



# OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association  
Volume II Issue No. 10 February 2023

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

## OSEA President's message



Greetings,

Welcome to February, in case you missed it the new Lodge year is just two months away. That means we only have 60 days to initiate all the folks in the pipeline.

Just as a reminder you don't have to wait for a regular meeting. You can hold a special meeting, if you do that, ask the PER's to do an initiation. A quick reminder don't forget to pay your dues for the coming year, we have been making great strides and are on track to have another record setting year.

I have finished the District visitations. and need to send a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for welcoming Joedy and I to your lodges. I have met people I hope to never forget. And let's not forget the donations to our charities, Veterans Suicide Prevention and Joedy's charity, Mental Health Awareness. We have far surpassed what I thought we would raise, and since our year is not up, I'll wait until a later date to give you all a total. But I'll tell you all this, I am amazed.

This next month we will be having the State Scholarship event on February 11, 2023. And then the State Hoop Shoot February 18, 2023. What a treat both of those events are. If you've never been make I a point to stop by Silverton on the 11th or he Lodge

Ben L. Adams Jr.  
Oregon State Elks Association  
President

## The My Elks Mobile App

It has been nine months since launched the My Elks mobile app in Area 8. Since then we have brought nearly 150 lodges onboard with the app and have nearly 10,000 members using it. And we continue to roll out new features to make the app even more useful to lodges and members. You can now RSVP for events or sign up to volunteer via the My Elks App. We will soon have lodge RV park data available in the lodge locator, and now you can even pay your dues safely and securely via the My Elks App (requires your lodge to be enrolled in the Grand Lodge dues billing program). If you have not downloaded the My Elks app you can do so today from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

To learn more about the My Elks app you can access all of the resources our team has put together including training videos, promotional materials, and other guides and resources visit [www.my-elks.com](http://www.my-elks.com) today!

## In This Month's Issue

- OSEA Presidents message - Page 1
- The My Elks mobile app - Page 1
- Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler - Page 2
- OSEA YouTube channel - Page 2
- Elks Night at the Portland Trail Blazers - Page 3
- Membership Growth - Page 4
- DAP YouTube channel - Page 5
- Initiations can get Elks to 100k - Page 5
- First responders embody service- Page 6
- Betty Hise for Cancer Research - Page 6
- OSEA November 2022 calendar - Page 7

Newsletter articles can be submitted to the OSEA Public Relations and Marketing Committee at [Blake.ORNCElks@gmail.com](mailto:Blake.ORNCElks@gmail.com).

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## Grand Exalted Ruler: Review your Lodge programs before the year ends



It's hard to believe that on February 16, 2023, our great Order will celebrate its 155th year of existence. Happy birthday to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks!

February is an extremely busy month for us as Elks. There are only two months left in your Lodge year. I respectfully

request that you review the progress of your Lodge programs. It's not too late to achieve the goals you haven't yet reached. Your Lodge certainly can get a lot done in the remaining two months. I can't think of any better way of "Promoting Elkdome With Enthusiasm" than to proudly tell all your Members you have successfully achieved your per capita for the Elks National Foundation, reached a +1 in membership, and accomplished the goals of the programs that are so important to the Elks and your community.

The month of February is also a time when new officers are nominated and elected for the new Lodge year. I encourage all the Lodges in our great Order to elect someone who is going to be dedicated to the affairs of your Lodge and your community. The success of your Lodge programs will depend upon their leadership. A fine way of "Promoting Elkdome With Enthusiasm" is for your Exalted Ruler to demonstrate dedicated leadership to all the Members of the Lodge. It truly shows your community that "Elks Care – Elks Share" when we have a great group of officers.

Lodge Secretaries should note that February is the time when you must file the Statutory Lodge Committee Chairpersons report and the Local Lodge Directory information report in the respective CLMS2 online forms. This information is extremely important so that updates are done in a timely manner.

February is also when our Past Exalted Rulers perform the ritual during your Lodge's Past Exalted Rulers Night. To our PERs: This is your time to shine by performing an excellent rendition of the initiatory ritual for the incoming Members.

