



Washington State Elks Association Newsletter

November 2024

PO BOX 110760 Tacoma WA 98411-0760 phone: 253-472-6223

Informing, Educating, and Communicating with WSEA Members

Presents Under the Tree, CIP Grants Make a Difference for our Communities



Christmas presents come in all different shapes and styles. Some come in big boxes, and others are small and square. Some have red wrapping paper and a gold bow, and others are adorned with paper featuring reindeer and Christmas trees.

No matter how a present looks as it sits under the tree, for a child on Christmas morning, each represents the same feeling: hope. The hope that the shiny box has the dollhouse they've always wanted, or that the oddly shaped present in the corner is the bicycle they've dreamt of for months.

For communities across the nation, Community Investments Program grants act as presents under the proverbial tree. Though the contents of the boxes differ based on the unique needs of each community, they all bring hope for meaningful change.

Florissant, Mo., Lodge No. 2316 brought meaningful change to its community by hosting a holiday party that had much more than carols and tinsel. By merging their Beacon, Gratitude, and Spotlight grants, the Florissant Lodge was able to provide 16 families with an unforgettable day of food, fun and presents!

The Florissant Lodge's CIP grant project is one of thousands that have provided meaningful change to communities across the nation, no matter the time of year. Though every present under the tree looks different, they all represent the same feeling: hope.

For 2024-25, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$16 million to fund the Community Investments Program. Lodges meet local needs through CIP grants that offer Elks opportunities to serve their community in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing great things.

In this issue...

BPOE Grant Message	1
President Message	2
WSEA VP Messages	3-6
WSEA informational	7
Drug Awareness Information	8
Membership & Marketing Mssg....	9
Elks Website Re-vamp	10
Important Dates	10
WSEA Officer Team	11
District Deputy Contacts	12
Event Flyers	13-14



WSEA President Message



Greetings,

I want to start this month's article by Congratulating the Kelso-Longview Lodge Ritual Team for taking First Place in the Washington Elks Association Ritual

Contest. They will be representing the State at the Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City, MO this summer.

Our rituals are a very important part of being an Elk. The initiation ritual is so important to show our new members what it means to be an Elk and explain to them the procedures to follow during a meeting. This needs to be performed impressively and needs to be practiced in order to do so. The officers of our lodges need to take their position seriously and work hard to make an impressive initiation ritual. It takes work but will help to pull the officer corps together as a team and benefit the lodge. The flag charge and 11 O'clock toast are places where you can start as a member by practicing those and taking part in the competition at Winter Convention.

Coming up in December is the Elks Memorial Service. At chance to remember the Elks we have lost. This ritual is a beautiful candle lighting service as an Elk is never forgotten. In May we perform the Mother's Day Ritual. This ritual is for all of us. It reminds us of our mothers who have passed and honors those that are still with us. Both of these are open rituals. This means that non-members can attend them.

Be sure to invite your family and friends to these beautiful ceremonies.

There are several other rituals the lodge is to perform throughout the year including Flag Day, POW/MIA Remembrance Day and the Elks Funeral Service. Make Ritual a significant part of your lodge.

We recently held the WSEA Quarterly Meetings where the State Association gets together to discuss the business of the association. It was two days of productive meetings culminating in the Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children's 70th Anniversary Gala. This was a grand event that celebrated the success of the program including two different graduates of the program and many of the therapists that do such wonderful work for us. It was great to see the therapist together enjoying the evening. The Gala raised approximately \$16,000 for the program. A final report will be generated with the exact amount.

We are working now on the WSEA Winter Convention. This will be held at the Sea-Tac Double Tree on January 16 – 19. Make your plans to attend now. The registration packets should be available anytime and will allow for online registration. We will have state meetings on Thursday with training sessions and elections on Friday and Saturday. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Michael Dahl". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Michael Dahl, WSEA President

WSEA President Elect Message

The Holiday Season is Coming



If your lodge is like most lodges, you have a lot of lodge events and holiday party rentals scheduled. Do you have the volunteers and staff needed to have successful events? Are the insurance contracts signed? Have the bartenders been updated on the

recent events on the hazards of overserving. Are the discrepancies from your monthly safety inspections getting corrected in a timely manner?

