



OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association
Volume II Issue No. 7 November 2022

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

OSEA President's message



Greetings,

For Elks November is Veterans Remembrance Month. This month, I encourage you to find ways to be of service to those who have served in your community.

For Elks, service to veterans is a year-round commitment. Last year, the Elks' nationwide support of veterans, including time, in-kind

and fiscal donations, totaled more than \$39 million.

Every day, Elks volunteer across Oregon and the country to provide support for veterans. We provide veterans exiting homelessness with beds, home supplies and food to establish their new homes. Every month, we plan events, donate supplies and offer friendship to residents of our state veterans facilities. And our members donate to provide emergency assistance to help veterans and their families prevent homelessness and stay safely housed.

Joedy and I are busy traveling this month, so my message is brief. But I hope you will join me in continuing the Elks proud tradition of serving those who have served not just this November, but year-round.

Fraternally,

Ben L. Adams Jr.
Oregon State Elks Association
President



Remember

Everyone

Deployed

Wear RED on Fridays until they **ALL** come home!

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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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Grand Exalted Ruler: A time to reflect on our veterans and Thanksgiving



The month of November brings to us one of the most important days we celebrate as American citizens. Election Day, always held on the first Tuesday of the month during November, is set by law for the general election of federal, state, county and local government officials.

There have been many changes to the election law in our states all across our country. Check your local Board of Elections to get the necessary information for you to vote. I encourage each and every one of you to take the time to vote. You have earned this right! As former President Barack Obama once stated, "There's no such thing as a vote that doesn't matter."

In November, our thoughts turn to a couple of very special days. During Veterans Day on November 11, we honor our veterans past and present. COVID-19 halted many ceremonies and parades in the last few years, but with the pandemic in our rear view mirror, we can again host events to honor the men and women who served our country. I have personally been marching in our local Veterans Day parade in all kinds of weather for over 35 years. Although I never personally served in the armed forces, I take a lot of pride when marching in honor of our troops. As we march down the parade route, there is no better feeling than to watch the parade spectators salute the flag as we pass by.

In my hometown, I attended a ceremony for the dedication of a monument wall of honor for all of our local veterans from WWI to our current conflicts. My father-in-law was one of those names inscribed on the monument wall. Seeing the names of so many veterans I personally knew brought tears to my eyes. There are so many ways to say thank you to our nation's veterans. Hosting dinners in our local Lodges, sending care packages, holding Stand Downs, and participating in events at Veterans Administration Hospitals are just a few ways to say thank you.

The Elks slogan is, "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget

them." We never have and never will. Our dedication and commitment to our veterans is a fine example of "Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm." Thank you to all our fellow Elks who take the time to make Veterans Day a most special day. Our veterans deserve the gratitude they receive.

Happy birthday to the United States Marine Corp. November 10, 2022 will mark its 247th birthday. Thank you to all our Marine Corp. veterans.

November is also a time that we celebrate Thanksgiving. I encourage all Lodges to support food pantry programs in your local communities. Thanksgiving is the perfect time for us as Elks to assist food pantries by delivering food items to families in need. Take the opportunity to show your communities that "Elks Care – Elks Share."

As Helen and I travel home for the holiday, we want to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Elks Night at the Portland Trail Blazers

Do you want to show your Elks pride and help promote the Elks with enthusiasm? Join us for Oregon Elks Night at the Portland Trail Blazers on Saturday January 28th at 7pm vs the Toronto Raptors. Tickets are on sale now for \$40 each (plus fees). In addition the Milwaukie-Portland Elks lodge will be have food and beverage specials available before and after the game for those who would like to park there and take the MAX train to the game.

Tickets are available on-line at:
<https://rosequarter.com/groupnights>
Promo code = ELKS

In addition to the block of seats we will also have a table on the concourse during the game to promote the Elks and what we do for communities across Oregon. Please join us for this exciting night of promoting the Elks with enthusiasm!!!!



