



# OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association  
Volume II Issue No. 1 May 2022

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

## OSEA President's message



Welcome to our new Lodge year!

First, I want to let you all know that I feel very honored to be serving as the Oregon State Elks Association President for 2022-2023.

I also want to thank my home lodge, Corvallis # 1413 for having the faith in me to nominate me as the Vice President from the South Central District, and the entire South Central District for supporting me all of these years. I was a transplant, but you not only welcomed me, but you treated me like family. I appreciate that more than you can know.



Second, our first State Convention since 2019 is behind us, and I would be remiss if I did not thank the Seaside Elks Lodge for all they do for our convention. I know the hundreds of volunteer hours that went

into putting the convention together. Jan Jackson and the members of Seaside Lodge, thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this as fun as it was. It was great to see over 700 Elks in attendance this year! We hope to see you back next year in Seaside.



Finally, the motto for the next year will be "SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED" This encompasses everyone from our Military to our own lodge members, thank you for serving. The Elks of Oregon have long been diligent in serving where

the need is greatest, let us continue in that tradition during the coming year and beyond.



As we navigate this year, hopefully the restrictive measures that COVID-19 thrust upon us these last couple of years will be behind us. First

Lady, Joedy and I are looking forward to traveling our State to visit our extended Elks families in the months ahead.

Fraternally,  
Ben L. Adams Jr  
OSEA President 2022-2023

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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](mailto: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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## From the Grand Exalted Ruler: Spring has spring, summer coming fast



Hey, hey it is the first of May. I hope you were able to turn in your Community Project Contest form to get your Lodge some deserved recognition. Remember, the annual charity report is due May 1.

The first week of May is also Elks National Youth Week. I would encourage you to hold an event and honor all those who participated in your Lodge's youth programs over the past year. A variety of participation certificates available online. However, if you cannot find one, make one up. Show our youth that Elks are there for them.

Further, sponsor programs that encourage youth to become outstanding citizens. If so, we will help them with "Meeting the Challenge."

Three honorable events take place this month. While only one is mandatory for Elks, the other two need to be recognized as well.

Sunday, May 8 is Mother's Day. This is a mandatory service that needs to be performed by your Lodge. This event is open to the public and extra attention should be taken to ensure this ceremony is well attended to show the respect all moms deserve. The Special Ritual Manual also requires the use of red and white carnations to honor these mothers. Please perform this service and show that Elks Care — Elks Share for moms everywhere.

The second event is Armed Services Day held on Saturday, May 21. In 1949, Defense Secretary Louis Johnson presented an idea to create one single day to celebrate the unification of the armed forces under the Department of Defense, instead of celebrating each separately. Schedule an event to honor all active armed services members. Invite them to the Lodge, provide them a meal, and show our support for all they do for us and our country.

Then comes Memorial Day, held on Monday, May 30. This day is for honoring the men and women who have given the

ultimate sacrifice for our country while in the United States military. In the years following the Civil War, it was originally known as Decoration Day. By the late 1860s, Americans in towns and cities started holding springtime tributes to the countless fallen soldiers from this conflict by decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. It became an official federal holiday in 1971.

We now not only honor our fallen United States service men and women, but also family members who have passed on. We hold family gatherings and parades to unofficially mark the beginning of summer.

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## Grand Lodge Contest I Results

The State Association bulletin is a traditional form of communication that Members have appreciated for decades. The Contest I — State Bulletin Contest recognizes the best State Association bulletins in the country. Judging is based on four categories: Content, Layout & Typography, Pictorial, and General.

Thank you to the many editors who keep our Members informed. Congratulations to those who entered the contest and earned the coveted 4 Star and 5 Star ratings!