On February 2, Punxsutawney Phil emerges from his burrow

on Groundhog Day. This day is important to me since I live in the Northeast. If Phil sees his shadow that day, it means six more weeks of cold and snow. Brrrrr.

During February, we recognize American Heart Month. This is when we get our Local Lodges and communities together to raise awareness to prevent heart disease. Proudly wear red during this month to show Elks care about addressing heart disease.

Let's not forget Valentine's Day on February 14. Cupid catches each of us so we express our love and affection for each other. To my wife, Helen: Happy Valentine's Day. You are the love of my life.

God bless all of you. God bless our troops, past and present. And most of all, God bless America.

## New OSEA YouTube Channel

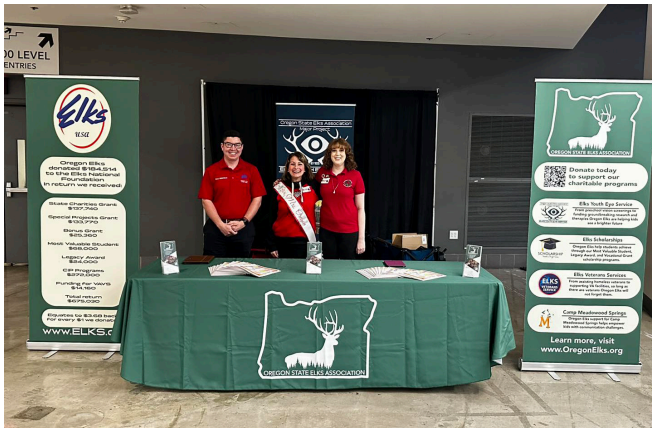
Just a reminder that the Oregon State Elks Association has a YouTube channel. You can find the channel by searching Oregon State Elks Association on YouTube or using this link: <https://www.youtube.com/@OregonStateElksAssociation>

We have videos about the My Elks Mobile App as well as regular video messages updating you about what's going on and sharing important tips on membership and more! If you have an idea for a future video update make sure to let your district member of the Public Relations and Marketing Committee know.



## Oregon Elks Night at the Portland Trail Blazers

During the January 28th Portland Trail Blazers game vs the Toronto Raptors Oregon Elks showed up to show off who we are and what we do for communities across Oregon. We had almost 80 members attend the game wearing their Elks shirts, hats, and jackets. In addition, we had a table on the concourse where we had a team of incredible Elks talking to fans about the Elks and what we do. They also passed out coloring books for kids and brochures about what we do. We also talked to Elks in town from Hawaii, California, and Washington who happened to be walking by and saw our display. We even got a few folks to sign up view the join.elks.org website. Special thanks go out to Lysie Winstead and Danielle Leckband from Milwaukie Portland as well as Sean Simmerman from Oregon City who helped cover the Elks Information Table. We also managed to get ourselves in the background of the mascot parade around the concourse and had the Elks USA logo visible in the background of the pre-game broadcast. Overall, this was a great night of fun for those members who attended the game and a fantastic night for promoting our organization and what we do.



These are the types of outside the box ways we need to be considering in order to promote the Elks and our lodges. And it doesn't need to be at a major event like a Portland Trail Blazers game. You can take a group of members all wearing lodge shirts or jackets to your local teams' events such as the high school football or basketball game. You can also reach out and see if there are opportunities for your lodge to volunteer or event set up a booth at these events. Whatever we can do to get out in our communities and promote our lodges the better job we will do in recruiting new members. If we want the community to come be involved in our lodges, then we need to be involved in our communities.



In addition to sporting events local community festivals, farmers markets, the annual family night out, and more present opportunities for your lodge. Our Grand Exalted Ruler has asked us to promote the Elks with enthusiasm this year. We cannot do that sitting our clubs and lounges, we need to go out into the community and share the pride we have in this organization with others. If you need assistance or help with ideas and planning to get more involved with your local community reach out to your district PR and Marketing Committee Member today! We will be happy to share ideas from what other lodges and organizations are doing to help you build an effective community outreach campaign for your lodge.

