



# OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association  
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Always an Elk

## OSEA President's message



In the initiatory ritual, the Exalted Ruler asks "What made you an Elk?" The Esquire responds "My solemn and binding obligation" Later, the Exalted Ruler informs the new member that their highest duty as an Elk is to not violate their Obligation, nor can they lay it aside when they leave the Lodge Room for it must hence forth be their constant guide and faithful

monitor. That is why, when we take our Obligation, we use phrases like "I will Never..." and "I will Always..." because we are Always an Elk.

The Exalted Ruler asks "What are Elks?" The Esquire answers "American citizens who guide their course in life by the cardinal principles of our Order: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity."

Our lives should be informed, tempered, influenced and inspired by the principles of our Order because we cannot lay them aside. Always an Elk.

"It is the duty of the Members, under their Obligation, to assist in upholding and maintaining the honor and dignity of the Order and of this Lodge". Always an Elk. Those in the public who have no knowledge of the Order are informed and develop opinions based upon the actions of the Elks they come to know or see. Was that you that they saw? Did you know they were watching? Did we uphold and maintain the honor and dignity of our Order? Will we the next time a potential member is watching us? In the Lodge room and in our lives, Always an Elk.

"Our whole influence in life is determined by the good deeds we do, rather than by the emotions we feel." Always an Elk.

Are we perfect in and out of the Lodge? Are we always Charitable? Do we sometimes speak an unkind word? Of course we do. But we can be better, we can always improve as people. We can have less faults on the sand and more virtues upon the tablets of love and memory, if we try. When we deserve praise and when we need forgiveness, Always an Elk.

"We by each other oft may be aided in our part, or from each other catch inspiration for a high resolve, and to this end exists the brotherhood of Elks." Always an Elk. You didn't begin your membership with complete knowledge of Elkdom. You learned what an "Elk" was or wasn't by watching other members around you. Perhaps you volunteered a few more hours or got on a committee or into the chairs because someone you respected and admired showed you what an Elk could be. Think of the members that you learned from. Did those members know you were watching? Did they know they were shaping your perceptions?

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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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## Presidents Message Continued

What new member is watching us? Which Elk today or tomorrow or next year is forming their opinion of Elkdom based on our actions? Are we setting a good example for our future Exalted Ruler/ District Deputy/ State Officer/ Grand Exalted Ruler? On our best day and on our worst day, Always an Elk.

Always an Elk. Rather it is at the grandkids' baseball game or at the Memorial Service in January, at the grocery store or at the Summer Convention in Seaside, talking to the neighbor or working a fundraiser, on the job or at Grand Lodge, remember you are Always an Elk.

Be Just, Practice Brotherly Love, Be Charitable. Inform, influence, inspire others to be better. Be an Elk. Always an Elk.



Fraternally

Nick Bettencourt  
Oregon State Elks Association President

## Grand Exalted Ruler: May holidays salute moms, service members



The winter months are well behind us now. It is time for us to focus on our Elks spring and summer activities.

May has many events that we as Elks are proud to recognize and participate in. Let's start with Mother's Day, which this year falls on Sunday, May 14. Thank you to each Lodge that has a Mother's Day celebration.

You may want to consider assembling a committee and starting an event if your Lodge has never had one. Mother's Day is a very special day to spend not only with your mother but your grandmother, your great-grandmother, sister, or your aunt. Take a moment to call your relatives, and send flowers

or candy. Make them feel as special as they are. Happy Mother's Day!

During the month of May, we celebrate Armed Forces Day, which will occur on Saturday, May 20. This is a day for all of us to say thank you to all of the men and women in all branches of service in the military. Each of these individuals are the ones who have taken time to defend this great country of ours and protect the liberties we enjoy today. What a better way for our Lodges to recognize Armed Forces Day and show them Elks Care about their service to our country.

