



OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association
Volume I Issue No. 9 February 2022

OSEA President's Message



Hello Best People On Earth,

February brings us lots of excitement in the Elks organization. We have Past Exalted Rulers appreciation night, new Officer elections for the 2022-2023 fraternal year, Scholarship, Hoop Shoot, and of course Valentine's Day among many other community and Lodge activities and events.

An Executive Order was recently published from Grand Lodge in which the seven Oregon Districts will be reduced to five, effective July 7, 2022, although we will be handling our state affairs appropriately in preparation for the transition. Our redistricting has been in the planning stages for several months now by your OSEA Officers, and originally we were going to have the plan take effect next year. However, due to some changes in the OSEA Officer corp, it made sense to implement the redistricting now rather than wait. I encourage every Lodge and every member to reach out to the new Lodges that weren't in the same district before, and perhaps set up some visitations. Also, we will be asking our delegates to vote on several amendments to our Association Bylaws written in support of our new districts. The amended Bylaws, if passed, will become effective once Grand Lodge Judiciary approves them. We are busy working the details for appointing District and State Committee Chairs, as well as preparing to conduct necessary nominations and election processes, and other Officer appointments. Remember, any member in good standing can become nominated and placed on the ballot for the State Association elected positions (i.e. Vice Presidents and Trustees).

Pam and I were extremely honored and privileged to attend the Washington State Winter Convention, and we certainly learned a lot as well as made a lot of new friends while also

seeing familiar faces from prior events. Despite COVID-19, they put on an excellent convention. Oregon's membership growth this year has been outstanding! We have met the Membership Challenge, and as of January 30th, we are 10th in the nation with +195! We have 367 candidates to initiate and our delinquency percentage is 6.5% (1,424), which is also the national average. I personally request that each of you do your part and work together to eliminate the delinquent memberships as well as initiate as many members as you can during our final couple of months. Together, let's show Oregon pride and Oregon determination!

Stay strong, stay healthy, and God Bless you for being an Elk.

Fraternally,

Richard K Shipley
OSEA President
2021-2022

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

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Work Still Needs to Be Done, Even in Birthday Month



Our Elks' birthday this year falls on Wednesday, February 16. Hold an event to celebrate the occasion. One more important reminder: Do not forget Valentine's Day. I can honestly say I have never forgotten this day, but I have needed to run to the store early to get a few things before someone wakes up.

February is a very important month for us. Only a few weeks remain in this Elks' year and a lot of work still needs to be done. For example, new officer elections should be held at your last regular monthly meeting this month. Do not look at February as only having a few weeks left to serve, but as the opportunity to finish the year strong. Do your best to make your Lodge more successful than you started for the Members and community to continue "Meeting the Challenge."

Current Exalted Rulers, there are many programs and awards at your disposal. Any Member who has a combination of sponsoring or reinstating three Members is eligible to receive the Grand Exalted Ruler Award Pin. Exalted Rulers can also submit two Members for the Grand Exalted Ruler's Outstanding Service Commendation. There are also two Making A Difference Special Citation awards, one for the Exalted Ruler and another for the Lodge. You can find this information in the Lodge Activities Program supported by the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee.

The Elks Legacy Scholarships deadline is also this month. Remember, this scholarship is for any Elks Member's children and grandchildren. Make sure your Members are aware of this program.

Finally, new officers need to start having meetings to plan for the next year. Start developing your yearly budgets and, if possible, set your yearly calendar of events. Be realistic when developing your budget. This is a working document that can and should be amended as your year moves forward. The work and effort you put in now will show throughout the year in your operations. Your year will still have some bumps and

curves, but you will be better prepared to handle any situation that will arise. All officers should act as one. Having monthly meetings better prepares you for your upcoming activities and will help you to continue "Meeting the Challenge."

- Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills

Elks Most Valuable Student Contest

By Mary J. Danca, OR State Scholarship Chair

Oregon's Scholarship program is strong with 633 students applying for the 2021-2022 ENF Most Valuable Student Contest. Local lodges are the first to judge the applicants and present their own awards. Students then advance through local, district, state and national judging. State judging for this year's contest began on Jan 28 and concludes on Feb 12 with the state awards ceremony at the Ashland Lodge #944. The first place ranked male and female from each of our seven districts have been invited to the state awards ceremony, this is an exciting program and always fun to meet the top students in the state.

Plans are made for the event, starting with dinner and music by Robbie DaCosta, a local Elks member, on Friday. On Saturday afternoon the students arrive in Ashland for lunch, followed by interviews with State judges, and in the evening after a fine dinner will be presented with their awards. These top students along with 3 other top scorers from the second place in the districts advance to compete at the National Level. The national award winners will be announced in late March.

