



# Washington State Elks Association Newsletter

December 2024

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Informing, Educating, and Communicating with WSEA Members

## Washington State has a new Lodge! Congratulations Moses Lake Lodge #2892

Roger True, our WSEA State Sponsor, announced that after 34 years, we have opened a new Elks Lodge in Moses Lake, WA. Lodge #2892 was granted dispensation on October 2, 2024, and the Institution, Initiation, and Installation ceremonies were held on Saturday, November 23, 2024.

Mr. True proudly oversaw the ceremonies with the following dignitaries in attendance to assist with the Rituals. Past State Presidents, John Fry, Skip Barnes, Greg Balint, Bob Walker, Bob Ferda, Mike Kennedy, Larry Spencer, and Sandy Barber.



Additionally, the WSEA Executive board members also assisted with the new lodge Rituals. WSEA President, Mike Dahl; President-Elect, Scott Rainey; Vice President's, Lana Davick, Ben Braden, and Scott Knight and WSEA Secretary Steve Scholz.

Moses Lake Lodge is in the process of design and engineering of a new

building and they plan to have the new structure open by the summer of 2025. It was a wonderful celebration attended by many Elks from other lodges across the state. Congratulations to all who made this possible!



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## WSEA President Message



Season's Greetings to all. I hope this finds everyone safe and well.

Last month the Executive Board and Past State Presidents had the great privilege of Instituting a new lodge. **Welcome Moses Lake Lodge #2892.** We performed three different rituals including the Institution of the Lodge, New Member Initiation and Installation of Officers. It was a great day and we look forward to hearing great things as they work to build their new lodge.

While traveling to Moses Lake, Paula and I were able to make a stop at the Tri-Cities Lodge for dinner with my son and his family. Roger True even stopped by for a visit. I want to thank the Tri-Cities Lodge for their hospitality. I even got a chance to call one of their BINGO games before we had to hit the road.

I had the pleasure of observing the Veterans Day Ritual and the annual December Elks Memorial that honors our dearly departed members each year with a special ritual.

Our next big event is Winter Convention. Registration is due by December 5. If you have not yet registered please do so right away. We will have several training sessions available and will be voting for next year's officers. Kelso-Longview Lodges Kopa Kabana Players will be providing the entertainment on Friday night as part of the dinner or if you wish you can just buy a ticket for the show.

I am excited that we are promoting the Elks Charitable Trust. Most of our charitable works are funded through charitable trust and we are trying to encourage donations so we can build the trust and be able to do more for our communities. Watch for the new Charitable Trust pins with their donation level dangles.

Enjoy the holidays.

Fraternally,

Michael Dahl, WSEA President



## WSEA President Elect Message

### Tis the Season to be with Friends and Family



Last weekend I had the honor of participating in the institution of the newest lodge in our state, Moses Lake Lodge #2892. Seeing the excitement and enthusiasm of the new officers and members has reminded me of what it means to be an Elk. I look forward to seeing their progress and growth as the

construction of their new building begins in the spring.

How many of you already have plans for the holidays? Any social gatherings? Family travel? Christmas parties? Going to see Santa? I plan on seeing him, I might even take the grand kids. As you're doing all the wonderful things we normally do this time of year at the lodge and gatherings, take a step back. Who is missing? Is there a member or relation that you haven't seen in a while? Give them a call. Invite them to one of your gatherings. Not all people have relatives nearby or they are shy about attending social gatherings alone.

Another thing to think about. December in Elkdom is a time of remembrance of our passing members that have departed our world and onto another journey. We should also think about their family members that were left behind. Give them a call, invite them to

the lodge for the Christmas events. Help make them feel welcome and that they are not forgotten.

There have been times in the distant past that some members in our state seem to have forgotten or misplaced the true meaning of being an Elk. It is time to revitalize those members. The best way is to be a great example for them to follow, invite them to come with you to an event, or maybe a meal. Ask them what got them to join? What is the difference between then and now. What can we do to reenergize them. It could be something simple as transportation, nobody to go with, or finding a fit for them in the lodge doing something.

