

Washington State Elks Association Newsletter



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Informing, Educating, and Communicating with WSEA Members

January 2025

Momentum Builds for Continued Membership Growth

By Rick Gathen
Grand Lodge Membership Marketing Manager

Last year, we achieved an impressive net gain of 14,676 Members, marking three consecutive years of growth. This success fuels our challenge to “Soar with Four in 2024–2025,” as we strive for even greater heights. As we enter the final stretch of the Lodge year, with official numbers to be recorded on May 31, our projections show an addition of 90,000 new Members to the rolls this fraternal year. However, sustainable growth hinges on one critical factor: membership retention. Every new and retained Member contributes to Elkdom’s story of resilience and purpose. Our actions today will shape the future of 2024–2025. Let’s seize this moment, initiate new Members with urgency, and create a future we’re all proud of—together.

This year presents unique challenges, including the devastating impact of two hurricanes on the southeastern United States. Yet, our collective resilience and the support of the Membership and Marketing Department provide the tools to rise above these obstacles. Resources like the join.elks.org website continue to inspire prospective Members, offering guidance on how to join and showcasing the many rewards of being an Elk.

To ensure success, remember to initiate all candidates by March 31, 2025. Together, we can turn this momentum into another remarkable year for the Elks.

As the writer Charles Caleb Colton said, “Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm.” Let’s harness that spirit to grow Elkdom like never before. All Gas. No Brakes!

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WSEA President Message



HAPPY NEW YEARS ONE AND ALL

I hope everyone has had a joyous holiday season and this finds you and your families well.

The executive board continues to meet and work on the business of the association and look forward to the future.

Coming up this month is our midwinter convention where we will be offering several training sessions and conducting the business of the association including electing the officers. I am excited that we will have a total of four past grand exalted rulers at the convention this year. I am looking forward to hearing from each of them.

I continue to be busy as right after our convention the First Lady and I will be traveling to Anchorage, Alaska to represent the association at the Alaska State Elks Mid-Winter Convention. Paula and I lived in Anchorage for 15 years before we moved back home to Washington in 1996. It will be nice to be back for a short visit. I am also looking forward to Hoop Shoot, the state contest will be at St Martin's University on February 15th and the regional contest on March 15th in Tri-Cities.

I would like to point out the efforts we are making recently to promote the Washington Elks Charitable Trust. This is the 501c-3 that funds most of our charitable works including the Therapy Program, Hoop shoot, Drug Awareness, Youth and Veterans. We would like to build this fund up to be an endowment that will continue to fund our activities and allow us to do even more charitable work in our communities. Please consider the Elks Charitable Trust as an option for your charitable giving.

Now is the time to start thinking about your lodge's year end awards. Most of the deadlines are in March but if you start looking into who your nominees are now it will make things easier later on. We are continuing the Polly Garland Award. I am sure every lodge has at least one lady that goes above and beyond for your lodge. This is a great way to recognize this person. Also take a look at how your lodge did in contest A, All American Lodge. Even if you are not likely to win this is a good score card for running a successful lodge. I would like to see an entry from each lodge turned in.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at convention.

Fraternally,

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

Michael Dahl, WSEA President

WSEA President Elect Message

Happy New Year!



I hope everyone had a wonderful time bringing in the New Year with your friends and family. Just think, in another 3 months, we will be celebrating the start of another fraternal new year for all the lodges.

How many of our current and future Lodge officers are prepared for finishing this fraternal year out, and getting ready for the coming year? We have all types of trainings sessions to help you out at the upcoming Winter convention. I hope that you have as many officers as possible and members attending. Please try and have your officers and members attend all the training courses and take notes to share with your officers, members, and committee chairs.