### 5 Star Awards

Arizona — Shawnee A. Carlile  
Florida — Rachael A. King  
Georgia — Lynda Lewis  
Kansas — Carl Lindsey  
Louisiana — Buddy Hartle  
MD, DE, DC — Janie Swigert  
Missouri — Joy Clarkson  
New Jersey — Nancy Rochford  
New York — Timothy Welpé  
North Carolina — Ashley Buckwell

### 4 Star Awards

California-Hawaii — Ted Olsen  
Connecticut — John P. Simko  
Illinois — Elizabeth Conaway  
Michigan — Karen J. Cary  
**Oregon — C. Blake Whitson**  
Pennsylvania — Glen Klein

## The 2022 OSEA Summer Convention: We are still standing!!!



The Oregon State Elks Association 2022 Summer Convention had one message for delegates and attendees, that after two years of unprecedented challenges from a pandemic to wildfires, Elks in Oregon are still standing!!!! You can check out the opening video by visiting the OSEA Facebook Page to see what all our lodges and members did during the last couple of years.

This year we welcomed our Grand Exalted Ruler Keith Mills and his wife Amy back to Oregon as they continue their year traveling the nation visiting Elks and promoting the great works that we do. The Grand Exalted Ruler was given a tour of the historic Astoria Lodge on Thursday morning as well as a visit to the Astoria Column before heading back to seaside for meetings and the evening VIP banquet. In addition to Grand Exalted Ruler Mills we were also joined by Grand Trustee Joe Basil and his wife Virginia, State Sponsor and Past Grand Exalted Ruler Roger True, and several guests from Washington and Idaho.



Friday kicked off with various workshops and committee meetings where members could learn the latest from the various OSEA Committee chairs.

These sessions were well attended, and feedback is that a lot of useful information and good ideas were shared. Friday afternoon the session was officially opened by President Rick Shipley and after the introduction of dignitaries and roll call, delegates began voting on bylaws changes and the new OSEA officers. You

can find a list of the new OSEA officers on page 5. Friday also included several committee reports and awards presentations to deserving members and lodges who have worked diligently to support their lodges and promoted what we stand for. A full list of contest winners will be published in the next issue of the newsletter. In addition to awards State Sponsor PGER True and GER Mills presented 36 lodges with checks for meeting the recent membership challenge to get candidates initiated prior to the end of the year. Thanks to everyone's membership efforts Oregon has a gain of at least 890 new members for the year!!!

Saturday saw the solemn and dignified memorial service put on by the Past State Presidents to honor the memory of Past State President Joe Marovich from Tualatin Valley Lodge. Saturday also included more awards for Elk and Officer of the Year as well as Hall of Fame Inductees. We were also treated to an unforgettable address from Grand Exalted Ruler Mills in which he gave a humorous but impactful narrative of the initiation ritual from the perspective of a new member and the importance of lodge officers conducting an impressive and meaningful ritual. And while many have asked, there was no recording made of the session to share with those who could not attend. The session concluded with the installation of the 2022-2023 OSEA officers and presentation of gifts for both GER Mills and Amy as well as outgoing President Rick Shipley and Chairman of the Board Gary Miller. The day, and the convention, wound down with the Presidents Reception in honor of our new OSEA State President Ben Adams and his wife Joedy. We look forward to meeting again in Baker City for the 2022 OSEA Fall Seminar and back in Seaside for the 2023 OSEA Summer Convention.



## The 2022-2023 Public Relations & Marketing agenda

This year's Summer Convention showed that Oregon Elks have a lot to be proud of. Leading in charitable contributions, a membership gain of nearly 900 new members, and so much more thanks to Elks across our state overcoming precedented circumstances to meet the challenge. And for the last year your OSEA Public Relations & Marketing Committee has worked diligently to share that pride with everyone in our state. We put out press releases seen by over 250,000 people. We put up the coordinated Christmas billboard and social media campaign which resulted in almost 1,000,000 views and a 600% increase in social media engagement. And we increased our use of social media and launched what would become an award-winning newsletter.



