



OREGON ELKS NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon State Elks Association
Volume IV Issue No. 9 January 2025

Persevere & Innovate

OSEA President's message



Ah, the start of a new year. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a festive New Year's Eve. As Elks, the children in our communities are a major reason we exist and to that end January is the start of a lot of the Elks contests for the students in your area. These activities are a chance for kids to be recognized for their hard work.

While the Americanism Essay contest finished on December 15th, judging should be completed with lodge winners submitted to the district chair. Your lodge Hoop Shoot should already been held and your winners getting ready for the district shoot. Applications for the MVS scholarship closed in November, but the Legacy Scholarship is now open for children, stepchildren, and grandchildren of Elk members. This closes on February 3rd, so time is of the essence.

The Drug Awareness Program conducts several contests. These include an essay contest for 6th - 8th graders, a poster contest for 3rd - 5th graders, and for older students, a video contest. Details about these contests are available in the Drug Awareness section on the elks.org website. Artwork for our Eye Injury Prevention poster contest, which promotes eye safety, should be submitted to the lodges at the end of the month.

I know that some school districts make it hard if not impossible to get access to the students, but we have to try. There are other ways to reach kids. These include church schools, the YMCA, and the Boys and Girls Club in your community. You might have other organizations that might be able to help you out.

And that is why we have to persevere and innovate.

Fraternally,
Steven Malone
OSEA President



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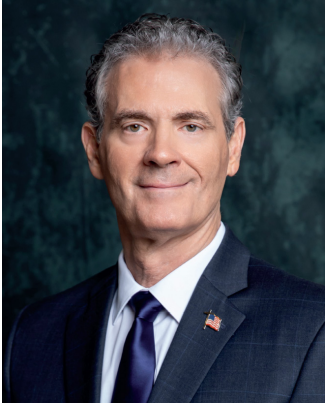
Newsletter articles can be submitted to the OSEA Public Relations and Membership Committee at info@oregonelks.org.

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Grand Exalted Ruler: New year begins, but Elks year ends soon



Happy 2025 to all our Elks family! Julia and I want to wish you and your families a healthy and happy new year.

January is the beginning of the last quarter of the Lodge year. Be sure to have your membership retention and arrears program ready to work on having a +1 membership

gain for 2025! Have your committee reach out to delinquent Members. This personal contact could very well bring these Members back into our folds.

While we have so many Members who are active and going beyond the call of duty, we unfortunately have those who are delinquent in membership. We need to look over the lapsation list. Our delinquent Members had a reason for joining and they are worth keeping as active Members. Find out what you can do to improve this. Think of the missed opportunities that these delinquent Members could have had in making a legacy of service.

As we begin 2025, Lodges need to be focusing on several aspects: Our Members and membership, our Lodges and improvements, and our recognition to those who have given beyond the typical role of service.

There is no better way to recognize these people who have gone beyond the call of duty in their service to Elksdom than to award them with "Elk of the Year," "Officer of the Year," and "Citizen of the Year." The awards form can be accessed in CLMS2Web. They need to be submitted prior to March 31 so that the certificates can be printed and sent back to the Lodges for Officer installations. As an Exalted Ruler, you have an opportunity to recognize those Members who are doing everything without even being asked.

Speaking of legacy, the Legacy Award scholarship is available until February 3, 2025. It provides \$4,000 scholarships to the children and grandchildren of Elks Members. Use the membership of Elksdom to pay it forward to help your children and grandchildren.

The end of year will be here before you know it. With the FRS system, your Lodge just needs to ensure all entries are current. The nice thing about the FRS system is your Lodge no longer needs to have the annual audit completed. However, you still must submit your 990 and 990T for each corporation in your Lodge. Have them completed by a qualified individual (e.g., CPA) and filed with the IRS and uploaded on Elks.org.

Elksdom's Heart for America means looking for ways to recognize the value of our Members, membership, and the value of looking forward to the future. Keep up the good work you are doing in your Lodge and community. I want you to know how much I appreciate all that you are doing for Elksdom. God bless you and God bless America.

Lodge Improvement Fund Grants

Last year, the Oregon State Elks Association launched the Lodge Improvement Fund Grants to assist lodges with improvement or beautification projects to enhance to appearance and perception of their facilities. We currently award two \$1,000 grants each year to lodges who apply and complete their All-American Lodge contest form. This grant application is meant to be easy with a simple project description, project budget, and some before pictures of the proposed project. To simplify the submission even further, we have made the grant application an on-line process. Which can be submitted by going to: <https://www.oregonelks.org/lodgeimprovement> and completing the form on that page by February 15th.