Welcome Home Kits: Helping homeless veterans transition to stable housing

Every night as many as 40,000 veterans are living on the streets somewhere in our country. Each has a different story, but they all shared a common pledge to support and defend this country. Not that their service is done, it is our turn to help serve those who sacrificed for us. In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs the Elks National Veterans Service Commission has pledged to help end veteran homelessness, and ensure that every veteran has the safe, stable home they deserve.

Two lodges that have very active Welcome Home Programs are the Milwaukie-Portland Lodge and the Salem Lodge. Salem has been using an Elks National Foundation Impact Grant for the last 3 years to work with Easter Seals Supportive Services for Veterans Families to provide welcome home boxes to veterans they are assisting into stable housing. Salem has distributed over 300 boxes over the last 4 years in the Salem Community. In addition to ENF funds, members donate to help support the welcome home project in cash as well as in helping buy items for the boxes. The team working on the project at Salem also shops deals and sales so they can make sure to stretch their funds as far as possible. Using



sales, coupons, and rewards the lodge recently purchased over \$2,000 in supplies for their welcome home boxes and after savings only spent \$565.

Before COVID, the lodge held a fundraising dinner for their welcome home program. Their partners at Easter Seals brought several veterans who had benefitted from the project with them. One veteran stood up and talked about how for the first time in his children's lives he was able to cook and serve them dinner at his own place because of the welcome home kit our lodge provided that included pots and pans, dishes, silverware, and glassware. And this is just one of the hundreds of impact stories whose lives have impacted by this program.



Recently Milwaukie Portland Lodge helped Larry, a pre-Vietnam era Air Force veteran, get settled into his new apartment with a Welcome Home kit. The kit included household items such as dishes, glasses, silverware, cookware, cooking and prep utensils, food storage containers, bedding, bathroom items, laundry and cleaning

supplies. Other than a mattress on the floor and a TV sitting on the floor, he had nothing else yet to help him get settled in. Working with Easter Seals and Home Care Heroes, Larry will be getting food and furniture soon to have a complete apartment that he can be comfortable in. Our veterans are so appreciative of the kits that the Elks supply, many of them going into housing with only the few clothes they have. Milwaukie Portland has partnered with Do Good Multnomah, as well as Easter Seals, in setting up over 100 veterans with Welcome Home kits, including setting up two brand new facilities. This is a great program set up through Elks Veterans Services where the lodge will be reimbursed up to \$300 per kit, or \$500 if the kit includes a bed. If your lodge isn't helping our veterans yet, reach out to agencies in your area that support veterans and see if you can help them out!



Most veterans move into their homes with nothing. Elks can help veterans establish their homes by building Welcome

Home Kits. Generally, this kit would include some small furniture, kitchenware, and cleaning supplies. Items can be new or used, donated or purchased.

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The ENVSC will reimburse up to \$300 per kit and up to \$500 for each kit that includes a bed (dependent on corresponding receipts).

Whether your Lodge wants to provide a few kits a year or a few kits a week, we've got you covered.

Here are a program guidelines to keep in mind.

- A kit must include a variety of items. It may not include just one of two items.
- Kits are intended exclusively for veterans exiting homelessness and moving into new homes.
- Gift cards may not comprise more than \$25 of any kit. Food may not comprise more than \$25 of any kit.
- We recommend that beds do not comprise more than \$400 of any kit.

Ready to get started?

- Find a partner to connect your Lodge with veterans in need. Speak with the facility and the veteran about their needs.
- Get the community involved! Consider holding a supply drive to collect commonly needed items.
- Deliver the kits to the veteran or your project! Many Lodges take photos with the veterans when they deliver the kits. (Check out our Instagram page for examples!)
- Complete the form and upload your receipts online. You may include multiple kits on one form. We'll send you a reimbursement check, in accordance with the receipts provided.
- Stay in contact with the veterans! Having an Elk as an advocate and friend can further help these veterans to thrive in their new home. Consider the Adopt-a-Veteran program.