Winter Convention is just around the corner, hopefully everyone has already registered. A lot of training sessions to peak everyone's interests. We will be voting in our WSEA Officer's for next year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Scott Rainey,  
WSEA President Elect

**Elks**  
**Do!**

## WSEA Vice President North Message

By Ben Braden



Road trips are a passion of mine and the ability to stop at Elks lodges around our country and converse with fellow members is truly special. I've learned so many great ideas and things to try out and by truly getting to know members from

other areas I learned how lucky we are in our state.

While on a road trip a couple years ago I learned of a state program where the Vice President visits each lodge in their district, akin to the District Deputies visit. They have all the officers and committee members present, a dinner and lodge meeting, but the Vice President is concerned with the lodge committees, their needs and focus, and spends time trying to learn how the state can help the lodge succeed in their community.

Great idea! Bring the state's resources within the lodge walls and help the lodge do more in their community. Maybe overcome a hurdle or motivate a new avenue of thinking.

In another state I've learned that barriers still exist, true barriers to improving Elksdom by utilizing new energy and ideas to jumpstart a district into successfully branding and sharing Elks to their community. This is where I learned how lucky we are in our state, a state that recognizes people's worth to the system no matter how many years they have been a member.

In this other state, a district had 3 exemplary exalted rulers bringing amazing energy to their lodges and the district. 50- to 60-year-olds that brought their lodges into the modern era while at the same time building their lodge energy, membership and recognition in their community to such high levels their district leaders started

paying attention. Once they completed their officer roles, they were each asked if they would step up and bring their energy to their district and help build Elksdom.

One said no, their life was too busy, one said give me a year, and the third said yes, sure, I'd love to help. That third Past Exalted Ruler answered the call to help, to bring their obviously successful energy and ideas to the entire district and they said yes. We all know what the time, treasure and talent commitment this person agreed to take on for the betterment of the Elks – that is a huge deal.

How did it work out you're thinking – tell us how it went for this servant of the Elks, Ben? I'll tell you now, the outcome wasn't ideal. Long time members who are "waiting" for their upper position in Elksdom, to be assigned a district position that will lead them to the next level, threw such a stink that this newbie was advanced before them that the third Past Exalted Ruler was almost chased out of the Elks! Not only did they walk away from helping this district, but they also moved to another state that encourages new ideas and energy and they are now helping an entire state rather than just the district they left. Those other two Past Exalted Rulers, as you can imagine – they won't be helping their district or state anytime soon.

As much as these stories sadden me to hear, they reinforce what we are doing in our state, and in our districts. These stories legitimize Washington's efforts towards modernizing the Elks with Mobile Apps and Digital Membership cards, towards increasing awareness of the Elks with Streaming Advertising and Race Car Sponsorship. We are encouraging new ideas, focusing on the positives, and building inclusion of all with energy and good ideas no matter their age, heritage or years paying dues.

We are lucky here in Washington, traveling has shown me that. During this time of year while we give thanks and gifts to those we love, recognize the gift of new ideas and energy that motivated members can bring to your lodge, district and state. Encourage them to continue and to grasp that position they know they are excited to help with.

## WSEA Vice President East Message



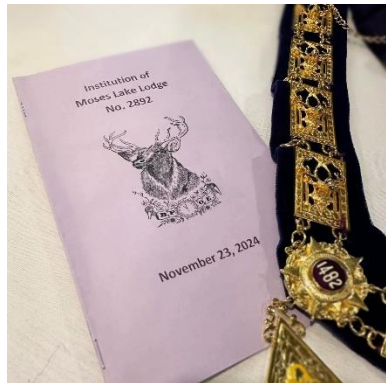
Happy Holidays!  
I hope you all  
had a great  
Thanksgiving.

As always, it is  
great to see all of  
the holiday

celebrations in our lodges. I wish I could attend more of them! I also hope you are posting on our state website so we can visit and support one another!

November brought the Washington State Elks Association its first new lodge in many years. Welcome, Moses Lake Lodge #2892.

I had the privilege of attending and assisting with the activities of the day. It was so wonderful to see 60+ new candidates



raise their hands and become members. The excitement of the members and officers of this lodge was refreshing to see. Before their first official lodge meeting on their own they had agreed to apply for community impact grants and raised funds to help with a local sports program. They are all proud to be an Elk and looking forward to growing and getting involved in their community.