Are you starting to wonder what you can do to help? Contact your Lodge and get involved. I am sure they will have something for you to do. Such things as: decorating the lodge, volunteering to serve holiday meals, participating in community charity events, delivering gift baskets, assisting shelters with supplies, conducting maintenance around the lodge, there is so much you can do.

Everyone has a hidden talent. The hard part is finding a way to expose that talent and energy and put it to use. The first step is to get them involved. Step Two is to never turn down volunteers, there is always something for them to do, find out their interest. Step Three, dispel rumors and negative talk, this does more damage to a lodge than a natural disaster. Remember we are an organization

of Brotherly Love, not Brotherly selective Love. Do you want people to return to the lodge and participate? Make this a priority, stop gossip from interfering with the culture and climate of the lodge. Do everything you can to make the lodge a memorial place to be.

Is your lodge struggling with events and community involvement? The Washington State Elks Association are here to help. We have so many programs to assist you: Marketing & Membership, Advertisements, Hoop-Shoot, Scholarships, Therapy for Children, Grant Assistance, Business Practices, training programs, and more. We are here to help you, and your lodge succeed.

We just need you to ask. Contact your District Program Advocate, District Program Chairperson, State Chairperson or the Executive Board, we will gladly get you the help you need. Also, check out the revamped WSEA website. You will be pleased with what they have done. It is very user friendly and well organized.

Remember, we cannot help you if we don't know you need help.

Happy Holidays & Fraternally yours

Scott Rainey,
WSEA President Elect

Elks Care
Elks Share

WSEA Vice President North Message

By Ben Braden



I grew up in a family deeply involved in community theatre. There's something unique about the experience of gathering with fellow community members to rehearse, practice, and develop a performance for the

benefit of the local audience. It's about more than just entertainment; it's about education, enlightenment, and engagement.

This developed a particular fondness for community theatre, a tradition that has stayed with me throughout the years. One interesting experience I had was living in a town that, despite its size, supported two community theatres. I attended performances at both, but it quickly became clear that one group took things more seriously. Their shows were smooth, engaging, and clearly well-rehearsed. The other group lacked the dedication and effort necessary to truly connect with their audience.

I stopped going to the lackluster theatre (surprise there!) and bought a yearly subscription to the one that consistently put on impressive performances.

What stands out to me was how ordinary people - those with full-time jobs, families, and other obligations - found the time and energy to deliver such quality productions. Their commitment and passion captured my attention and kept me coming back.

Even now, three towns later, I still make it a point to attend the local community theatre. I recall one performance during the COVID restrictions where an actor was holding a script on stage. It wasn't ideal, but the actor stayed in character and

delivered an amazing performance despite reading from the script. I later learned that both the intended actor and their understudy had fallen ill with COVID, and this actor had stepped in at the last minute. Despite not having time to memorize their lines, they had clearly put in the effort to understand the role and delivered a performance that entertained and engaged the audience.

Our officers are called upon to perform a "play" of sorts during our initiation ritual. While it's shorter than most plays—only about 45 minutes—it's no less significant. It's a performance for our fellow community members, one that educates, enlightens, and engages those we deem qualified to welcome into our order, as well as the members present in the audience.

When done impressively, this performance can inspire and energize members, encouraging them to return and be involved. As Elks, we incentivize performing the ritual through our annual competition and its awards. However, the competition alone isn't reason enough to ensure that lodges perform this important ceremony impressively.

Whether your lodge competes in ritual or not, a well-executed performance benefits everyone. Just like that actor who reads their lines impressively, your officers may not always have every word memorized—but what matters is that they perform it smoothly, engagingly, and with the passion necessary to captivate both new and long-time members.

This kind of performance empowers members to return to meetings, volunteer on committees, and even step up to become officers themselves.

Let's not allow the competition to overshadow the true purpose of the initiation ritual. Instead, let's focus on its ability to engage our community members, strengthen our lodge, and inspire others to take an active role in the Elks' mission.

Read it well, recite it well – either will be impressive, will garner the desired results.

WSEA Vice President East Message



...Charity. The cornerstone of every Elks structure. The highest virtue of every Elk creed.

...The help we extend to those in need is added to our own strength. The witchery of wealth is not in having, **but in sharing**. The real benefactors of mankind count their store in what is given, not in what is saved.

But, as Elks, we teach not alone the charity of alms, but the higher and nobler charity of thought, word and deed. Our whole influence in life is determined by the good deeds we do rather than by the emotions we feel...