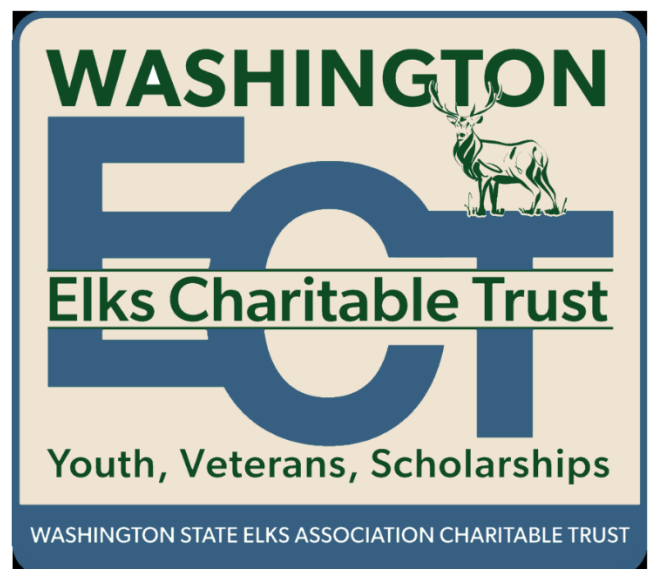
Exalted Rulers and Leading Knights, you have the hardest roles this time of year. Busy keeping the lodge active, finishing out the year strong with membership growth, submitting awards, making new budgets, planning next year's events, and training your new and existing officers in their new upcoming leadership positions. Do you have mentors assigned to your officers as they progress through? Do you need an officer training for them? WSEA can help.

Friday Convention sessions: To start the day off is Membership and Marketing, a must attend session for all lodge Membership Chairpersons.

Make sure to attend the Lodge Activities session, they will be discussing all the reports required for awards and activities. Also New ER Tune up training, highly recommend all incoming Exalted Rulers attend, whether you are new or a repeat. Come meet all your counterparts. Chairpersons of the Board and Trustees we have just the training session for you regarding How to Prepare and Maintain a budget. There are so many more training sessions for everyone. We have a training session for every committee required by Grand lodge. So please make sure to coordinate which sessions you and your teammates will attend, so you can obtain all the information to assist your lodge.

Fraternally,

Scott Rainey
WSEA President Elect



WSEA Vice President North Message

By Ben Braden



What makes America Great? We were asked this question during a Veterans' dinner recently and every Elk reading this article can answer that question – Veterans.

American citizens that stood in defense of our country and our flag.

We are a vast and diverse republic with many divergent approaches and we as an organization have made one of our main focuses veterans – *So long as there are veterans the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.*

There is no doubt veterans make America great, yet there is something else that makes America great from within, that builds the foundation citizens proudly protect – civic organizations – organizations just like ours actively engaging citizens across our nation.



Our organization may not be the biggest in our country, but we are the most inclusive and diverse benevolent society offered to our communities. An organization central to the foundation of democracy at the local level. Central to ensuring that empathy and understanding exist within a community.

Our diverse membership, our activities within our lodge, our focus on a common goal of serving our communities, of helping youth in need, of supporting veterans - that is what brings us together and builds the social capital needed to pay the bill of democracy.

At our local lodge nothing happens without membership, and nothing happens with our membership without activities to encourage interactions between them. Everything is built off that foundation. If civic organizations are the foundation of our democracy, as Robert Putnam's research shows, then our membership and their engagement is the foundation of our civic organization – you make America great.

Everything our organization achieves in our country happens because of you. Because you joined, because you pay your dues, because you are active in your lodge, because you opened your wallet to support those in need, our youth and our veterans.

Your efforts, your continued support of the Elks and all it represents make you one of a million members of the most diverse and inclusive civic organization bolstering the foundation upon which our country stands.

Thank you for supporting membership - by asking your friends, family and co-workers to join us in our efforts and for being active within your lodge – becoming an officer, joining a committee, putting on an event, attending a fundraiser, being engaged, paying your dues.

Thank you.

WSEA Vice President East Message



Happy New Year!

I hope 2025 brings many great things!

As I write this article we are

preparing for our Mid-Winter Convention. If you do not attend our state conventions, you are missing out! Every member is welcome, and it is a great time to learn more about your state association as well as learn from committee leaders on how you can help your lodge.

Washington State has had a great year thus far. With the new year let's take this opportunity to bring new energy and excitement to our lodges and finish the last quarter of the lodge year strongly.

Have you reached out to your delinquent members? Now is a great time to remind them why they joined and bring them back into the fold. There is also time to fill your calendars, including some membership drives, and initiate all those who are waiting to join.