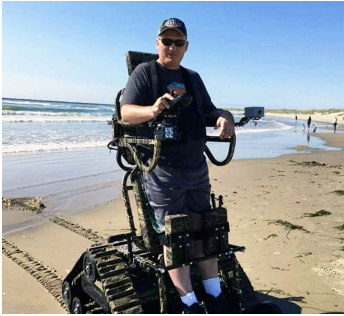
May is also when we remember our departed service members on Memorial Day. This year Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 29. There are so many ways that we as Elks can take the time to reflect on our departed service members. You can place flags at the graves of deceased military veterans. Participate in or host a Memorial Day parade. Please take part in this very important way to honor the deceased veterans in your community. I remember the day when my community opened our first veterans park. It was during a Memorial Day ceremony. There was nothing more heart wrenching than to see all the names of the people who served our country with distinction.

Each year, I proudly walk with veterans in our local Memorial Day parade. It makes you proud to be an Elk knowing that you stand behind our pledge, "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them" and we never will. Take the time to hold some type of ceremony or participate in a community remembrance for the veterans who fought so hard to enjoy the freedoms all of us enjoy today. There is no better way we as Elks can continue "Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm" than to remember our veterans.

Helen and I would like to say thank you for all that you do during the month of May, and for the very special events that are so important to us as Elks. God bless all of you. God bless our troops, past and present. And most of all, God bless America.

~ Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley

## David's Chair & Seaside Lodge: Giving people back their independence



In January of 2017, David Hatrick and his wife, Mary Grace, had just received David's official diagnosis of ALS. Prior to his diagnosis David had been an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish. Following the initial shock of his diagnosis

he made a resolution that he would live what time he had left on his own terms. The question was how to do that when a standard wheelchair can't get close enough to water to fish or how to hunt when you are stuck on pavement.

The answer was a track chair which is designed to operate in rugged terrain, think a tank with a chair on top. But the price was \$20,000 which was out of their families reach and insurance wouldn't pay for it. There was also a question of what would happen to their chair when David could no longer use it? His vision was he wanted others to be able to use the chair. Together with his friend, and now CEO of David's Chair Steve Furst, they had held a fundraiser to purchase the Action Track Chair and on June 29th, 2017 David's Chair was born.

The Seaside Elks Lodge has partnered with Oregon Parks Forever and David's Chair to bring one of these track chairs to the Oregon Coast. The Elks have provided the shed and location to house this chair. This is the second fixed location for a David's Chair on the Oregon Coast. The chair itself is an electric all-terrain track chair which can also straighten the user up to a standing position. Currently Seaside houses an adult size chair, but they have a goal of also bringing one of the child sized track chairs to the Oregon Coast to further increase the independence and enjoyment of the Oregon Coast by those of all ages and all abilities.



"You don't have to be paralyzed, be an amputee, have muscular dystrophy, ALS," said Furst. "If you just have mobility issues that make it difficult for you to walk or to get around, especially on the sand, come use the chair, take it to the water's

edge, stand up, put your feet in the ocean. The chairs are for anybody with mobility challenges, and that's what we really want to.... that's the message we really want to get out to people."

US Army Veteran Richard Gilliam got to take the chair on its first test spin on the beach. "This is the best thing in the world!" Gilliam said smiling. He walks with a cane, but acknowledged there's no way he could maneuver the sand without tripping and falling. The track chair made for an effortless trip to and from.

The chair can be reserved for two hours at a time by visiting [www.davidschair.org](http://www.davidschair.org). There is no charge for those wishing to use the chair. You can visit that website to learn more about David's Chair and how you can get involved in bringing one to your community to help those with disabilities and mobility issues regain their independence and enjoy your community. If your lodge or members have questions about David's Chair or how the project works you can contact the Seaside Elks Lodge about their experience in partnering with the great organization or by visiting [www.davidschair.org](http://www.davidschair.org)