It's seeing moments like those in Moses Lake that refresh me. This is why I do what I do and why I am an Elk. As we look forward to the new year, we should all take time and remember what it is to be an Elk.

Renew that excitement and make a resolution for 2025. Take that spirit and see what more your lodge can do for its members or community. Do your schools and members know about the amazing scholarships we offer? We have even more funds available for your lodge to award now! Have you reached out to offer Veterans Welcome Home Kits? There's still time. Have you used all the grant money available to give back to your community? Time is running out!

If you need any assistance, please reach out to your district Vice President or any committee chairperson. We want to help!

Shortly after the holidays we will gather for our Mid-Winter Convention in SeaTac. This is always a fun time to see everyone as well as learn and again renew our excitement for Elkdom. We have added some new training opportunities and activities to the agenda this year and are always looking for suggestions.



I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2025!

Lana Davick

Vice President – East

## WSEA Vice President Central Message



As the holiday season draws near, it is wonderful to see our members come together to embrace the spirit of giving and strengthen the bonds that make our community so special. This time of year offers a perfect opportunity to reflect on the Elks' long-standing

commitment to charity, service, and fellowship.

The Elks have a proud tradition of giving back, and during the holidays, that tradition shines brighter than ever. It is great to see the Lodges organize a variety of events and initiatives aimed at helping those in need. Whether it's sponsoring toy drives for children, hosting community dinners for families who might otherwise go without, or providing assistance to veterans, that we continue to make a positive impact during the holiday season.

There are many Lodges that I have heard are hosting holiday Christmas or Thanksgiving dinners, where members are volunteering their time to prepare and serve meals for those who may be struggling. These gatherings are more than just a meal; they are a reminder of the warmth and compassion that can be found within our communities.

In addition to these festive events, we participate in local outreach efforts that provide gifts, food, and necessities to families in need. These acts of kindness are fueled by the Elks' core values of charity,

justice, brotherly love, and fidelity, and they serve as a testament to the generosity of our members.

The holiday season is also an ideal time for reflection and gratitude. As we gather with loved ones and celebrate the joys of the season, we also remember those who may not have the same opportunities.

As we enter this festive season, let's take a moment to appreciate the countless volunteers and members who dedicate their time and energy to making the holidays brighter for others. The Elks is more than just a social club; We are a vital part of the fabric of our community, making a difference one act of kindness at a time.

This holiday season, whether through volunteering, donating, or simply spreading goodwill, we encourage all members to continue embracing the spirit of giving. Together, we can ensure that the holiday season is filled with joy, warmth, and hope for all.



You should have all received your letter from our Therapy Fund mailout by now. Please consider sending in a donation. We also have a new program starting where you can donate to the Charitable Trust. Please keep this in mind also when you are considering your donations. The Charitable Trust funds so many of our wonderful programs.

Happy Holidays from Patti and I, and may the season bring peace and happiness to you and your loved ones.

Scott Knight

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

Washington State Elks Association

## New Year Begins, but Elks Year Ends Soon



By Douglas A. Schiefer, Grand Exalted Ruler

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 Elkdom than to award them with “Elk of the Year,” “Officer of the Year,” and “Citizen of the Year.” The awards form can be accessed on 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 Elkdom 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.

Elkdom’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 Elkdom. God bless you and God bless America.

## Membership and Marketing Message

### 'TIS THE SEASON

This is the perfect time of the year to invite your neighbors, co-workers, cousins, friends, etc. to your lodge as a guest. Your lodges are all decorated and exhibit beautiful Holiday sentiments and letting guests into the lodge this time of year truly shows the Elks Camaraderie and Family Spirit.



The Membership & Marketing Team sincerely wish you and your families the most Blessed, Happy Holiday Season.

*Jen Steele*

*Aaron Reid*

*Richard Shull*

*J.D. Smith*

*Traci Kezar*

*Scott Fylling*

*Missy Wheat*

*Lolly Titherington*

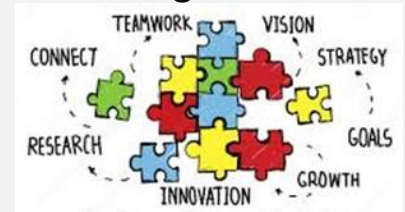
Thank you all for caring about your lodges, your communities, your charities, and Elkdom. We look forward to seeing you next month and starting a new program in Membership & Marketing.