...Charity is the greatest of all the virtues; and that it should ever rule us in our hearts and in our lives, leading us to speak no unkind word, to harbor no evil thought, to bear no malice, to support no wrong; but to nurture, love and protect; to condone, forgive and forget.

I filled in as Leading Knight last Tuesday. These are the words we deliver every time we initiate a new member, and they help form the foundation of our order.

Over the past few months, I have been part of a team working on a revamp of our state website. This project has reiterated the good deeds we truly do through the Elks, and it is something we should all be proud of.

Let me share a few reminders of what we do in the name of "Charity":

- Washington State Elks fully fund an in-home therapy program for children at no cost to the families.
- We, the Elks, give away hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships every year, comparable to the U.S. government!
- We have the largest volunteer Drug Awareness Program in the country.
- We have always supported and helped our Veterans. Washington State is number one in Welcome Home kits in the nation!
- Community Impact Grants that go directly back to help our communities, along with our partnerships with Children's Hospital, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, our EZ Child ID program, and much more!

Is Charity the cornerstone of you lodge? These programs are all available to you and to your community. As you are planning activities for the upcoming months, this is a great time to also plan how you can use your grants to give back to your community, get into your schools to promote our scholarships, or plan a Hoop Shoot or Soccer Shoot. You can also think about how to help your local veterans during the upcoming holidays.

As always, if you need any help or ideas, the state committee chairs are here to assist.

Let's make sure everyone knows... Elks Care. Elks Share.

Lana Davick
Vice President – East

WSEA Vice President Central Message



Hello All,

As we gather around the table this Thanksgiving, let us take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by our veterans. The Elks have a long-standing tradition of supporting those

who have served our country.

As we begin this holiday season, we have Veterans Day coming up on November 11th and I hope we all are coming together to honor our veterans in meaningful ways. I know many lodges will host special lunches or dinners, providing a warm meal and a sense of community to our veterans and their families. These gatherings serve not only as a celebration of gratitude but also as an opportunity to foster connections among those who have shared the experience of military service. I recently witnessed this at a new monthly veteran's gathering put on by the Olympia #186 lodge in which they invite veterans to come to the lodge for lunch and games. I watched as many of the veterans enjoyed sharing their experiences.

This Thanksgiving, we can play a part in honoring our veterans. Consider volunteering at a local event, donating to veteran-focused charities, or simply reaching out to a veteran in your life to express your gratitude. Every gesture, big or small, makes a difference.

As Elks, we stand united in our commitment to support veterans and their families, not just during the holidays, but year-round. Together, we can ensure that they receive the respect and care they deserve. The WSEA Veterans Committee has many ways to help. Some of these programs include:

- **Welcome Home Kits** for veterans exiting homelessness and moving into new homes. Most veterans move into their homes with nothing.
- **Veteran Emergency Relief Assistance (VERA) Grants:** Financial relief grants are provided to Service Member or Veterans in need of assistance in WA State. These are not loans; these are one-time grants provided to those who are in need.
- **Lodge Grants:** there are several grants available to our lodges who want to give to their local veterans in need. Projects include hosting meals, hosting a stand down, providing food pantry items.

November is the month of Thanksgiving. We need to be thankful for all the Veterans who have given so much for our country.

Patti and I are thankful to know all of you and wish all you a Happy Thanksgiving filled with family and Friends.

Scott Knight

3rd Vice President

Washington State Elks Association



Washington State Elks Association: Building a Positive Future: Increasing Funds for the Washington State Elks Association

(Part 3 of 3)

By Roger True & WSEA Executive Board

Our State Sponsor, Roger True, and the Executive Board of the WSEA present the third, in a series of three articles giving you, the members, an overview of our association.



As we look to the future of the Washington State Elks Association (WSEA), it's clear that financial sustainability and increased funding are key to ensuring the longevity of our programs and the continued success of our lodges. With the recent vote to increase per capita dues starting in the 2025-2026 WSEA year, we have taken a vital step towards building a stronger, more resilient organization.



This increase in funds will allow us to invest more deeply in the programs and committees that are the lifeblood of our association. From supporting veterans to engaging youth, and

from training lodge leaders to preserving our cherished rituals, these programs are essential to the health and growth of our lodges. The additional resources will help us not only maintain these programs but also expand them, ensuring that we can continue to make a

positive impact in our communities for years to come.