Submissions will be reviewed by the LIF Committee and sent to the OSEA State Officers for final consideration at the March State Officers Meeting. Winners will be awarded a the 2025 OSEA Summer Convention in Seaside.

Keep in mind, the purpose of the grant is for lodge improvement and not lodge maintenance or repairs of lodge equipment. Some examples of lodge improvement projects include:

- Addition of an Elk statue
- Updated light fixtures
- Repainting or adding a mural
- Replacing carpet or flooring
- Landscape or hard-scape.

Any questions reach out to your district Vice President or LIF Chair PSP Nick Bettencourt.

Important additions to Oregonelks.org

We have recently updated the way you submit candidates for the Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year and the new Citizen of the Year award. Instead of the old "brochures," nominations are now submitted online via an online form. These forms can be accessed on the pages linked below. In addition to the awards, we have also made the OSEA Lodge Improvement Grant Application an online process as well.

Submissions for all three awards and the Lodge Improvement Grant are due no later than the end of the day on February 15th, 2025. If you have any questions about these awards or the submission process, please do not hesitate to reach out to info@oregonelks.org.

OSEA Citizen of the Year

- There is a new award for the OSEA to recognize those in your community doing outstanding work.
- <https://www.oregonelks.org/citizen-of-the-year>

OSEA Officer of the Year

- This award is to recognize a current lodge officer for their efforts this year to help your lodge be a success.
- <https://www.oregonelks.org/officer-of-the-year>

OSEA Elk of the Year

- This award is to recognize a non-officer member of your lodge who has gone above and beyond in helping your lodge and community this past year.
- <https://www.oregonelks.org/elk-of-the-year>

OSEA Lodge Improvement Grant Application

- Started in 2023-2024 the OSEA Lodge Improvement Grant awards up to \$1,000 to two lodges for improvement projects.
- <https://www.oregonelks.org/lodgeimprovement>



Where to find shareable content

As a reminder, there are several resources out there from Grand Lodge and the Oregon State Elks Association where your lodge can find shareable content that can be used in your lodge newsletters, lodge social media/websites, and in things like the My Elks App. Keep in mind, the use of approved shareables is a criteria in the judging of the OSEA Lodge Newsletter and OSEA Local Lodge Website Contests. So make sure to share these resources with your bulletin editors, cyber assistants, and other folks working on your social media or websites.

Grand Lodge

- Copy and paste stories that can be used in your lodge newsletter: <https://www.elks.org/resources/newsletter/stories.cfm>
- Social shareables that can be used to promote lodge events, membership, trivia about the Elks, and more. There are over 1,000 shareables now available and more continue to be added: <https://virtualmanuals.elks.org/shareables>

Area 8/DiscoverElks!

- Audio files of most of our DiscoverElks! promotional content can be downloaded via our SoundCloud account by visiting: <https://www.discoverelks.org/shareable-resources/#AudioFiles>
- Video files that can be share on social media and websites can be found by going to the DiscoverElks! YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@DiscoverElks>
- You can also find DiscoverElks content on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/discoverelks>

Oregon State Elks Association

- You can find videos and recordings from special events (such as the annual installation of officers) on our OSEA YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@Oregon-StateElksAssociation>
- And we also share content on the OSEA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OregonStateElksAssociation>

Lodge spotlight

We do our best to highlight the great things that Oregon Elks are doing in communities across our state in the OSEA Newsletter. Articles must be about lodge history (such as anniversaries or other milestones), community events, charitable projects, or other notable events at your lodge. We do not publish information about lodge activities.

You can submit up to 200 words for consideration for the newsletter. The Public Relations and Marketing Committee which produces the newsletter may reach out to you to ask for pictures to include with the article or for any clarification. We also may edit your article for clarity or space needs. To submit an article you can go to <https://www.oregonelks.org/osea-newsletter> or email info@oregonelks.org.

This month we have two lodges to highlight!

St Helens #1999

St. Helen's Lodge #1999, helped over 173 children in our community by providing them coats, gloves and hats. This



event is called Warm Welcome where we teamed up with all of the Head Starts in Columbia, County, Oregon to help the kids in Head Start and their siblings stay warm this

winter. This event was funded by an ENF grant and by local lodge fundraising. St. Helen's lodge is looking forward to continuing this event for years to come.

Salem #336

Three Salem Elks Lodge members delivered two dozen hot turkey dinners to residents of Courtney Place Veterans Housing in Salem on Thanksgiving Day. Ken Eschliman, his brother Keith, and Mike Allegre went door to door to present the residents with a hot meal prepared at the lodge and some Thanksgiving greetings. The trio spent extra time with most of the residents including spouses. Ken said the one-hour visit



was a fun, meaningful and a worthwhile outreach to neighbors in need and to get to know them. "There were several waiting out front for us when we arrived. It was really nice talking with these residents and hearing about where they served and branch of service." The facility's executive director, Andrew Holbert, was very grateful and said these veterans and their families "will always remember and appreciate the kindness shown to them."