## Oregon Membership Update

Last year Oregon came in 5th in the nation for membership gain and we are well on our way to achieving a second straight year of membership growth. As an organization it has been 43 years since the Elks have had two consecutive years of growth and thanks to the efforts of Oregon Elks and Elks across the country promoting Elkdom with enthusiasm we are well on our way to making history. There are two key things to keep in mind in regard to our membership efforts *initiation* and *delinquents*.

We currently have 438 candidates awaiting initiation into our order. We have two months left in the year to make sure we are getting all of those outstanding candidates initiated plus any additional that submit applications. And if candidates are not able to make your regular lodge initiation you do have several options available to you in order to make sure these candidates get initiated into our order. First, you can hold a special meeting for the purpose of initiation. This meeting could be held on a weekend or even a weekday afternoon. And if your elected officers are not all able to participate you can have a team of PER's conduct the initiation for you as well. Another option is to talk to neighboring lodges to see if their initiation nights work better for your candidate. The candidate will still be a member of your lodge even if a neighboring lodge conducts their initiation ritual. If we can initiate all of our current candidates, we have a projected gain of 382 new members for the year. And again, we still have two months left to add even more to that number.

We also have 1,621 delinquent members. In late January the OSEA membership team sent emails and text messages to delinquent members encouraging them to renew their dues. Those efforts led to nearly 100 delinquent members being removed from the delinquent list. This proves that if we take the time and put in the effort to reach out to delinquent members, we can get them to renew. When reaching out to these delinquent members, if they don't want to renew it is important to find out why especially if it is due to a financial or medical hardship. This is especially common among older members, many of whom have been members of our order for decades. Over eighty of our current delinquent members hold life member status. Our lodges do an incredible amount of charity work in our communities, but don't forget that charity starts at home. If you have long time members or life members who are not able to renew due to health or financial

hardship give them a hardship consideration. They have given decades of loyal membership to our order, making sure we maintain their membership when there are not able to is the least we can do in return.

Oregon is well positioned for another gain this year. In January we exceeded our new member goal by bringing in more than 2500 new members in Oregon. Let's keep our foot on the gas and end the year with a strong membership gain.

### Lodges with a projected gain:

- Milwaukie-Portland + 175
- Salem + 18
- Oregon City + 46
- Hood River + 29
- Independence +5
- Silverton +2
- Keizer +64
- Tillamook + 19
- Seaside + 6
- Hillsboro +71
- Lincoln City + 15
- St. Helens + 70
- Sherwood + 35
- Forrest Grove + 19
- Eugene + 2
- Corvallis + 11
- Toledo + 5
- Florence + 62
- Sweet Home + 9
- Bend + 7
- John Day +17
- Milton-Freewater + 12
- Roseburg + 7
- Ashland + 20
- Grants Pass + 4
- Brookings + 90

That is 26 Oregon Lodges with a projected membership gain for 2022-2023. That is over half of our lodges already with a projected gain. Another 11 lodges are within 10 new members of having a gain as well.

***Oregon Elks are all gas and no brakes for a membership gain***

## Have you visited DAP's YouTube channel?

If you have not visited the Elks Drug Awareness YouTube channel, you're really missing out on some great information.

The DAP and our partners at DEA have produced high-quality podcasts, featuring the second season of Awkward Conversations. Hosted by Jodie Sweetin, (best known for her role as Stephanie Tanner in the ABC series Full House and the Netflix sequel series Fuller House) these 20-minute podcasts cover a variety of topics that range from "Helping Kids De-Stress" to "Building Family Relationships." In addition, you can watch the original Awkward Conversations, a three-part series released in 2021. And while you're there, please consider subscribing. The DAP YouTube channel can be found at: [youtube.com/@elksdap/videos](https://youtube.com/@elksdap/videos).

Did you also know we're on TikTok? Because that's where the kids are at. Find us at [tiktok.com/@elksdap](https://tiktok.com/@elksdap).

Want to be involved in the Drug Awareness Program but don't have the time to commit 24/7? Think about becoming a DAP Ambassador. If you need more information about this innovative way of giving back to your community, contact your State Chairman. This program allows for volunteers to become involved, but not overly so.