Have you sat down and reviewed the goals you set for your lodge year? There is still time! Lodge Officers should be reviewing how and where you stand with your

goals for the year. If you are falling short, make this your last big push to meet those goals.



Remember, also, as you approach the end of the lodge year to be looking for those hard-working Members who

deserve recognition for all they do for the lodge. End of the year awards including Officer, Elk, and Citizen of the Year will be coming up fast. There is no better way to say thank you. Members, if you see someone deserving, let your lodge officers know.

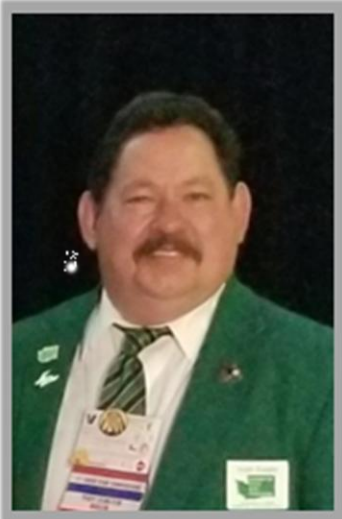
Remember, we are always here to help and look forward to helping you finish this lodge year strong.

Let's make 2025 GREAT!!

Lana Davick
Vice President – East



WSEA Vice President Central Message



Happy New Year!!

I hope you all enjoyed your holidays and were able to spend lots of time with family and friends.

As we enter a new calendar year, we are still finishing up our lodge year. As you look back at your

year, you will see many things your lodge has accomplished and you should be proud of those accomplishments, but now is not the time to let up. We need to finish the lodge year strong. We need everyone to get involved in membership growth. If you have time, volunteer at your lodge to contact delinquent members and invite your friends to join the lodge. Exalted Rulers, you need to be working with your secretary to get all your candidates initiated.

I hope all of you are planning on attending our Mid-Winter Convention in Seatac.

Conventions are a good time to learn all the things the State Association has to offer you, and to see how you can help the Association. If you are interested in getting involved at the State level, talk to a current officer. There are many opportunities for you.

We have some exciting changes that are coming to our Association this year.

We have a new Charitable trust campaign that has just been launched. I hope you all will consider donating. By raising funds for the

Charitable Trust, it will allow our lodges to do more in our communities. There will be a wonderful presentation at our Association Mid-Winter Convention this month. I hope to see you all there.

Vocational Grant Program - There have been changes to the Vocational Grant Program. There are now 4 \$5000.00 Scholarships that will be given out and Graduating Seniors can apply online. Come to the presentation at the Convention and learn more about the new program.

The Polly Garland award has also had some changes. You can find the directions for the new procedures on the WSEA web site. Now is the time to think about who you would like to nominate from your lodge. Every lodge has someone who should be recognized.

Now is also the time for you to begin thinking about the upcoming lodge year. Officer nominations are just around the corner. These positions are important to the Lodge and need to be filled by people who know what is involved and are willing to take on those tasks. Talk to new members too, see if they would like to be more involved.

Here's to a year filled with growth, joy, and meaningful experiences.

Happy New Year!

Scott Knight
3rd Vice President

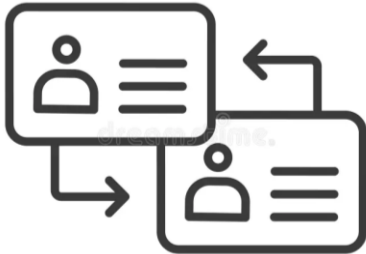
Washington State Elks Association



Membership and Marketing Message

Nancy Oakes, PER
Membership and Marketing Chairperson

I always feel as if I am caught in the middle of a time warp in January. It signals the end of the old year and start of a new one, however for the Elks, it is the last quarter of the current Elk year.



This is a very important time, it's time to get your membership numbers under control make sure all your delinquents have paid their 2024-2025 dues, that your last membership drives are on the books and advertising has started for those drives, and that you take stock of all

your lodge has done during the year for your charities and your community. That's what you need to be proud of and to advertise, let your current members know what has been accomplished, use the info to promote new members, and to inform your community how well you have supported local charities, seniors, veteran's, students, etc.