For years, the WSEA has relied on reserve funds to balance our budget. While this approach has allowed us to sustain our



programs, it is not a sustainable solution. By increasing our per capita dues, we are ensuring that we can continue to provide essential support to our lodges without depleting our reserves. This financial stability will allow us to focus on the future, building on our successes and creating new opportunities for growth and engagement.

With additional funding, we will be able to enhance our efforts to support our lodges, invest in leadership training, and expand our youth and veteran programs. This will not only strengthen our association but also ensure that we are able to continue making a positive difference in the lives of our members and communities. The WSEA is committed to using these funds wisely, ensuring that every dollar is invested in building a brighter future for the Elks in Washington.



As we move forward, we are excited about the possibilities that this increased funding will bring. Together, we can continue to uphold the values of charity, justice, brotherly love, and

fidelity, and ensure that the Elks remain a vital force for good in our communities. The future is bright, and with your continued support, we will continue to build a positive future for the Washington State Elks Association.

Risk Factors for Early Drug Use

By William J. Bryan, National Director



While October was a busy month for activities in the Drug Awareness Commission, November is certainly a month for Thanksgiving. We have a lot to be thankful for, especially the work being done in our Lodges and in our communities. Thank you to those Lodges who have worked so hard throughout the year to educate our youth and help strengthen our communities. Thank you to the thousands of Elks who not only work on Drug Awareness, but on the multitude of activities that help make our organization the best there is.

In a recent press release, the DEA is warning communities, especially those in rural areas, to be aware of a recent rash of burglaries in pharmacies, with the intent to obtain controlled substances. Many of these burglaries are perpetuated by outside organizations. This summer, the DEA announced it arrested 24 members of a drug ring that had burglarized more than 200 pharmacies across the country.

Remember, early use of drugs increases a person's chances of becoming addicted. Also remember, drugs change the brain—and this can lead to addiction and other serious problems. So, preventing early use of drugs or alcohol may go a long way in reducing these risks.

The risk of drug use increases greatly during times of transition. For an adult, a divorce or loss of a job may increase the risk of drug use. For a teenager, risky times include moving, family divorce, or changing schools. When children advance from elementary through middle school, they face new and challenging social, family, and academic situations. Often during this period, children are exposed to substances such as cigarettes and alcohol for the first time. When they enter high school, teens may encounter greater availability of drugs, drug use by older teens, and social activities where drugs are used. When individuals leave high school and live more independently, either in college or as an employed adult, they may find themselves exposed to drug use while separated from the protective structure provided by family and school.

A certain amount of risk-taking is a normal part of adolescent development. The desire to try new things and become more independent is healthy, but it may also increase teens' tendencies to experiment with drugs. The parts of the brain that control judgment and decision-making do not fully develop until people are in their early or mid-20s. This limits a teen's ability to accurately assess the risks of drug experimentation and makes young people more vulnerable to peer pressure.

And speaking of risks: take a risk by having those uncomfortable discussions with your children and grandchildren. If you're not sure what to say, visit our award-winning podcasts on YouTube, *Awkward Conversations*, season 4.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Membership and Marketing Message

By Nancy Oakes, PER, Membership & Marketing Committee, Director

These last two months have been a fascinating learning curve for many reasons. As you probably all know, I have been doing Lodge Development for Moses Lake. More about that next month.



It has also been interesting to see how many lodges have reached out to me for help with membership drives, and to get the retractable program banners, for advertising and so much more. First, I am grateful that the current leadership in the lodges learned from their predecessors that our committee has a purpose. However, when you ask me to help you create your membership drive, it means you have not downloaded the Membership Drive Outline from the state website. We created specific step-by-step instructions for planning, setting it up, and the outline for the day of the event actions.

These documents are very helpful, and many lodges have discovered that if they follow the outline, they will have a successful drive. Now I am not saying you shouldn't contact me for assistance, but please, try it on your own to start with. My role is not to do it all for you.



Regarding advertising for your event. I am more than happy to help you with that, however bear in mind that to do major advertising, I need to book things in advance of 30 days. You have 6 months left, let's see what you can do with them to increase your membership via advertisements.