*Merry Christmas to all,*

*Nancy M Oakes, PER  
Membership & Marketing Director*



## 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 public our purpose, aims, and goals and publicize the good deeds 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

Richard Shull being presented with a Veteran's Quilt at the Colville Veteran's Day event.



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



**December 14**  
**Colville Lodge #1753**  
**Annual Breakfast with Santa**



**December 31**  
**Vancouver Lodge #823**  
**New Year's Eve Party**  
**Walla Walla Lodge #287**  
**New Year's Medieval Ball**



**January 15-19**  
**Mid-Winter Convention**  
**Double Tree/Seattle Airport**

We congratulate our Membership & Marketing Team member, Richard.



## Come one, Come all, to the Elks' New Year's Medieval Ball!



**DECEMBER 31, 2024, 5:00PM-MIDNIGHT**

Live Music by Early Morning Traffic, Medieval Costume Contest, Includes Hors d'oeuvres and Champagne Toast!

**\$25 SINGLE/\$35 COUPLE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE OR AT THE LODGE!**

Walla Walla Elks Lodge #287 - 152 Par 72 Dr, Walla Walla  
 (509) 525-2870 - info@wallawallaelks.org  
 facebook.com/wallawallaelks/



### 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.

## WSEA Ritual Committee Report

This year has just raced by! Everyone is in the middle of holiday preparations and thinking about the new year. Our Leading Knights are looking ahead to next year and getting their teams together. It's also time to start talking about initiation. I've heard ritual cited as a reason for not becoming an Officer. First, I want to assure you that you can learn that part. All of us have been there, and we have overcome that obstacle.



One of our Ritual Committee's goals is helping Lodges perform quality initiations. I cannot stress enough how important it is to make that good first

impression. If your Lodge is reading the initiation, please consider having the Officers take that next step to learn their parts. That interaction and impression produced is so much more impactful when spoken from memory, and from the heart. Lodges also have the option to utilize a degree team. A degree team is authorized in the Statutes (Section 12.130) and it allows an Exalted Ruler, with approval from the Lodge floor, to appoint Members of the Lodge to a degree team to perform initiations. A Lodge's By-Laws must also authorize this. It's important to note that all regularly elected and appointed Officers have the right to be a part of the degree team at their elected or appointed station. If you have any questions about degree teams, please contact us. We can help.

Whether you choose to use a degree team, or have you regularly appointed /elected Officers

perform the initiation ceremony; make the ceremony matter! Reading the ceremony, especially if not done well, makes a lasting impression that will impact your new Member's opinion about the Elks and your Lodge. There is no opportunity to make a second first impression.

Our committee is dedicated to helping your Lodge make that great first impression. We want your amazing Officers and those conducting initiation to get recognition for the hard work they are putting in. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for help.



Don't forget about our 11 O'clock Toast and Flag Charge Presentation contests coming up during winter convention! Additional information is in the state calendar, so be sure to check it out!



Thank you for all you do and for your dedication to keeping the Elks the great organization we all know it to be!

Heather Beal, PER  
WSEA Ritual Chair  
Heather.1181elks@gmail.com



**Dear Washington Elks Members,**

At our 2024 Winter Convention we shared our plans to grow and promote the Washington Elks Charitable Trust. We have been working to fulfil that plan, and over the next couple of weeks, you will see the launch of our first fundraising campaign.

The Washington Elks Charitable Trust, a 501(c)(3), provides critical funding for programs that are the heart of our community outreach: Veterans, Scholarships, Hoop Shoot, EZ Child ID, Drug Awareness, and Americanism. These initiatives allow us to serve our communities with distinction, and with your support, we can expand their reach and impact.

Washington Elks have achieved extraordinary things through our focus on veterans, youth, and education, and we have the potential to do so much more. By growing the Charitable Trust, we aim to provide lodge grants to enhance local charitable programs, give more to support our Veterans, to strengthen scholarship opportunities for both traditional college and vocational school students, and to ensure robust participation in youth programs like Hoop Shoot. The Trust can help ensure your Americanism programs bolster patriotism in your neighborhood, and additionally, we can expand the distribution of EZ Child ID kits and tackle modern drug issues through expanded Drug Awareness initiatives.