Grand Lodge Contest I (State Bulletin) - 4 Star Award

For the coming year the Public Relations & Marketing Committee wants you to know you ain't seen nothing yet! In the coming year we have ambitious plans to continue promoting our organization to those in our communities. Some of what we have planned:

A 3-month radio ad campaign promoting the Elks, what we do, and inviting people to join us to write next chapter of giving back to communities across Oregon. This campaign is being done through the Oregon Broadcasters Association and will be heard on stations all over the state. This is a \$12,000 investment that will return at least two times (with the potential for more) that much in airtime value.

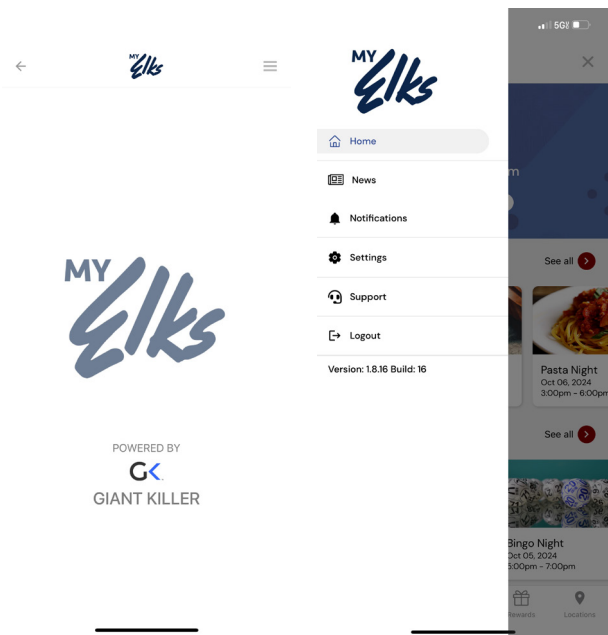


This fall we will be selecting a game to hold an Elks Night at the Portland Trailblazers. In addition to group tickets we will also have a community information table on the concourse during the game to hand out information about the Elks and what we do to those in attendance. This will be a

great chance to promote the Elks, share what we do, and have a great night out while sharing our pride in the Elks.

We are continuing to update the content of our state website and further utilize social media. We are also looking into ways to take donations to our state major project and other charitable projects.

Finally, we will be launching a new mobile app in June with several test lodges in Oregon to help engage members, increase communication, and more. This app will be available to all Elks and more information will be coming in future newsletters and on our website and social media.



Early screenshots of the My Elks Mobile App launching Summer 2022!!!! More information will be coming soon.

## Pre-registration for the Elks National Convention in Atlanta opens April 1

Online pre-registration for this year's Convention opens April 1 and will be available at <https://www.elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm> through June 28.

The Elks National Convention Commission is working closely with the Georgia World Congress Center and the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau to plan for a safe and healthy Convention. Follow <https://discoveratlanta.com/coronavirus/> to see the latest requirements for the area.

## 2022-2023 OSEA officers

### OSEA President and Vice Presidents



OSEA President  
Ben L Adams Jr  
Corvallis Lodge



OSEA 1st year  
Vice President  
Nick Bettencourt  
Condon Lodge



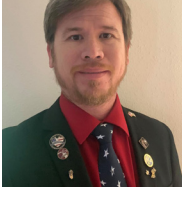
OSEA 2nd year  
Vice President  
Steve Malone  
Roseburg Lodge



OSEA 3rd year  
Vice President  
C. Blake Whitson  
Salem Lodge



OSEA 4th year  
Vice President  
David Backlund  
St. Helens Lodge



OSEA 5th year  
Vice President  
David Whitlock  
Springfield Lodge

### OSEA Trustees



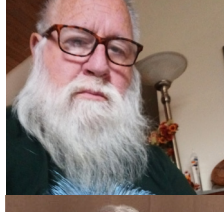
Chairman of the  
Trustees  
Steve May  
Silverton Lodge