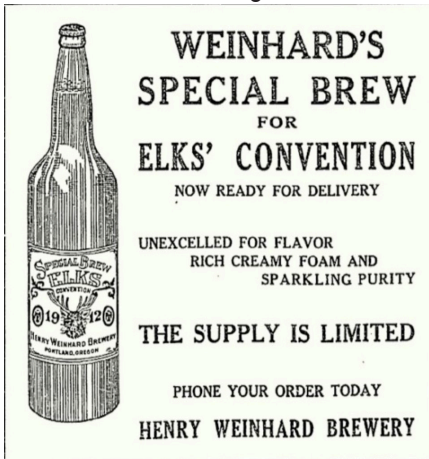
## Oregon Elks History



The Cascade Breweriana Association recently came across an advertisement for a "special brew" from the Henry Weinhard Brewery made for the 1912 Elks Convention, then called the Grand Lodge Annual Reunion, held that year in Portland Oregon. The convention that year was held July 8th to the 13th and saw outgoing Grand Exalted Ruler John P. Sullivan of New Orleans pass the gavel to Grand Exalted

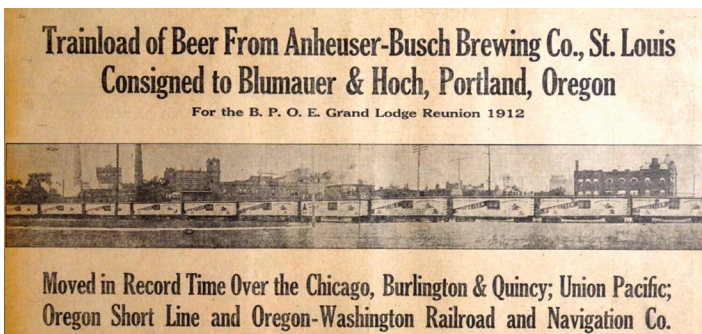
Ruler Thomas B. Mills of Superior Wisconsin. Over 1,200 members attended the general membership meeting held at the National Guard Armory and Annex.

The special brew was advertised to be unexcelled for flavor, rich creamy foam, and sparkling purity. The Breweriana Association so far has not located any surviving bottles or labels but is searching.



In addition to the special brew another ad was found advertising the trainload of beer sent from Anheuser-Bush Brewing of St. Louis to Portland and delivered in record time across five different rail lines to make the journey from St. Louis

to Portland in time for the convention.



## Betty Hise for Cancer Research

The Oregon program supported by Betty Hise for Cancer Research is at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute and named Ovarian Cancer Research. Early in her career at OHSU, physician-scientist Tanja Pejovic, M.D., Ph.D., made an unexpected discovery while investigating gene mutations in hereditary ovarian cancer. The team built on this research in their studies of survival rates of people with ovarian cancer. They are working to understand how designated proteins can be influenced to increase the sensitivity of cancer cells to chemotherapy for better treatment outcomes. The goal is to find better ways to prevent, detect, and treat all cancers and save lives. Currently Dr. Pejovic and her team are leaders in the Ovarian Cancer Brain Metastases Consortium working to solve brain metastases in ovarian cancer. We look forward to learning more about this program.

February photo of our first year Directors Virginia and Cassandra did not include dialogue with them. Virginia Privatsky-Williams recently completed her year as ER at McMinnville Lodge #1283, says "It is an honor and a privilege to serve on this worthy committee. Betty Hise was near and dear to many in the ELKS family and the ladies on this committee are amazing. I will try my best to fill the shoes of those before me..." Cassandra Flatt is the current Leading Knight of Condon Lodge #1869 and says "I am honored to serve on a board that puts awareness, detection, and prevention a priority to finding a cure to this terrible disease called Cancer. It has affected each of us in some way. I'm a Cancer Survivor and I consider my efforts as a Director a worthy cause at helping one person at a time in their battle with Cancer."

## Reminder to submit lodge website and social media informaton.

Our newly redesigned website includes a directory page for each lodge in Oregon. To have this page activated, lodges need to fill out the survey to submit their preferred website links, social media links, and email address. To submit your lodges information please [submit this survey](#) as soon as possible. Once received the website team will work on your lodge profile page.



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# May 2023 OSEA Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mothers Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31	1	2	3