To learn more about the Elks Welcome Home Kit Program and you can get started visit <https://www.elks.org/vets/welcomehome.cfm>. To learn more about the Welcome Home Project at Milwaukie-Portland contact Emma Pletz. To learn more about the Salem Elks Lodge Welcome Home Project contact Freddee Whitson at freddee.whitson@gmail.com



Recent news reports show dangers of drugs and firearms

Drugs and firearms seem to be going hand-in-hand these days, as these news reports from October can attest.

- In Rutland, Vermont, a 31-year-old man and a 34-year-old man were arrested and charged by criminal complaint. Both men were charged with possessing with the intent to distribute cocaine, cocaine base, and fentanyl, and for carrying and using firearms during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.
- In Rockland, Illinois, a 28-year-old man was sentenced to an aggregate 10 years in prison for possession with intent to distribute cocaine base ("crack") and tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC"); possession of a firearm as a felon; and possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking crime. The sentence consists of concurrent 60-month terms of imprisonment for the drug trafficking and possession of a firearm as a felon convictions, to be followed by a consecutive 60 months for possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking crime conviction.
- And in New Hampshire, a 36-year-old man was sentenced to 72 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute controlled substances, conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, and carrying a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking.

The list goes on. It is proof that drugs and violence are related.

Despite this disturbing trend, there is good news as we enter the Christmas season. Evidence suggests that the Elks Drug Awareness Program's efforts are having a positive effect on young people and that drug abuse among our targeted population is trending downwards. This is no time to rest or think that our work is over. Far from it! Our children need us now more than ever.

Have you seen our latest videos, Awkward Conversations season 2? These podcasts are setting records for viewership. If you haven't seen any of them, please check them out on YouTube. While you're there, subscribe to our channel.

On behalf of the entire Elks Drug Awareness Program, we wish all Elks, their families, and communities a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Perception: How others see our order and your lodge



No matter what we may think, the community's perception of our order and our lodges is our reality. The community and prospective members will see what they want to see. Our job is to let them see who we really are through our actions and how we present ourselves.

To start, what message does the appearance of our lodge send to the community? Do you have clear and readable signage? Is your exterior clean and presentable? If your facility looks rundown and unclean from the outside people will not want to find out what it is like inside. Your facilities should reflect who the Elks are and what we do in our communities. And it is not just the exterior of your facilities that you should make sure reflects a positive image of who we are. The inside of your facilities should also be clean and welcoming to members and guests. If a prospective member comes in and sees a dimly lit and dirty facility would that entice them to join?

In addition to your facilities how guests are treated in your lodge and club is also important to setting a positive perception of the Elks and of your lodge. If guests come in and members are rude to them will that make them want to join? Guests and prospective members should be welcomed into our lodges and talked with about who we are and what we do. If our members are seen as snobs or just a bunch of cliques it will make it hard to convince people to join us.

And it is not just the perception of those outside our order that we need to worry about. Our own members often have perceptions of our lodges that can be less than flattering. And when a member has a negative perception of the lodge, they are less likely to stay members or help bring their friends and neighbors in as members.

So keep in mind the importance of perception and how it defines us in the eyes of our communities, prospective members, and our current members. Make sure that visitors and prospective members can see what we do. Post notices of fundraisers, events, pictures from events, and thank you cards for all to see. And keep in mind that we are not a drinking club, gambling hall, or a men's only organization. And most importantly be proud of who and what we are as a community of volunteers. And a lodge that serves as a hub for fundraising, events, celebrations, and more. We are the premier benevolent organization in the United States.

Ultimately, we can control the perception of our organization and we can change those lingering negative perceptions as well. It is up to us to educate and inform our communities of who we are. We can tell prospective members, friends, and guests what we do. We can also tell what our lodges do for our communities. Let them see what we do, how we do it, and why we do it. And above all remember that when you are out in your own community or at an Elks convention, when you are wearing your Elks shirts with pride that you are our most important ambassador. And your conduct, good or bad, will reflect on us all and add to the perception of our organization. So please remember when representing our order so always conduct yourself accordingly.