Your Membership & Marketing Team is ready and eager to help you with all the above. Give us a list of what your lodge has done and let us help you prepare press releases to publish. Let us help you create fabulous flyers for your last quarter fundraisers and membership drives.

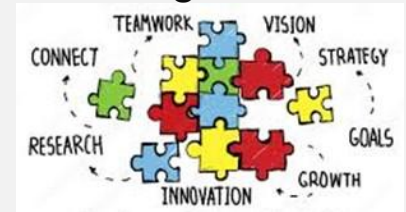
It's also a time to reach out to the Team and ask for help in getting those last stragglers to pay their dues. New year invoices will be going out very soon and you need to clean up your membership numbers.

Right now, there are very few lodges that are Plus 1 and I want to see every lodge in our state reach that Goal of Plus 1, so pick up the phone, send us a text, call, or email and ask for help.

I will be calling every lodge next week and hope to get a good understanding of why you are behind with your delinquents. You are doing a good job with getting candidates initiated, but I want to see that same efforts with lowering your delinquent rates.

Looking forward to speaking with everyone and hope you will remember to contact us for any of your Membership & Marketing needs

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 Fyelling
J D Smith
Missy Wheat
Dave Blevins
Lolly Titherington

Elks National Foundation -- Per Capita Goals



Along with having your Elks National Foundation (ENF) or Grants Chairman apply for the Beacon, Gratitude, and Spotlight Grants by January 22, 2025, as well as working on meeting the ENF Chairman's Challenge, we mustn't forget to encourage your Membership to donate to ENF through the Fidelity Cub, straight donations, or bequeaths. These donations boost your

member giving, and help our Lodges surpass the Grand Exalted Ruler (GER) and State President's Goals of \$5 and \$20 per member on average. If you're getting close, get inventive with a fundraising event, basket, or 50/50 raffle. These fundraising attempts along with utilizing the many grants that ENF provides those who apply for them, will boost your numbers up quickly. All of this activity becomes enlightening to your members, reminding them why we are Elks. The Elks National Foundation supports all of our programs and more at our Lodges. It requires understanding of how the Elks National Foundation really wants to give your Lodge the funds it needs to achieve success in supporting the community that surrounds it.

As we close in on the last quarter of the 2024-2025 Lodge year, let's see how Lodges are doing in meeting the GER and WSEA State President Goals.

Last year, 33 out of 34 Lodges met the GER Goal of \$4.80/member, and 17 out of 34 met the State President's Goal of \$11/member:

This year, so far, with 2 1/2 months left to go, 28 of our 35 Lodges have already met the GER Goal of \$5/member, and only 2 of our 35 Lodges have met the new State President's Goal of \$20/member, with a handful coming close to achieving it as well. Remember, each Lodge that meets the \$20/member, will receive a \$500 check for their Lodge at the State Convention in Pasco.

