



OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association
Volume I Issue No. 2 July 2021

OSEA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings Fellow Elks!

Summer is upon us and parts of our great state are already facing extremely high temperatures and wildfires. Please ensure that you spend some extra time to take care of yourselves, families, friends, and community members. Please stay healthy and stand ready to help when called upon.

Pam and I had the extreme pleasure of attending another fundraising event for Keith and Amy Mills in preparation for their year as Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady, and this time it was chaired by Jayne Kell and hosted at Milwaukie-Portland Lodge #142. It was a fantastic night with outstanding attendance, and well over \$11,000 was raised! Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a successful night.

Pam and I headed to Washington for their State Convention along with several other Oregon Elks members and guests, and had a fantastic time. We reacquainted ourselves with many of our friends to the North and made even more new ones. It was a weekend of great business and training sessions, and unbelievable social activities. I was even invited to pay my initiation fee to join the Washington State Elks Association Past State Presidents once my year as Oregon's President is up, and I readily agreed to do so. The last evening concluded with Karaoke and once again, I will leave it at that. I definitely look forward to seeing the pictures posted on our website.

Grand Lodge in Tampa is rapidly approaching, and although I am very disappointed that for the first time in twenty years that I know of as an Elk, Oregon will not be sending

a Ritual team. Pam and I are definitely looking forward to representing Oregon along with many of you. I am asking each Lodge to once again consider having their Officers participate in upcoming District and as applicable State Ritual contests. After all, initiations must be performed which means there must be some practice involved, so we might as well have some fun, but serious, competition this upcoming year. Please consider helping me reinvigorate Ritual within the State of Oregon.

After Tampa, Pam and I will attend the Institution of Gateway-Gresham Elks Lodge #1805 as those two lodges will merge to form one outstanding lodge! Then, we will jump on another plane and head to Billings for the Montana State Elks Association convention.

Sadly, I must report that Hermiston Lodge has voted to turn in their Charter. I certainly hope the members affiliate themselves with another lodge.

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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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

The State Association Officers are investigating whether Oregon should redistrict ourselves as we have several indicators that point towards needing such a necessary change. I am appointing a small committee to examine the possibilities, and come up with a plan as there are many hurdles to contend with. Our State infrastructure is changing, and certainly a change in our District "Map" merits serious consideration. Initially, we are considering going from 7 Districts to 5, but that of course is up to the committee to provide recommendations for necessary Bylaw changes. If the decision is to move forward with redistricting, our goal is to have the changes be available for vote by the delegates at next year's Summer Convention in Seaside in April. Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming months.

Thank you to The Best People on Earth, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Fraternally,
Rick Shipley, OSEA President 2021-2022
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MILWAUKIE PORTLAND #142

GOLF TOURNEY

By Emma Pletz, Golf Chair.

It's that time of the year again when we are gearing up for our 7th Annual Golf Tourney. This year it will be held on September 11th at the Oregon City Golf Club. This is a fundraiser for the Oregon Elks Children's Eye Clinic and we hope you can join us. Your entry fee gives you 18-holes of golf, golf cart and a great chicken dinner banquet. Get a foursome together or we will find one for you. Don't play golf but would like to support us in another way? Why not sponsor a hole for \$100 (personal or business is great!) or just make a donation. Want to make a raffle basket? That would be fantastic! We can also use volunteers that day. Entry forms and sponsorship forms are available at the lodge or you can contact me, Emma Pletz, at backtrax1@gmail.com and I will happily send you one or answer your questions! Hope to see lots of you there. No skill required to play!!