Elks Memorial perpetual care

Originally dedicated in 1926 to the memory of our fallen Elks of World War I, the Veterans Memorial Building is at the heart of Elkdom. Magnificently constructed in Chicago, the Memorial is a breathtaking structure representing the values Elks cherish. Through the years, the Memorial has been rededicated to honor the memory of American veterans who have died for our great nation. Our duty is to ensure this Memorial remains an extraordinary symbol of the bravery and patriotism of these veterans.

By making an individual or Lodge 501(c)(3) donation, you will assist in the perpetual care and continued restoration of this beautiful Memorial. Go to elks.org and click "Veterans Memorial" on the home screen. Take a virtual tour, read about the history, plan a visit, make an online donation, or mail a donation today.

Making your Elks National Foundation Grants and charity funds go further

As we head into the holidays many lodges across the country and right here in Oregon use Elks National Foundation Community Investment Grants as well as their own charity funds for a variety of projects to help those in need. Here are some tips on ways you can make your funds go further not just for your holiday projects, but year-round.

1. Don't be afraid to ask for discounts. This one might seem simple, but a lot of people are uncomfortable asking for discounts. Don't be! If you explain to store manager who you are and what you're doing often they will be able to give a discount.
2. Do your pre-planning and look up what you intend to buy and find the best price. This is really easy with major retail stores having on-line shopping. You can comparison shop and find the best deals before you ever leave the house.
3. Make sure to take advantage of rewards programs like Kohl's Cash, Macy's Star Rewards, and others. These programs often can allow lodges to almost double their impact. For example, Salem Lodge received over \$2,000 in rewards credits to use with their annual Christmas Shopping program. This allowed the lodge to almost double it's ENF grant.
4. Ask members who have consumer credit cards at retailers if they are able to use them to get additional discounts. A lot of stores offer card holders discounts or additional discounts. You can always reimburse them with the receipt. But make sure to take advantage of any discount you can!! You can often also combine credit discounts with rewards programs for even more savings.

Salem Lodge was already mentioned above, but in 1 year across of all of their grants between discounts provided, rewards taken advantage of, and smart shopping their lodge grant team stretched \$19,000 in Elks National Foundation Grants to almost \$28,000 worth of goods provided for their various projects.

If you have tips for how to stretch your charitable dollars please share those tips with your fellow Elks and submit them to us for a future edition of the newsletter with more ideas on how to make your charitable dollars go further.

Betty Hise for Cancer Research

Betty Hise for Cancer Research Directors and Advisors met during Fall Seminar, in Baker City, for our winter business meeting. One year ago, due to covid reality and fewer activities, the decision was made for the 2021 Directors to stay in place a second year. After two years in the lead role of 4th year Directors, a big thank you to Diane Deseve and Jan Lowe for your extended leadership! Under their direction, our 2022 designated donation recipients (OHSU and SLCI) will each receive \$20,000 to be used for cancer research.

OHSU and SLCI keep us apprised of their current programs, presenting us with a choice of research opportunities at decision time. Appreciated, is the ability to designate our funds in a specific direction.

OHSU (Oregon Health and Science University): For the past 2 years we have supported their lymphedema prevention program and are shifting our funds to an Ovarian Cancer and Brain Metastasis Research focus. We will share more as we learn more!

Idaho SLCI (St Luke's Cancer Institute): For the past 2 years we have supported their stem cell program. Our new focus will be a study that replaces chemotherapy with immunotherapy along with monitoring patient's quality of life. More on this important study to come!

Along with advancing our current 4th year Directors to the important Advisors role, we welcomed our new 1st year Directors, Virginia Privatsky-Williams from McMinnville Lodge #1283 and Cassandra Flatt from Condon Lodge #1869 and look forward to working with them.

Fundraising fun, in Baker City, brought in just over \$2700 in raffle and auctioned items, donations and table sales! Thank you to all Lodges and individuals for items contributed and donations made.

To all, we appreciate your interest and support!
Betty Hise Directors and Advisors



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November 2022 OSEA Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Idaho Convention Mountain Home	5 Idaho Convention Mountain Home
6	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 OSEA Presidents Visitation - West District	19 OSEA Presidents Visitation - West District
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3