In Support & Gratitude,

Julie Seeder, PER
WSEA ENF Chair
206-478-1638 - jseeder2171@gmail.com



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



January 11
Hoquiam Elks Lodge
Coin Box Dinner

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

January 17
Mid-Winter Convention
Flag Charge Contest
11 O'Clock Toast Contest

January 28
Lynnwood Elks Lodge
Coin Box Dinner

February 15
WSEA Hoop Shoot Finals
St. Martin University,
Lacey WA

March 2
Vancouver Elks
WSEA Therapy Program
Bowling Fundraiser

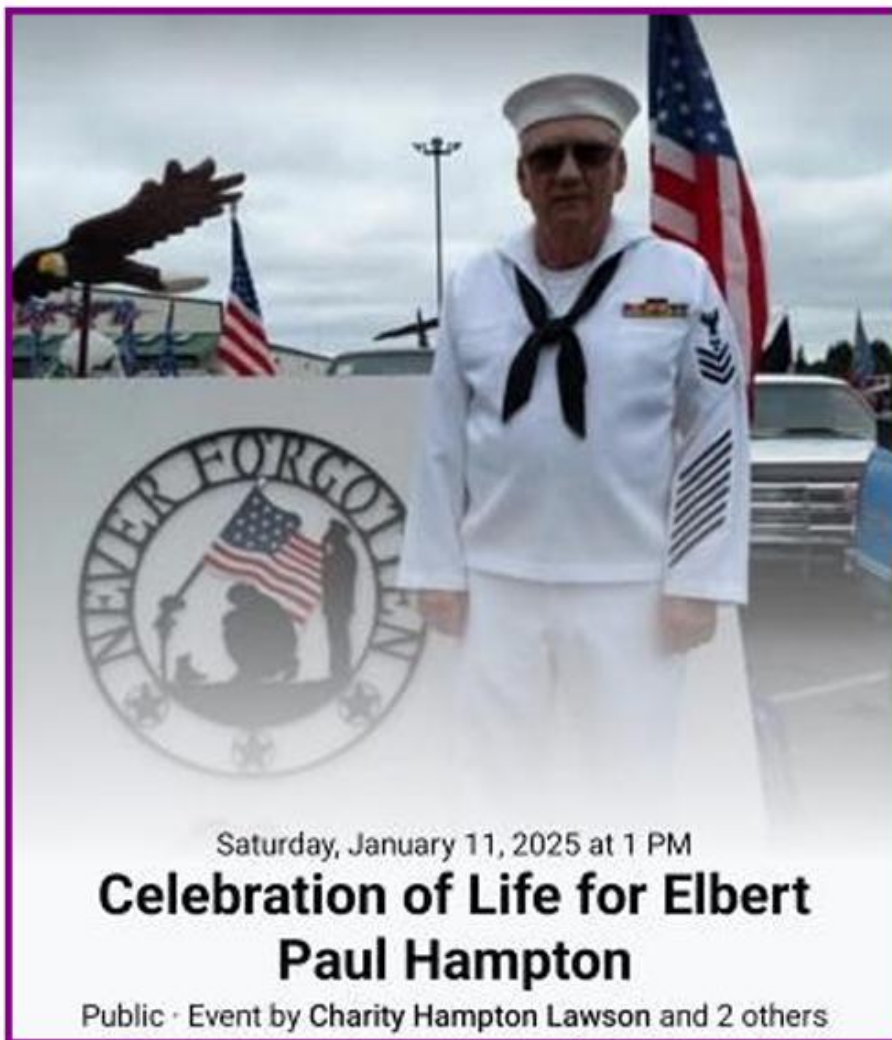




ELKS
America's Herd!

Community
Bettering the lives of others since 1868.
We are THE Elks!

Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org



Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 1 PM
Celebration of Life for Elbert Paul Hampton
Public · Event by Charity Hampton Lawson and 2 others

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 35 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 99 years.

WSEA Ritual Committee Report

It's time to reflect on the last year and plan for the new. (Good idea as we are in it already – lol!) Seriously, next year's Exalted Rulers and their hard-working Officers are wrapping up their current year and working furiously through all the "to do" lists to get ready for next year. Some of the first timers are looking forward with a bit of concern as they learn a bit more about what it takes to be a Lodge Officer. You don't have to do this alone! Let our Ritual Committee help.



You have new parts to learn?

We can help! Check out the brand shining new WSEA website and our resources and manuals sections (<https://waelks.org/committee/ritual/>) for aids and tools to help with any ritual part.

Would you like someone to help with a difficult section or maybe come to a practice, give some tips?

We can help! Our Ritual Committee Members are located throughout the state, and we have District Chairs that can help coordinate that! Check out our committee membership list on the website (email below) and we will see what we can do.

The long-standing goal of the WSEA Ritual Committee is to HELP Lodge perform memorable initiations. We have no "arm-chair

quarterbacks" on our team. All our committee members have been either Officers, ritual coaches, or ritual judges. Many have done all of the above. We've been there and we get it.

Our committee is dedicated to helping. Please contact us if there is anything we can do to help you and your Officers prepare for initiation, or if you want to learn more about degree teams. We'll be at Winter Convention. Look us up while you're there! We have a scheduled group session and can set up individual times as well.



Again, thank you for ALL you do. Your dedication to the Elks is what makes us the amazing organization we are!

Heather Beal, PER

WSEA Ritual Committee Chair
Heather.1181elks@gmail.com

Support the Washington Elks Charitable Trust in 2025!