HOW TO FOLLOW THE

GRAND LODGE CONVENTION

Want to follow the highlights of the Grand Lodge Convention in Tampa? Make sure to follow BPOE TV on Facebook for content from Tampa! You can also follow the Oregon State Elks Association Facebook page for updates from the Oregon delegation.
<http://www.facebook.com/OregonStateElksAssociation>

"TAMPA TIME"
with PGER Mike Smith Hosted by Rick Gathen
Featuring Daily Highlights
of the Grand Lodge Convention
in Tampa FL
Starting Sunday, July 4th
BPOE TV f
Elks
Sunday - Guest Appearance by GER Paul Ryan
Monday - Where to "Eat, Drink and Play" in Tampa
Tuesday - Guest Appearance by Endorsed Candidate for GER Keith Mills

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

By Blake Whitson, OSEA Public Relations and Marketing Chairman

Last month the OSEA Public Relations and Marketing Committee put out our first press release for the year to celebrate the news that Oregon lodges came in 5th in the nation for charitable giving among Elks lodges with over \$9.3 million donated last year. Between newspapers and social media nearly 52,000 people in Oregon saw our headline and had the chance to read about the incredible work done by your lodges. On social media alone we had over 1400 individuals reached, 22 shares, 101 reactions, and 54 people further viewed our page to learn more about us. But this is just a start, we need to make sure that we are continuing to spread the word about our lodges and the great things we are doing to serve our communities every day. We need to take pride in those things and share that pride with others. So, we are asking you to help us spread the word even further. You can help by sharing our posts about our charitable activities with your friends and family as well as local officials and the media. Let's make sure 52,000 people hearing about the good work we do is just the start!

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT: SOUTH CENTRAL

Lodges:

Albany 359 ~ Corvallis 1413 ~ Cottage Grove 1904
Eugene 357 ~ Lebanon 1663 ~ Springfield 2145
Sweet Home 1972

Things are starting to get back to some sense of normalcy here in the South Central District. Like all the lodges in the state, activities came to a screeching halt 15 months ago and it has been a challenge to continue to serve our communities.

Members of Albany Lodge have started back being of service for their community. This summer, they are using their Beacon Grant at the Albany Saturday Market where they will support the Power of Produce. This club teaches children from 5 to 12 years old about fruits and vegetables and the importance of healthy eating. They are also part of the Great Platypus Drop, which is happening in August. This event entails 10,000 ducks (platypus) being dropped from the sky onto a target. The one that lands closest wins!



Corvallis Lodge celebrates their 100th Anniversary this year. Plans are in the works for a celebration and we will keep you posted. The lodge has been hosting Meals on Wheels for over a year and they continued to offer their services during this time. The kitchen has opened up and meals are being served on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. The Pinochle players are back on Wednesday, as well as the Painting Ladies. A first time Bunco Night was attended by a lively group of participants. There was also a Spring Craft Fair, which was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our lodge. The Shooting Range is back in operation and the members have been busy cleaning up and doing updates as needed. The lodge is proud to announce that one of their

Scholarship winners, Caleb Matthews of Philomath HS, advanced to Nationals and was awarded a \$20,000 Elks National Foundation scholarship.



Eugene Lodge is up and running again. They are offering lunch and dinner on Wednesdays and Fridays. They have also resumed their dances and had two in June. Bingo will again be on Tuesday nights. The lodge continues to serve their community, and on June 5th eight members volunteered to help out with assembling furniture for the Boys and Girls Club afternoon activities at the Creswell Club House.

Springfield lodge has started a Craft Class and a once a month golf outing. Officers hosted a Mother's Day Brunch and a Father's Day BBQ. They are hosting Blood Drives and are doing Snack Packs for Kids. Their Scholarship winner, Noah Tornell, placed 4th in state and advanced to Nationals.

All of the lodges in South Central look forward to being fully opened up so we are able to visit one another again. It is time to renew old friendships and make new ones!

OSEA EMAIL LIST

If you would like to sign up to receive the monthly OSEA newsletter by email you can sign up either on the Oregon State Elks Association Facebook Page or by emailing Blake.ORNCElks@gmail.com to get the sign up link sent to you. In addition to the monthly newsletter, you may receive occasional announcements and special information from the State Association. Information provided will not be sold or shared and will only be used for communications and information from the Oregon State Elks Association.