Donate to make an impact today

Did you know that you can make a secure on-line donation to help support the charitable programs of the Oregon State Elks Association and our major project the Elks Youth Eye Service (EYES)? You can go to <https://www.oregonelks.org/donate> and make either a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation to help fund our charitable programs. You can even select which program you would like your donation to go to. You can select:

- **General Fund** – This will allow the OSEA Officers and Trustees direct your gift to where it is most needed.
- **Elks Youth Eye Service** – This will direct your gift to OSEA major project the Elks Youth Eye Service
- **Scholarship** – This will direct your gift to the OSEA scholarship and vocational grant programs.
- **Veterans** – This will direct your gift to the OSEA veterans' program that provides for veterans across Oregon
- **Camp Meadowood** – This will direct your gift to help support Camp Meadowood Speech and Hearing Camp
- **Lodge Improvement Fund** – You can also direct your gift to help us build the Lodge Improvement Fund into a sustainable program and assist more lodges each year with improvement projects and more.

Please visit <https://www.oregonelks.org/donate> today to start your gift to the charitable programs of the Oregon State Elks Association.

Coming soon veterans fundraiser

The Oregon State Elks Association has commissioned a challenge coin that we will be selling as a fundraiser for the OSEA Veterans program. The new OSEA Veterans Challenge Coin will be available at the OSEA Summer Convention in Seaside. There will only be 500 of these coins available. More information will be made available ahead of the OSEA Summer Convention.

Final design concept:



Online membership inquiries

It used to be that people only joined the Elks because they were invited to do so by a friend, family member, coworker, etc. But today we receive an increasing number of on-line membership inquiries through elks.org. This year alone we have received 706 inquiries through elks.org. Of those only 83 have become members with an additional 16 currently in the membership process. This is a conversion rate of just over 14%. In the new year, let's focus on these on-line inquiries and do more than just send them an application and hope for the best. Send them an email or better yet give them a call and invite them to the lodge to come in, have dinner, and learn more about the Elks.

The Lodge Secretary receives the membership inquiry through CLMS but a committee can support the secretary and help reach out to these individuals who are expressing interest in joining our order. And keep in mind, first impressions matter and make all the difference in converting someone from just being interested to being a member. Taking the time to engage with prospective members beyond just sending out an application or form letter can make all the difference.

With effort we can easily increase our conversion rate and add to our continued membership gains.

Betty Hise for Cancer Research

Local and national organizations are available to help with cancer concerns. Services needed can often be found in your own neighborhood. Here are some ideas:

Your Health Care Team: Doctors, nurses and social workers can provide information about your cancer diagnosis and treatment. Cancer centers are excellent sources of information. Hospital social workers and discharge coordinators are also great resources.

Local and County Government: Local governments often offer low-cost transportation. Government agencies have information on Social Security, state disability, Medicaid, income maintenance and food stamps.

The Cancer Support Helpline at <https://www.cancersupportcommunity.org> is one of many online resources and is staffed by community navigators and resource specialists who have extensive experience in helping people affected by cancer so that no one faces cancer alone. They provide guidance, resources, and support to cancer patients and their loved ones with a variety of needs. Information about cancer, identifying a local support group, or just finding someone who is willing to listen.

Their services include:

- Connecting callers to local or national resources, counseling, support groups, treatment lodging & transportation services, and other programs.
- Live web chat option for those who prefer not to call. See Chat Now window on website.
- Specialized information and navigation in finances & treatment costs, clinical trials, pediatric oncology, and genetics/genomics.
- Treatment decision-making education.
- Access to an online distress screening program to understand the patient's perspective in relation to their physical, emotional, psychological, social, practical, and/or spiritual needs.
- Guidance on the full scope of resources.
- Live, bilingual support in over Spanish navigation services.
- Over-the-phone translation 200 languages

The Cancer Support Helpline 888-793-9355
Monday–Thursday: 11 am – 8 pm ET
Friday: 11 am – 6 pm ET



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January 2025 OSEA Calendar

Find us on 
@OregonStateElksAssociation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Presidents Visitation West District @ Cottage Grove	11 Presidents Visitation West District @ Cottage Grove
12	13	14	15	16 Washington Winter Convention @ SEATAC	17 Washington Winter Convention @ SEATAC	18 Washington Winter Convention @ SEATAC
19	20	21	22	23	24 Presidents Visitation South District @ Roseburg	25 Presidents Visitation South District @ Roseburg
26	27	28	29	30	31	1