Volunteer ladies you'll ever meet! The Donation Room serves over 2,000 Veterans a year.

### Milwaukie Portland

The officers of Milwaukie Portland performed the Veteran's ceremony held on 11/9 for all of the Veterans that have served, still serve, and those that have passed. The officers also passed out thank you cards that were given to every Veteran in attendance. On Veterans Day, Milwaukie Portland 142 along with Oregon City Lodge 1189 had the amazing opportunity to walk in the Veterans Parade. Yes it was cold and rainy, but that didn't stop them from walking to support



and honor our Veterans! The US Army also walked alongside the group as well and held the flags, truly an honor to have them participate.

## Include local officials in your Lodge's charitable outings

December is a busy month for a Local Lodge's charitable events. When planning your events, always remember to invite your local elected officials.

Politicians love to attend events that help children, people with special needs, and veterans. Do not be afraid to think beyond only inviting your town's mayor. If you are preparing food baskets for the needy, invite your local food and agriculture officials. If planning an event for special needs individuals, invite someone from local agencies and commissions that provide services in that area.

The holiday season is a busy time for everyone, so please try and reach out to your honored guest as soon as possible. Make sure to provide an article and a picture to your local newspaper after the event. You should send a thank you letter to your invited guest for their time.

Having a close relationship with your local leaders is a huge advantage in attracting new Members, putting the Elks name out to the public, and getting the support of those politicians when the occasion should arise.

Last, but certainly not least, the three most favorite words in Government Relations during the holiday season is not ho,

ho, ho, but report, report, report. On behalf of the entire Government Relations Committee, we wish all Elks and their families a happy and safe holiday season and best of luck in all your charitable events!



## Little-known facts, legends about the American flag

- The flag is normally flown from sunrise to sunset. If flown at night, it should have a light shining on it.
- The U.S. flag always flies at the top of a staff above any other flag.
- An American flag should never touch the floor or the ground.
- When displayed on a wall or window, the blue field should be in the upper left corner.
- The designer of the American flag was Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence as a delegate from New Jersey.
- The first time the flag was flown after being adopted was August 3, 1777.
- The United States flag has been changed 27 times. The final star for Hawaii was added in 1960.
- The design of the current 50-star flag is commonly credited to Robert G. Heft, a 17-year-old high school student.
- Fifty flags fly 24 hours a day around the Washington Monument.
- Pennsylvania is the only state that observes Flag Day as a state holiday.
- Six American flags have flown on the moon, and five are standing. Neil Armstrong's fell over.
- 95% of U.S. flags are made in the United States.
- The military folds the flag with 13 folds, each with a symbolic meaning.
- The gold ball on top of a flagpole is called a "truck" in military terms and a "finial" in civilian terms. The ball keeps rainwater out and serves as ornamentation. Balls won't catch and tear the flag if it blows up over the pole.
- Military lore claims the gold balls contain razor blades, matches, and bullets, which can be used to prevent an enemy from capturing a flag during an attack.
- When your flag is old and has seen better days, retire it. Old flags should be burned or buried.



## Betty Hise for Cancer Research

New board members Sharon James and Helen Altair give their thoughts on what it means to them to be involved as Directors.



Sharon James from Medford says, "I was very pleased to be asked to be a Betty Hise Director! I decided I could expand interest in helping fund cancer research by bringing information to Southern Oregon, specifically the Ashland Elks Lodge #944. The OSEA Summer Convention Betty Hise luncheon gives attendees an in-depth view of the importance and extent of cancer research being funded in Oregon and Idaho. The dedication of the Board of Directors in pursuing fund raising for quality and important cancer research is amazing! I look forward to working with this dedicated group of women!"

Helen Altair from Hillsboro says, "After an active role as ER for 3-years at Forest Grove Elks #2440, I'm taking a break! Having attended the Betty Hise luncheon at the OSEA Summer Convention, I was highly impressed and determined to see if I could join and help make a difference. My favorite aunt, my elder brother and my birth father all died of cancer, currently my son-in-law is battling cancer. This is a project that is near and dear to my heart. I hope to be worthy of the faith placed in me to fill this position."

We welcome what these ladies bring to the work force! Research funds were recently distributed in Idaho and plans are being made for Oregon. More on that next month!

Thanking all for continued support, Directors: Barbara, Lillian, Pam, Laurie, Cassandra, Virginia, Sharon, and Helen.



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# December 2023 OSEA Calendar



| Sunday   | Monday              | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday                              | Saturday                            |
|--|---------------------|---------|-----------|----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|  |                     |         |           |          | 1                                   | 2                                   |
| 3<br>Elks Memorial                             | 4                   | 5       | 6         | 7        | 8                                   | 9                                   |
| 10   | 11                  | 12      | 13        | 14       | 15<br>Condon Annual<br>Condon Lodge | 16<br>Condon Annual<br>Condon Lodge |
| 17   | 18                  | 19      | 20        | 21       | 22                                  | 23                                  |
| 24<br>Christtmas<br>Eve<br>New Years<br>Eve 31 | 25<br>Christmas Day | 26      | 27        | 28       | 29                                  | 30                                  |