



OREGON ELKS NEWS

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

OSEA President's message



We have done it. Another year in the books, a new group in place, the next year planned to be bigger and better. It is one of the wonderful things about the Elks, the new fresh outlook to accompany the spring weather and the restart of the repetition.

As we attend Summer Convention in Seaside and Grand Lodge in Austin, we must keep in mind that we are at various stages in our Elks journey. Some are attending these meetings for the first time. While their continuing Elks journey may include more conventions, it may be that they will only attend the one. On the flip side, some are attending these functions for the tenth or twentieth time, maybe even more as that is where their Elks journey has delivered them.

While I refer to Conventions to illustrate the point, we can apply it to all sorts of things in Elkdom. Perhaps some find themselves tired of the same things in their Lodge while others think them new and original. That same function can be held traditionally dear by some and considered old hat and defunct by others and our journeys always dictate that perspective.

I appreciate the Ritual. I believe it is very important and that it informs us about our duties, ideals, and responsibilities. I have found it helpful throughout my Elks journey and in my personal life. What most impresses me is how while my perspective and experiences have changed, the Ritual is still of value and informative and guiding.

One example is in the Obligation about respecting one another's homes and firesides. As a young single man taking the Obligation, that had a different connotation than it does to the more mature, married man that I am today. The Lecturing

Knight's charge is always comforting, but is so much more poignant when you have experienced the cutting loss of a loved one upon family or a friend.

I have probably heard the Initiatory Ritual hundreds of times, but I make a new connection to how it applies to my life and thoughts and beliefs each time. While the importance and priorities and intensity ebbs and flows, it is a constant that I value and take comfort from. It is a guidepost, a yardstick, and a simple reference in my life's journey.

To begin the year, I spoke about the Ritual, from Opening and Closing to the Initiation. I tried to illustrate that as Elks, we had promised to abide by those principles and standards in and out of the Lodge. Always an Elk. Now I ask that you consider these words again and periodically return to think about them as your perspective changes throughout your life's journey. You may be surprised at how they continue to make sense.

While I strive to be Always an Elk, I know that I am Forever an Elk.

Nick Bettencourt

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Newsletter articles can be submitted to the OSEA Public Relations and Membership Committee at info@oregonelks.org.

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Grand Exalted Ruler: Teamwork relies on communication, cooperation



Officers, you are now part of the team. Strengthen it by building relationships with one another. This is an opportunity to make new friends and learn from experience during your service to your Lodge.

The Exalted Ruler cannot do everything alone; you should be proactive by seeking opportunities to contribute to the advancement and success of your Lodge. Those opportunities will allow you to develop your own leadership and management skills. Approach all your activities with a positive frame of mind. Goodwill towards others will be extremely invaluable in the coming years when you may be relying on them to help. The diverse skills demonstrated by you and your fellow Officers will enable your Lodge to succeed and prosper.

As you lead and support Lodge activities, please remember that your actions create a perception of who we are. As Officers, we must be exemplars of Brotherly Love.

Embrace these concepts when working alongside other Officers and Members, and you will advance the interests of your Lodge within your community. Use the resources provided by Grand Lodge, your state association, and your district.

April begins with change. New Officers must get to work at once. It is time to plan and pass a budget for your Lodge that each committee can work with. This budget must keep your Lodge financially sound throughout the new Lodge year. Get all the Officers, Board of Directors, and committee members together to review your Lodge budget. Discuss any ideas to make your Lodge programs even better. Plan your goals for the Elks National Foundation, your State Major Project, and any other community activities that your Lodge may be involved with. Brainstorm with your Members and listen to suggestions.

Membership is the life blood of our Order. Work with your appointed Membership Retention Chair as a team. All Members are a part of your membership committee. It is

important to reach out to delinquent Members to bring them back into your Lodge. It may only take one phone call. There is a chance that by speaking with that person, you may get them to renew their dues and become an active Member again. The Lodge Secretary plays a very important role for Members who were dropped for non-payment of dues. I encourage you to review Statute 14.180. This Statute is very clear that your Lodge Secretary shall advise the unaffiliated of his/her right to re-affiliate within 60 days. Make +1 in membership a priority during your term.

Finally, appoint statutory committees. Budget to be posted by second meeting of the month.

Remember, "Elks Care—Elks Share" and "We Are THE Elks."

God Bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

Updated manual guides new Officers

Welcome to all the Officers elected for the coming year, and to those who will continue in their current position. Lodge Secretaries should be receiving their new Government Relations Manual. Please share it with the Officers of the Lodge so they better understand what Government Relations is all about. It is more than monitoring and lobbying legislation in our state. Tracking and reporting all the hours and money donated to our charitable programs have many benefits to our organization and are an integral part of this committee.

We keep preaching about reporting all events that the Lodge does throughout the year. Our committee has done its best to make it easier for everyone to work on their report pages with an updated manual.

I am asking all Exalted Rulers to please appoint a Government Relations Chairperson who is willing to help the Secretary get the reports done and sent to State Chairs and Grand Lodge in a timely manner. When you have different events at your Lodge, make sure to invite city and county members to attend so that they can see what your Lodge is doing at a local level.

If anyone has any suggestions to advance the learning curve for members to understand and participate in Government Relations, please contact your area Chairperson.