The Washington Elks Charitable Trust, a 501(c)(3) organization, funds vital programs that strengthen our communities. Your generosity

supports scholarships for traditional college and vocational-technical education, Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness, EZ Child ID, and our nation-leading Veterans Programs while giving a substantial yearly donation to our State Major Project. These initiatives are central to our mission of serving veterans, youth, and families.

<p>Hoop Shoot Help fund Hoop Shoot programs across the state and help fund event venues, travel, lodging and more.</p>	<p>Veterans Help Washington help Veterans stay at home or become housed. Help Veterans become fed or turn their house into a home.</p>	<p>Scholarships Help Washington support scholarship programs for college and vocational paths for our state's youth and adults.</p>

By donating to our Charitable Trust, you not only help sustain these life-changing programs but also will enable us to do even more. Every dollar contributed fuels local lodge grants, enhances youth outreach, and deepens community connections—allowing the Elks to continue making a profound difference across the state.

Elks Care – Elks Share

As a special incentive, your donation now counts toward our Lapel Pin recognition program. With a donation of just \$20 you'll receive a lapel pin and with your continued contributions reaching milestones of \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$1,000, you'll earn additional hanging bars to proudly display your support.

<p>Drug Awareness Donate towards saving the lives and futures of children in our state. Help them remain Drug Free.</p>	<p>Child ID Program Help aid and shorten the reporting time when a child goes missing or is abducted enabling quick action by Parents and Law Enforcement.</p>	<p>Americianism Donate to our programs supporting things like Flag Day, the Essay Contest and more. Help us do more for Americanism in our state.</p>

Awareness is building and 2025 will see the fog lift and outreach efforts move through your local lodge with our new grant programs - help us reach our shared goals – ensuring the success and growth of our local lodges while bettering the lives of youth, veterans, and community members across Washington State.

Please make your tax-deductible donation today and help the Washington Elks Charitable Trust do more. Together, we can ensure that the spirit of “Elks Care. Elks Share.” thrives for years to come.



Thank you for your generosity!

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



Washington State Elks Association

sponsors of

EZChildID[®].com

This is a
FREE service
provided by your local
Elks Lodge



EZ Child ID System training available at Winter Convention

- How to set up an event
- How to promote an event
- Hands on training

“The first **2 hours** after a child is abducted are the **most critical.**”

This system is also valuable for

- Individuals with Autism
- Individuals with early on-set Dementia
- Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease
- Individuals who rely on others for their safety and daily care



Protecting Our Greatest Resources



The Discover Elks Group

Elks Awareness and Elks Advancement in Area 8 states & across our nation.

The Discover Elks Group represents a dynamic community dedicated to making a positive impact on the awareness, and growth of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in Area 8 and across our country.

DiscoverElks.org is the online hub for the Discover Elks Group, an initiative dedicated to raising awareness about the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) and our community-focused mission. Our aim is to modernize and expand the reach of Elks' by leveraging digital platforms and innovative outreach strategies to inspire a new generation into joining our ranks and contributing to our amazing organization.

The website DiscoverElks.org serves as a gateway to all these opportunities, providing resources you can use within your community outreach and Elks promotional campaigns. It's a platform where members and potential members can learn, connect, and take action towards reinstating or becoming a new member.

We strive to advance the Elks through opportunities that arise from supporting activities organized and participated in by our likeminded members.

Join us in driving awareness of the Elks' message by supporting youth drivers through our partnership with Madex Moran Motorsports and Brayden Brookshire Racing! With Super Late Model races in Polson, MT, and IMCA SportMod races from Grays Harbor, WA, to Cottage Grove, OR, the Discover Elks Group brings our message to life on the track and in the community.

Get ready for 2025 to bring you exciting Elks Nights at the races and live-streamed events at your lodge, where your membership can feel the excitement firsthand.

Through impactful streaming, digital, and static advertising, combined with the promotion of youth development and civic engagement, we're shining a spotlight on the values that make the Elks great. By showcasing our commitment to future leaders, we're making it easier than ever for your community to see how great it is to be an Elk - inspiring them to join your lodge!

Madex Moran, a 16-year-old resident of Benton City, Washington, began his racing career at 5 years old and recently finished 6th out of 27 starters in the Montana 200 in his Super Late Model class out of Polson Montana on the Mission Valley Super Oval.