OSEA 2nd year  
Trustee  
Ed Parmer  
Gateway-Gresham Lodge



OSEA 3rd year  
Trustee  
Joyce Middleton  
Florence Lodge



OSEA 4th year  
Trustee  
Edwin (Rocky) King  
Ashland Lodge



OSEA 5th year  
Trustee  
Randy Morgan  
Enterprise Lodge

### OSEA Appointed Officers

OSEA Sgt At Arms  
Terry Brant  
Eugene lodge

OSEA Assistant Sgt. At Arms  
Tina Potter  
Condon Lodge

OSEA Chaplain  
Joel Buoy  
Roseburg Lodge

OSEA Inner Guard  
Tom Sagers  
Independence Lodge

OSEA Tiler  
Matthew H Holmes  
St. Helens Lodge

OSEA Organist  
Dean Lemire  
St Helens Lodge

OSEA Photographer  
Tom Winters  
John Day Lodge  
OSEA Executive Secretary  
Emma Pletz  
Milwaukie Portland

OSEA Treasurer  
Don Lewis  
Gateway-Gresham



## Hoop Shoot National Finalists



The Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals were held April 30th in Chicago, Illinois. This year marks the 50th anniversary of this program which started right here in Oregon at the Corvallis Lodge with Past Grand Exalted Ruler Frank Hise. This year, Oregon was represented by two outstanding young ladies at the national finals.

First, representing the Seaside Elks Lodge is Jahzara Marshall (10-11 girls) who we were introduced to at the Summer Convention. At the regional contest she shot 18 for 25 and at the national finals shot 16 out of 25.

Second, representing the birthplace of the Hoop Shoot is Kinsey Wark (12-13 girls) from the Corvallis Elks Lodge. Kinsey shot 20 out of 25 at the regional contest and repeated that with 20 out of 25 at the national finals.

These two students excelled through local lodge, district, state, and the regional competition to earn their spot in the national finals. Unfortunately, neither girl earned a medal, but we are extremely proud of our two national finalists!



Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills and Amy at the Elks National Hoop Shoot Finals

## Betty Hise for Cancer Research



Betty Hise for Cancer Research held our luncheon in Seaside at the Summer Convention. Almost every seat was filled for our event that featured a fun spring theme, and speaker Lisa Nolen, Associate Director of Community Involvement, OHSU Foundation.

Because of the generosity of Betty Hise for Cancer Research funds, OHSU purchased a bioimpedance machine to support baseline testing, surveillance, and early intervention for the treatment of lymphedema.

What is lymphedema? Lymph nodes are small structures that circulate and filter fluid as part of the immune system. They may be removed in cancer surgery or damaged by radiation therapy or certain types of chemotherapy drugs. Lymphedema is the fluid buildup in the limbs, causing swelling, pain and a heaviness in the affected arm or leg.

OHSU is continuing to develop an impressive program. They were granted in 2020 the highest level of designation by the Center of Excellence for Lymphedema; an honor granted to only 15 institutions worldwide. OHSU has an interdisciplinary program combining expertise from oncology, rehabilitation therapy, infectious disease, endocrinology, nutrition, surgical oncology and plastic surgery to treat the whole patient at risk for this complex disease.

Betty Hise for Cancer Research is proud to support OHSU of Portland along with supporting St. Luke's Cancer Institute in Idaho. Idaho's Elks Summer Convention will be held in Coeur d'Alene Idaho June 2-4, 2022. Betty Hise Idaho Co-Chairs Alicia Neely and Judy Gessford are planning a live auction after their Friday banquet and silent auction throughout their convention to close at the end of Saturday session.

Betty Hise for Cancer Research is pleased to report while at the Oregon Elks Summer Convention, we took in funds totaling \$29,227.35. Thank you to Lodges and individuals for your monetary donations and silent auction items contributed!! We couldn't do what we are able to do without you! As always we thank you for your interest and support.



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# May 2022 OSEA Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 State Ritual Contest Springfield Lodge
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Meadowood Work Weekend
29 Meadowood Work Weekend	30 Meadowood Work Weekend	31				