Last year's awards program was canceled due to covid closures and restrictions but this year we anticipate it happening. Currently Oregon is experiencing a surge in positive covid cases and although we are planning to meet, there is always a chance that a winter storm will cause us to cancel (as happened in Hood River a few years ago) or that COVID will cause us to cancel (like last year). If you are planning to come to Ashland and are concerned that either of these things may happen, please contact your lodge, the Ashland lodge or the state office to confirm the ceremony is still taking place. We look forward to the awards presentation and will do all we can to make it so. I look forward to meeting you and hope that your experience will be one to remember.

The Dalles Lodges Provides over \$10,000 for Meals on Wheels

From Vickie Young

The Dalles Elks Lodge #303 generously donated \$10,747 to the Dalles Meals on Wheels Program in 2021. Denise, or Nise, Patton runs the Meals on Wheels program from the Mid-Columbia Senior Center in the Dalles. This program put out over 50,000 meals in 2020 alone according to their Facebook page. The program relies on volunteers who drive the hot nourishing meals to homebound seniors living in the community. The program also relies on volunteers who help prepare and drive the meals. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering you can call 541-298-8333

This donation was made possible through an Elks National Foundation Grant, the lodge Poker Players, and other fundraising held throughout the year such as working the Wasco and Sherman County Fairs. The lodge also held multiple lodge burger night fundraisers twice a month in the Eagles/Elks building. A very generous member of good standing also made a substantial donation to support this effort.

The Dalles Lodges would like to thank everyone that has been involved this year in helping them be able to give this donation.



Left to right: Trustee Lee Kasberg, Secretary Patti Gillette, Meals on Wheels Executive Director Nise Patton and The Dalles Elks Exalted Ruler Mark Watts.

The St. Helens Elks Veterans Bunker



In 2015 the St. Helens Elks Lodge established the Elks Veterans Bunker as a place veterans could go and receive assistance for themselves and their families. This facility is the first veterans resource facility in the nation to have been established by an Elks lodge. Today, the bunker continues to be sponsored by the St. Helens Elks Lodge with support from the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and numerous other local organizations, businesses, and community leaders. In Columbia County the veteran population exceeds 6,000 people plus their families. All counties have a Veterans Services officer, but Columbia County only has 1 such officer to serve the veterans in the county. The volunteers at the Elks Veterans Bunker help provide additional support to area veterans. At the Bunker veterans can get help finding various resources such as financial, medical care, mental health resources, or simply a cup of coffee and conversation. The volunteers at the Bunker have found that particularly with veterans from older generations that they have not applied for all the benefits they deserve. By connecting the veterans with services and assistance they are entitled to it can make a significant improvement in their quality of life.

The volunteers at the Bunker focus on building relationships to help veterans feel ready to ask for help and then helping them get their paperwork in order. In addition to services that come through the Department of Veterans Affairs, the volunteers of the Bunker also help draw on local resources to support veterans. They have supported things like a hospital bed for the home of an aging veteran to assisting with burst pipes.

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The St. Helens Elks Veterans Bunker

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The Bunker has the strong support of the local community as well as volunteers and donors who stand ready to do whatever is needed to ensure that the motto of the Elks that so long as there are veterans, we will never forget them is exemplified in the St. Helens community every day.



The Bunker also maintains a food pantry (including pet food) as well as collects clothing and personal hygiene products for veterans who are unhoused. Volunteers at the Bunker also work with the county's court diversion program for veterans struggling with substance abuse or mental illness who are impacted by the criminal justice system. Other programs offered at the Bunker include Farming for Freedom which uses farming and small-scale agriculture as a therapeutic exercise for veterans. The produce grown by veterans on a communal lot, as well as on their own land, goes towards veterans and local food banks. And services can be as simple as veterans seeking a connection with others through support groups or even just someone to listen over a cup of coffee.



OSEA President Rick Shipley at the St. Helens Elks Veterans Bunker during his visit to the Northwest District.

Counterfeit Pills Present Added Danger to Teens

By William J. Bryan, Assistant National Director

Our partners at the DEA have asked us to share this message with all our members as part of their "One Pill Can Kill" campaign. Here are some facts:

- Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public.
- Counterfeit pills are widely available and easy to purchase. They often contain fentanyl or methamphetamine and can be deadly.
- Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them available to anyone with a smartphone, including minors.
- Many counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription opioids such as oxycodone (OxyContin, Percocet), hydrocodone (Vicodin), and alprazolam (Xanax); or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall).

"When we know the facts, we become educated. When we become educated, we are able to make informed decisions" said National Director Kent Gade.