Now on the flip side, we have delinquencies of 11.2% of our state membership. The national percentage is 9.2%. **WE NEED TO IMPROVE AND DO IT QUICKLY!**

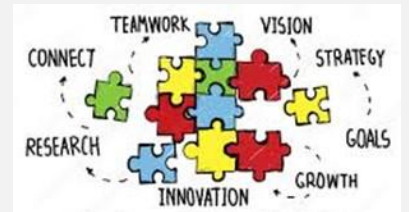
The Delinquency Toolkit is another item that was created to help you last year and it has very valuable items to get those delinquent members back into the lodge. If we maintain these numbers, we will not be in 5th place nationally, and very few lodges will be getting a check for their Plus 1 at the end of the year.



There are 5 specific lodges that have caught the attention of Grand Lodge, and they have informed me that I need to address those lodges, so heads-up, I'll be calling you shortly. **And don't wait another day to initiate the 303 candidates who have been waiting!!!!**

Don't mistake this for a directive saying, *don't call me*, I just want you to start out using the tools we have created and then you can call me. Keep up the good work.

WSEA Membership and Marketing Committee



Our purpose as the Membership and Marketing Committee is to use effective internal and external communications to relate to the membership and publicize our purpose, aims, and goals of our order. We are working hard to meet the needs of the lodges. Should you wish to submit info, ideas, questions, please contact Committee Chair, Nancy Oakes

Committee Chair:

Nancy M Oakes, PER
Nancy@garnettlaw.com,
ph. 307-250-3378

Team Members:

Jen Steele
Aaron Reid
Richard Shull
Traci Kezar
Scott Fylling
J D Smith
Missy Wheat
Dave Blevins
Lolly Titherington

Exciting Updates: Washington State Elks Association Website Revamp

We are excited to unveil the newly revamped Washington State Elks Association website. Our team has worked hard to make this site a valuable resource for potential members to learn about who we are and what we do. For our current members and lodges, we have worked to make it easier to find the resources you need and to promote all that you do.

A Fresh Look and Streamlined Organization

The first thing you should notice is the new colors, and new look, but more importantly, the streamlined organization. We have clearly defined categories and subcategories to minimize the clicks required to learn more about our mission and programs.

Next, we have introduced a clear “members login” feature. Try it! This will take you to the member’s tool kit where articles, reports, and resources are now categorized so you can quickly find what you need and what matters to you. If you are having trouble finding anything, there is a search option to help.

As you will see, our event calendar and featured events section remain, and the process of submitting events has been streamlined. We hope to see this calendar filled with shared events from our lodges.

Your Feedback Matters

We hope you enjoy the new and improved website. We value your input, and many of these changes are a direct result of your feedback. Please dive in, explore, and let us know what you think. For any questions or additional feedback contact Lana Davick at lanaelk318@yahoo.com. We will be providing a seminar at Winter Convention on navigation and utilization of the website. Watch for more information.



Important Dates/Lodge Events & Activities:
(more info on WSEA calendar)



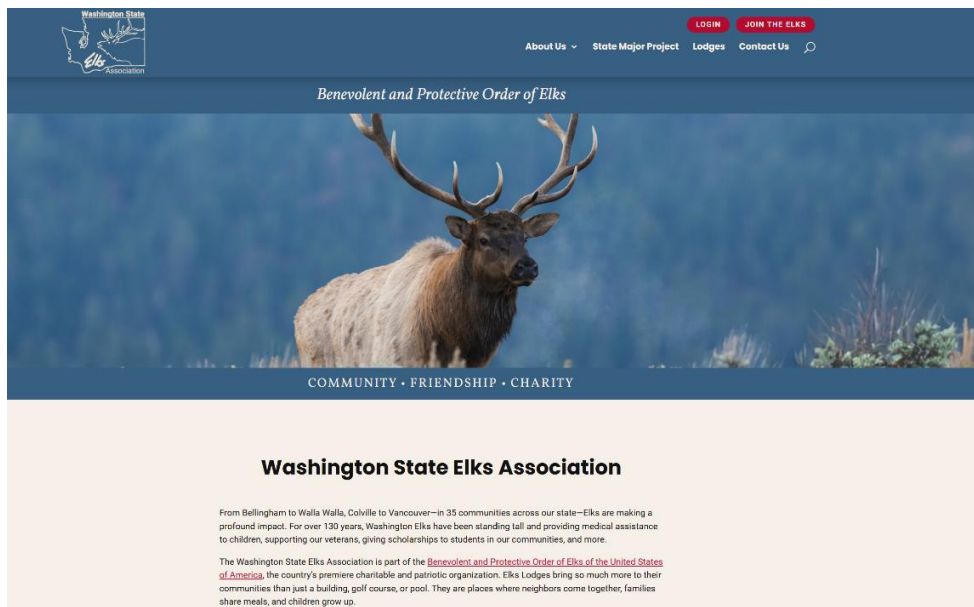
November 2-3
Ritual Judge Certification
Bremerton Lodge