Exalted Rulers, as your year winds down, remember that drug and substance use and abuse by our youth does not wind down unless they are informed and made aware of their dangers. A wonderful resource available to you is the 2022 edition of DEA's Drugs of Abuse, currently available in digital form here: [dea.gov/documents/2022/2022-12/2022-12-02/drugs-abuse-2022](https://dea.gov/documents/2022/2022-12/2022-12-02/drugs-abuse-2022).

Used as the flagship outreach publication by the DEA for decades, Drugs of Abuse is updated biennially with the latest statistics, trends, and information. Please share this publication with adults in your community outreach efforts. The 2020 edition is now out of date and should no longer be distributed. It is available in both English and Spanish. If you would like a hard copy of this informative publication, please feel free to contact the DEA's outreach office at community.outreach@dea.gov for a free copy.

## Initiations can get Elks to 100K

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is one of the premier charitable organizations in the United States. We are a nationwide organization whose membership over 15 decades has consisted of tens of millions of America's finest citizens.

We will hit our January goal of 75,000 new Members added. We have more than 13,000 candidates waiting to be initiated! Lodges have been working hard to add new Members and retain the Members we already have.

Our Order has not added 100,000 new Members in one year since 1992. Help us get there by encouraging your Lodges to hold initiations, sharing content that helps the public understand what we do, and inviting your friends and family to join.



**Congratulations!**  
The **75,000** new Members  
we added could  
fill a football stadium.  
Let's go fill another one!



**Elkdom With Enthusiasm!**

[join.elks.org](https://join.elks.org)  [@bpoeusa](https://www.facebook.com/bpoeusa)

## First responders embody service



We as Elks try to exemplify the word service in our local communities every day. Two of our cardinal principles, Charity and Brotherly Love, reflect this and are part of the very foundation on which our Order is built. The Grand Lodge also promotes, in our Local Lodges, many programs to recognize service, including the Medal of Service and the Medal of Valor programs.

For a small fee, your Lodge Secretary can order both Medals of Service and Valor. The Service medals are to be awarded to local EMS, fire fighting, and law enforcement representatives deemed worthy by your membership, for exemplary service in the performance of their work. While I pray your Lodge never has the need to award a Medal of Valor, it is intended to be given to the families of those same first responders who have lost their lives in the performance of their duties.

If your Lodge is not currently participating in this program, I strongly encourage you to begin as soon as possible. It is a simple, low-cost program that provides a high impact appreciation for your membership and our entire Order.

You can find additional information for this or any Activities program on Elks.org. Navigate to the Activities tab under Grand Lodge committees. You may always contact your Activities Area committeeperson directly as well.

## Betty Hise for Cancer Research

Betty Hise for Cancer Research is proudly celebrating 35 years of dedication to fundraising in support of Cancer Research! We are pleased to report the grand total donated is at \$678,264 and counting!

Each year we choose one program in each of Oregon and Idaho as recipients of our funds.

The chosen program in Oregon is named Ovarian Cancer Research, led by Tanja Pejovic, M.D., Ph., K. at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. The program's focus is ovarian cancer with brain metastases. As the treatment of ovarian cancer has improved and the survival is longer, the incidence of brain metastases and the treatment has become a challenge. Unfortunately, effective treatment is currently not available. OHSU has recently paired with six academic centers that are working together in this research and are referred to as the Ovarian Cancer Brain Metastases Consortium. More on this program as we learn more!

St Luke's Cancer Institute in Idaho program is named Breast Cancer Research – ADEPT whose goals were highlighted in December's issue of the OSEA newsletter. Again, more on this study as we learn more.

Betty Hise Director positions are a four-year commitment. Due to Covid stayed in place an extra year. We thank Diane Deseve and Jan Lowe for their leadership in that two-year span. Current leading Directors are Sheri Bowers and Deb McFerron, followed by Barb Smith, Lillian Estep, Pam Shipley, and Laurie Flatt Roberge, and see photo of newest Directors Cassandra Flatt and Virginia Privatsky-Williams.

To all supporters, we thank you for your interest and loyalty!





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# February 2023 OSEA Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 State Scholarship banquet @ Heppner
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 State Hoop Shoot @ Silverton
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3 OSEA Officers Meeting @ Florence	4 OSEA Officers Meeting @ Florence