Your support is crucial to these efforts. Every donation brings us closer to achieving these goals. To show our appreciation, we've launched a recognition program: with a \$20 donation, you'll receive an elegant lapel pin. As your contributions grow to \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$1,000, you'll earn hanging bars to proudly display your support.

Please watch for upcoming details and consider the incredible difference your donations can make—not only to statewide programs but also to your local community. Together, we can ensure that the spirit of “Elks Care. Elks Share.” thrives in Washington.

Thank you for your dedication to Elkdom and for helping us build a stronger Charitable Trust.

Sincerely,  
Mike Dahl  
President 2024-2025  
Washington State Elks Association

# WECT LAPEL PIN



\$100 WECT DONOR

\$250 WECT DONOR

\$500 WECT DONOR

\$1000 WECT DONOR



Support the programs of the Washington Elks Charitable trust by purchasing your Lapel pin today!

As you reach each donation level you can add a new bar to your pin to proudly show your support of the amazing programs of our Charitable Trust



## Mid-Winter Convention Registration Open Now



The Washington State Elks Association will conduct its Winter Convention at the Double Tree by Hilton, Seattle Airport, starting Thursday, January 16th, 2025. The registration form and preliminary agenda are attached. The hotel is going to set up a Breakfast Buffet as well as a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon Special to help expedite eating times. You can also order directly off the menu. Thursday night Welcome Reception was quite a

success the last couple of years so we are bringing back the Taco Bar with complimentary beer and wine. Friday Night Dinner menu includes a choice of Steak, Salmon or a Vegan option – Cauliflower Steak. For those not participating in the meal portion of the Friday night dinner, you can still enjoy the entertainment by purchasing entertainment ONLY tickets for \$10.00.

### Attendee Registration

There should be only one (1) Elk Member per registration form, please take care to follow this request.

Non Elk Spouse and Guests attending with a member will be \$20.00 each and listed on the Elk Member Registration form. All registration forms must be received by December 5th so we can

properly report room needs to the hotel by the required contract date. If received after December 5th an additional fee will be due upon your check-in at WSEA registration table. Please understand: After December 5th, there is no guarantee hotel rooms will be available.

\*If you are parking at the hotel without a guestroom, the cost is \$12.00 plus tax per day.

## **TWO OPTIONS FOR REGISTRATION**

1. Register online (link provided on WSEA website). If you choose to do this, please understand that the platform we are using provides their services AND credit card processing completely free to us. They are able to do this because they ask for donations during the registration process. If you feel that you would like to donate please do so and if you choose not to donate that is completely acceptable as well.
2. Registration is available by printing and completing a paper form and mailing to the State Office (link to form provided on WSEA website).

*Registration refunds: Full refund through Jan 4th, no refunds after.*

## **Hotel Reservation**

Rooms can be reserved at the convention rate of \$152.75 including taxes if postmarked by Dec 5th. Your options are 1 bed or 2 beds in the room. If no choice is made it will be entered as no preference. There is a \$25 charge per night if you request a mini refrigerator in your guest room. The total will be added to your bill at checkout.

Hospitality rooms: If additional items are needed for the hospitality rooms, they must be ordered through the Convention Chairman 2 weeks prior to arrival and will be added to the charges for the Hosts guestroom. All hospitality rooms will be assigned to the same area. Hospitality room hosts must complete a registration form to attend the convention.

*Hotel refund policy: 48 hour advance notice of your scheduled arrival date is required for a refund. After 4pm Jan 10th, contact the hotel directly for changes or to cancel.*

## **Advance Meal Ticket Purchase**

Tickets need to be purchased in advance so we can properly report plate counts by the required contract date. If no meal choice is made for Friday dinner it will be entered as Steak. Please understand: You do not have the ability to purchase these tickets at convention. The Entertainment ticket should be purchased in advance, there will only be a small quantity of these available on-site.

*Advance meal ticket refunds: Full refund through Jan 4th, no refunds after.*

We look forward to seeing you at the Convention!