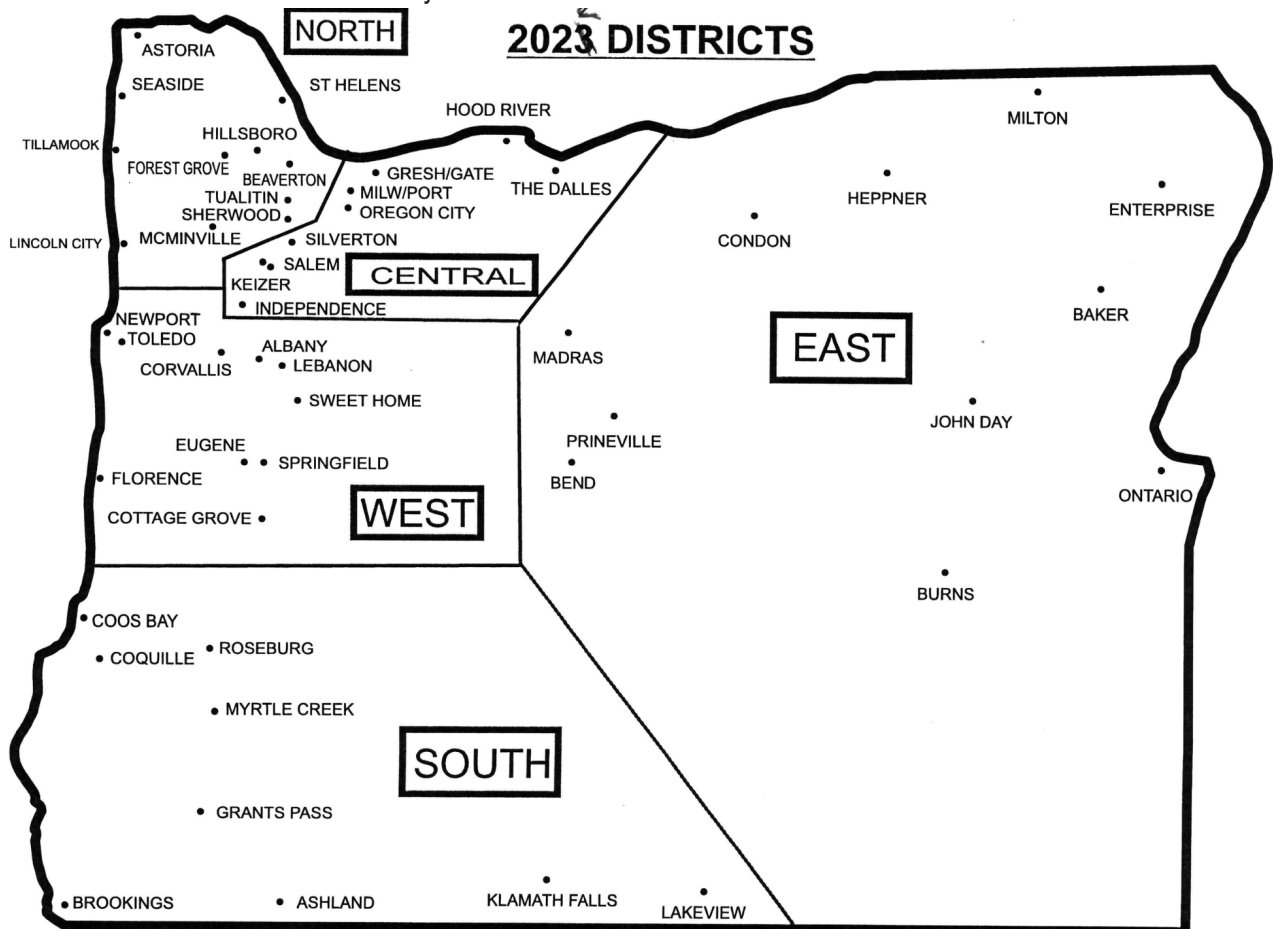
He went on to state: "That is why our partnership with the DEA is so important. Because they are on top of this issue, we can pass it on to our membership faster than anyone." I encourage each and every Elk Member to visit the following websites: www.justthinktwice.com (for teens); www.elksteenzone.com (for teens); www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com (for parents, caregivers and teachers); www.campusdrugprevention.gov (for teachers and college campus advisors); and join the already two thousand plus individuals who have subscribe to the new Elks Drug Awareness YouTube channel."

Lodge chairs (or any concerned Member) should visit www.dea.gov/onepill for your very own tool kit. Members are encouraged to visit all of the Elks Drug Awareness Programs websites so that you may educate yourself on the works of the Drug Awareness Program. If you are interested in becoming an Elks Drug Awareness Ambassador, contact your Lodge chair and or your state chair for additional information.