The Oregon Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Since 2017 a group of Oregon residents have been working to honor Oregon's Vietnam Veterans with a Vietnam War Memorial on the grounds of the Oregon State Capitol. Over 2.7 million Americans served during the Vietnam War. More than 58,000 servicemen died in service to their country including 710 Oregonians. The planned memorial will include the names of these 710 who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country as well as honoring others who served during the Vietnam era. This memorial is planned in two phases with an overall budget of approximately \$5.5 million. The new memorial will be located to the west of the Capitol building and south of the Oregon World War II Memorial. Approvals for the site and construction have already been granted by the State of Oregon.

A ceremonial groundbreaking for the new memorial was held on March 29, the 50th Vietnam Veterans Day. Construction of phase one of the project is tentatively scheduled to begin in May of this year if they can meet their fundraising goals. So far the organization fundraising for the memorial has raised over \$3.2 million of the \$3.65 needed for

phase one of the project leaving a little over \$400,000 needed to start construction of phase one.

The Salem Elks Lodge has been a big supporter of these efforts contributing over \$5,000 towards the effort to build this memorial. One of the big ways the lodge helps is through the blue bag program. The lodge, and its members, collect cans and bottles and fill the blue bottle drop bags with them. These bags are then turned in with all the bottle deposits going to the fundraising for the memorial. To date, Salem Lodge has turned in more than 300 blue bags to help support this fundraising effort. The Fund for a Vietnam Memorial will even provide you with the blue bags if you want to hold a can and bottle fundraiser to help support the construction of this memorial. In addition to the Blue Bag, Salem Elks Lodge members have donated to help support construction of the memorial as well as donations from the lodges' Madison Charitable Committee.

For other ways to donate you can visit <https://ocvvm.com> to learn more about the plans for the memorial and how you can help donate to support its construction.



LEGEND	
Phase 1 Memorial Elements	
1	Sculpture: "A Soldier's Return"
2	Memorial Monument - Engraved Granite Columns
3	Meeting & Gathering Plaza
Phase 2 Memorial Elements	
4	Brothers Benches
5	Sculpture: Nurses Station
6	Rain Garden
7	MIA - POW Station
8	Purple Heart State Plaque
9	Persian Gulf War Memorial
10	Gold Star Families Memorial Plaque
Other Features	
A	Accent Paving
B	Ipe Wood Deck
C	Concrete Walkway
D	Bench with Back
E	Curved Bench
F	8' Tall Lanterns
G	Oregon Basalt Walls with Exhibits
H	Bamboo Screen
+	Trunks of Existing Trees to Remain

Vietnam War Memorial Wilson Park, Oregon State Capitol Grounds
PHASE 1: MEMORIAL COLUMN WALL CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Cottage Grove Elks Lodge named non-profit of the year



On Saturday March 2nd the Cottage Grove Elks Lodge #1904 received the Non-Profit of the Year for the year 2023 at the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce banquet. The Cottage Grove Elks was selected for their work in the community to aid those in need.

During the year the lodge has provided lunches for 60 children at the Dorena Elementary School. These lunches provide the children with food on the weekend and during school breaks, They also supported the Lane County Stand Down, by providing Veteran's with comfort items and supplies for homeless Vets. They have supported Veteran's

Legacy with food, clothing and kits for the Vets to help them transition to living on their own after completing the program.

In December they hosted approximately 70 children and their families to a Christmas Party. They provide activities and games for the children along with a lunch for everyone. Each child got to visit with Santa and received a gift to take home. These are just some of the activities that they supported during the year.

Congratulations to the Cottage Grove Elks Lodge for this well earned award for all they do for their community.

Betty Hise for Cancer Research



Members of the Betty Hise for Cancer Research Board presented the 2023 funds to Oregon's Knight Cancer Institute in Feb. The presentation was made by Past Director Sheri Bowers, also representing Past Director Deb McFerron. Receiving the funds was Dr Sanjay Maholtra. He gave us a tour of the Malhotra Lab which

investigates treatment resistance in cancer patients by combining cutting-edge medicinal chemistry with molecular cancer biology. By working with known drugs and making modifications, they develop new compounds with optimized absorption and limited toxicity, while studying how the body interacts with the drug exposure. These efforts support the overall goal of the laboratory: to develop effective new drugs and molecular diagnostics to treat and monitor treatment resistance in cancer.

After the presentation and lab tour, Lisa Nolen, our featured speaker for the Betty Hise luncheon at the OSEA Summer Convention in Seaside gave us a tour of the Knight Cancer Institute. Every year, they treat about 6,000 patients and conduct about 1,400 research projects.

Thank you for your interest and support. Directors Barb, Lillian, Pam, Laurie, Cassandra, Virginia, Sharon and Helen.

Camp Meadowood Springs

Did you know Camp Meadowood Springs had so many campers last year they have added another session in 2024?

Registration for summer camp sessions is open from July 7-12 and July 14-19. Those who are 7-14 with an identified speech need can register for camp at meadowoodsprings.org If you would like to participate in your local lodge's efforts to raise scholarship funds, contact: mdillardelks@gmail.com. And, make sure to take the opportunity to meet Meadowood's Executive Director at the State Convention this April.



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April 2024 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	22	23	24	25 OSEA Summer Convention	26 OSEA Summer Convention	27 OSEA Summer Convention
28	29	30	1	2	3	4