November 11
Veterans Day



November 16
Purple Bubble Ball
Oak Harbor Elks Lodge

November 28
Thanksgiving Day





IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

All WSEA Newsletter submissions should be sent to:
wseanewsletter@gmail.com

Come Represent Your Lodge at the Washington State 11 O'clock Toast and Flag Charge Contests at the Washington State Elks Association Winter Convention

ANY ELK IN GOOD STANDING CAN COMPETE & WIN!

Check the WSEA Winter Convention Schedule for time and location or contact WSEA Ritual Chair Heather Beal for more information.



UNLEASHING GRITTY KIDS



Participants must advance through multiple rounds of competition, undefeated, to compete at the Wintrust Arena in Chicago. Only six win, and the rest leave with the even more powerful lesson of perseverance and the goal of returning next year!

Kids ages 8-13 are eligible to compete. Find the nearest contest at elks.org/HoopShoot.

WSEA OFFICER TEAM



The Washington State Elks Association, Founded in 1905, is made up of the state subordinate lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America. It currently has 34 member Lodges within Washington State and more than 20,000 members. Its purpose is to unite all Elks in closer bonds of fraternity, to promote the interests of the Order, exchange items beneficial to member Lodges, foster the virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity and to further patriotic devotion to the principles of the United States of America.

President:

Mike Dahl

President Elect:

Scott Rainey

Vice President/North:

Ben Braden

Vice President/East:

Lana Davick

Vice President/Central:

Scott Knight

Secretary:

Steve Scholz

Treasurer:

Robert Finley

Elks Care – Elks Share

District Deputies for 2024-2025

Central:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Scott Knight

Esquire: Peter Schultz

Auditor: Patti Knight

East:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Marc Allen

Esquire: Richard Shull

Auditor: John Dabney

Assistant to the Auditor: Patty Wilson

North:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Dave Richcreek

Esquire: Arnold Smith

Auditor: Mike Campbell

Assistant to the Auditor: Sheryl DeMarsh/Aaron Reid

South:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Rob Dahl

Esquire: Mike Morant

Auditor: Michele Jenkins

West:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Dean McCoy

Esquire: Patricia Staley

Auditor: Brandi Wallace

Assistant to the Auditor: Mike Leavitt



Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children

Since 1954, the Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children, Inc. has provided home-based occupational or physical therapy to children with developmental delays or physical disabilities. Services are provided at no cost to the family served.

Childrens Hospital



The Elks for Children's Hospital partnership between Seattle Children's Hospital and the Washington State Elks Association began in 1926 and continues today. The bond of these two entities and the care of the Elks has given hope to children in our region for more than 93 years.

**HOQUIAM ELKS LODGE
#1082**

VETERAN'S DINNER

**SATURDAY 9TH NOV 2024
5:00-7:00PM**

IN HONOUR OF ALL WHO SERVED

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A MEAL TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE
SERVED:**

**CHICKEN CORDON BLEU, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY,
VEGETABLE, SALAD, ROLLS AND DESSERT**

**VETERANS FREE
ALL OTHERS - \$10.00**

**HOQUIAM ELKS
624 K STREET
HOQUIAM, WA 98550**

PURPLE BUBBLE BALL

Dinner & Dance

Saturday, November 16th

Tickets

\$40 Per
Person
Available at
the Lodge

Lots of
Raffles

Live Music
by
Outta Control
8 - 11 PM

5 PM
Appetizers &
No host
cocktails
6 PM
Dinner

Please
RSVP By
November
13th

Dress
Attire:
Formal
-
Semi Formal

Menu

- Beef Medallions
or
- Salmon
- Blue Cheese
Garlic mashed
Potato
- Green Beans
- Dessert

LOCATED AT
OAK HARBOR ELKS LODGE
155 NE ERNST ST.
OAK HARBOR, WA 98277

360-675-7111
EMAILING
OH2362RSVP@GMAIL.COM