SUMMER CONVENTION REPORT

By Emma Pletz, OSEA Executive Secretary

Even though we were not able to all come to Summer Convention, we were able to have Grand Exalted Ruler Paul Ryan and his wife Stacey attend, as well as State Sponsor and Past Grand Exalted Ruler Roger True, Special Deputy to Oregon and incoming Grand Exalted Ruler Keith Mills and his wife Amy, plus Grand Trustee Joe Basil and his wife Virginia. That made for a Past Grand Exalted Ruler, a current Grand Exalted Ruler and an incoming Grand Exalted Ruler plus a Grand Lodge Trustee in attendance. A rare thing for any state convention.

The proceedings were on Zoom and are posted on the state website under Member Resources. Many awards were given out during the session. They are as follows:

OSEA Membership Awards:

John Day #1824 – Largest membership gain with 10.7% growth (+30 members)

Enterprise #1829 – Largest membership gain by percentage with 16.9% growth (+28 members)

Largest membership gain by district:

SW - Brookings #1934 - +28 members

NW - Toledo #1664 - +26 members

SW – Myrtle Creek - +19 members

SC – Albany #359 - +6 members

NW – Lincoln City #1886 - +1 member

NE – Condon #1869 - +2 members

Top Proposers

1. Tom Misfeldt – SW – Brookings #1934 – 18 members
2. (Tie) Kay Murdock – Metro – Milwaukie Portland #142 – 14 members
3. (Tie) Jan Sloan – NC – Salem #336 – 14 members
4. Darwin Chirstensen – SC – Albany #359 – 11 members
5. Charles Caughlin – SE – John Day #1824 – 9 members
6. Duncan Christman – NE – Enterprise #1829 – 8 members
7. Adam Israel – NW – Seaside #1748 – 7 members

Lodge Bulletin winners

Category C – lodges less than 400 members

1st – Toledo #1664 – NW District

2nd – Roseburg # 326 – SW District

3rd – Cottage Grove #1904 – SC District

Category B – Lodge between 400-700 members

1st – Corvallis #1413 – SC District

2nd – Salem #336 – NC District

3rd – Tillamook #1437 – NW District

Category A – Lodges over 701 members

1st – Florence #1858 – NW District

Veterans Volunteer of the Year

Male – Leonard Degroot – Bend #1371

Female – Emma Pletz – Milwaukie Portland #142

Officer of the Year

Beth Cox – Hillsboro #1862

Elk of the Year

None

Hall of Fame

Bill Jacobsen – Ontario #1690

Don Roth – Silverton #2210

Paul “Lanny” Schulze – Newport # 2105

Bylaw Amendments

All 28 bylaw amendments passed by a vast majority of votes.

- Fall Seminar can now be a business meeting if needed. It will stay mainly as a training seminar.
- New lodges will no longer pay a sliding scale on dues. They will pay the same as all lodges.
- The Assistant Tiler and Organist were added as OSEA Appointed Officers.
- The ritual team from the year previous to Grand Lodge Convention will now be the team competing at the National competition (This year’s officers will be the ones competing at the district and state competitions). This brings us into alignment with the rest of the nation.
- The Elks Veterans Service Committee will now be known as the Oregon Elks Veterans Committee.
- Elks Youth Eye Service (EYES) was designated as our Major State Project. EYES will now support our Visual Program and the programs being conducted by the Oregon Elks Children’s Eye Clinic.

Grand Exalted Ruler Paul Ryan and his wife Stacey gave speeches and thanked us for welcoming them to Oregon. For the full report, you can watch from the link on the state website.



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JULY 2021 OSEA CALENDAR



@OregonStateElksAssociation

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Travel to Grand Lodge Convention - Tampa
4 Grand Lodge Convention - Tampa	5 Grand Lodge Convention - Tampa	6 Grand Lodge Convention - Tampa	7 Grand Lodge Convention - Tampa	8 Return from Grand Lodge Convention - Tampa	9	10 Institution of the Gateway-Gresham Lodge
11	12	13	14	15 Montana State Convention	16 Montana State Convention	17 Montana State Convention
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Groundbreaking of the new Independence Elks Lodge Building
25	26	27	28	29	30	31