State Association Redistricting Update

As we have been previewing for the last several months, the Oregon State Elks Association has been planning on moving from seven districts to five districts. Originally this was targeted for implementation in 2023, however due to unforeseen changes in the state officer corps the planned redistricting has been pushed up and will go into effect this coming July. The new districts are outlined in Executive Order 21-106 which should have been read at your lodge meeting and are listed below as well as a map of the new districts. At the Summer Convention in Seaside delegates will have the opportunity to vote on several bylaw changes that will align our state association bylaws with the new districts, such as reducing the number of committee members and reducing the number of state officers. In addition, when voting for next years state officers lodges will be voting in their new district configurations. If you have any questions on this redistricting process or the bylaw changes please do not hesitate to contact any of the Oregon State Elks Association Officers.

<u>Central</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Milwaukie-Portland	Astoria	Eugene	Baker	Roseburg
The Dalles	McMinnville	Albany	Heppner	Ashland
Salem	Tillamook	Corvallis	Bend	Coos Bay
Oregon City	Seaside	Lebanon	Burns	Klamath Falls
Hood River	Hillsboro	Toledo	Ontario	Lakeview
Gateway-Gresham	Lincoln City	Florence	Prineville	Grants Pass
Independence	Beaverton	Cottage Grove	John Day	Brookings
Silverton	St. Helens	Sweet Home	Enterprise	Coquille Valley
Keizer	Sherwood	Newport	Condon	Myrtle Creek
	Forest Grove	Springfield	Madras	
	Tualatin Valley		Milton-Freewater	



Betty Hise for Cancer Research

by Betty Hise for Cancer Research Board of Directors

We all know that laughter is good for the soul. Comedian Alex Elkin provided fun and entertaining soul food as the featured event at Salem Lodge #336 for a night of comedy, their Betty Hise for Cancer Research fundraiser. Salem Lodge presented a check for \$1000 to the Betty Hise for Cancer Research. Thank you, Salem!! It was a fun event for all. Betty Hise Directors gathered at the Salem Lodge earlier in the day for their board meeting and stayed for dinner and lots of laughs.

Busy planning for the Oregon State Elks Convention at Seaside in April, Betty Hise for Cancer Research fundraising will once again be a silent auction. We will have a room at the Summer Convention for you to browse the baskets and start bidding!! We are requesting contributions of baskets and/or individual items please from all Lodges! Surprise us! We appreciate all efforts going into creating the fun baskets etc. We will be on hand to receive donated items starting Wednesday and ready for the bidding Thurs-Sat with drawings at Convention before closing on Saturday.

Everyone is invited to attend our Betty Hise for Cancer Research luncheon Friday at Convention. Look for information in your Convention packet. Guest speaker yet to be determined. Join us for the latest in Cancer Research around lunch fun and door prizes and Shrimp salad and Chowder or Chicken Cordon Bleu. We look forward to seeing you!

Recapping recent \$5000 donation from Betty Hise for Cancer Research to St Luke's Cancer Institute in Idaho. Their thank you reiterated it will support the Allogeneic Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials being conducted. The funds will also allow them to continue bringing valuable research opportunities to their cancer patient population. Our gift will help expand access to vital services and programs, acquire the latest medical equipment and technologies, and advance promising new research and treatment. With the help of Betty Hise for Cancer Research, clinical research will continue to move forward and ensure patient care approaches the highest level of quality. Good to hear!!

Highlighting our two 3rd year Directors at this time. Sheri Bowers from Silverton Lodge #2210 says "I personally have lost 14 family members to this disease. I appreciate the

opportunity as a Betty Hise Director to be part of making a difference towards the cure for cancer. What we do today in supporting cancer studies will make a difference in the future. It's about the research to find a cure. I enjoy the friendships and the teamwork of the Directors for this important cause, serving Betty Hise for Cancer Research."

Deborah McFerron from Keizer Lodge #2472 says "When I was asked to consider becoming a Director for Betty Hise Cancer Research, I thought what a great cause and opportunity to work with like-minded women. Just one year ago, my husband was diagnosed with throat cancer. They were successful in eradicating it and now he is cancer free. Having firsthand experience benefiting from cancer research, I am thrilled to be giving back to the community and am committed as a Director, to fundraising and fund distributions."



Reminding again what can you do to help Betty Hise for Cancer Research that is easy from home? Do you know about AmazonSmile? Under lists find AmazonSmile Charity Lists and designate Betty Hise for Cancer Research as your charity of choice and every time you shop, it's important to remember you have to start shopping at smile.amazon.com and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of qualifying purchases to Betty Hise for Cancer Research!

Thank you and shop till you drop!



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February 2022 OSEA Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 OSEA Scholarship Weekend - Ashland	12 OSEA Scholarship Weekend - Ashland
13	14 Valentines Day	15	16 Happy Birthday Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks	17	18	19
20	21 Presidents Day	22	23	24	25	26 State Hoop Shoot Silverton
27	28	1	2	3	4	5 OSEA Officers Meeting - Lincoln City