Brayden Brookshire, a 17-year-old resident of Vancouver, Washington, began his racing career at 7 years old and recently won the State Championship in his Northern SportMod class on tracks ranging from Grays Harbor Raceway to Cottage Grove Speedway. Brayden makes the Sunset Speedway in Banks, Oregon his home track.

Both drivers are excited to shoulder our Elks awareness campaign and are excited to experience the support of Area 8 Elks in 2025.

DiscoverElks.org is our path towards success.



The Discover Elks Group

Elks Awareness and Elks Advancement in Area 8 states & across our nation.

MADEX MORAN MOTORSPORTS!



BRAYDEN BROOKSHIRE RACING!



youtube.com/@DiscoverElks



facebook.com/discoverelks



discoverelks.org



discoverelks@gmail.com
join@discoverelks.org

Take a page: Dictionary Project gives gift of literacy

By Tracy Leopold

Grand Lodge Committee Member



In an era where screens dominate, we sometimes overlook the power of a simple, yet profound tool—the paper dictionary. For third graders, receiving a dictionary can be a game

changer, opening up a world of words, curiosity, and confidence. By participating in the Dictionary Project, you're not just providing a resource; you're giving young people the foundation for lifelong learning.

Here's why this program matters and how it can make a real difference in a child's academic journey.

1. Fostering independent learning. By third grade, children are beginning to explore language in more depth. A paper dictionary offers them the chance to seek out answers on their own, building independence and boosting their confidence. When a child learns to look up a word and discover its meaning, they are taking charge of their education. With each new word they unlock, they gain the tools to better express themselves and understand the world around them.

2. Building stronger vocabulary and literacy skills. Research shows that a strong vocabulary is closely tied to academic success. A paper dictionary provides kids with a treasure trove of new words, right at their fingertips. When a third grader opens a dictionary, they aren't just finding a word—they're discovering new ideas, expanding their thinking, and becoming better readers and writers. This program gives students the chance to explore

language on their own terms, building the skills they'll need not just in school, but throughout life.

3. Encouraging focus and curiosity. In a world filled with digital distractions, a paper dictionary offers something rare: focused, intentional learning. When children use a dictionary, they aren't just typing and clicking; they're engaging with the material in a deeper, more thoughtful way. Searching for a word requires patience and persistence, and along the way, kids often stumble upon other interesting words, sparking curiosity and expanding their knowledge. Your donation will provide a third grader with a valuable tool that promotes both focus and a love of learning, away from the constant pull of screens.

4. Creating a tactile learning experience. There's something special about holding a book, turning its pages, and discovering words in a physical space. For young learners, this tactile experience is invaluable. Studies have shown that physical interaction with books and printed materials can enhance memory and learning. A paper dictionary not only teaches kids the meaning of words but helps solidify that knowledge in a way that digital tools often don't. Your Lodge has an opportunity to provide this hands-on learning experience, making the process of learning words more engaging and memorable for third graders.

5. Making a lasting impact. A paper dictionary is more than just a one-time resource, a tool that can serve a child for years to come. As they grow, they'll continue to use it to explore new words, deepen their understanding, and enhance their communication skills. It's a small investment that can have a lasting impact on a child's academic future. This program is helping to equip the next generation of learners with the tools they need to succeed, both in school and beyond.



To the Lodges, Officers, and Members of the Washington State Elks Association.
I am writing this letter to you, for your consideration, on supporting me for the position of WSEA Vice President South District.

These past few months I have been visiting lodges in Washington going to lodge meetings or events. It has been such an honor and so humbling to witness many initiation rituals for new members joining our lodges. The Elks membership in Washington is growing.

Each one of our lodges in Washington is doing great things to support the communities, veterans and children's programs. It really makes me proud to be an Elk in Washington!

In visiting the lodges, I had the opportunity to meet and visit with many of you, but in case I did not get to speak with you here is a little about me. I am a retired Registered Nurse of 36 years, with a background in Critical Care Nursing, House Supervisor, Transfer Center Manager, and Transitional Care RN with a Hospitalist program. I have been happily married to Mark Bradwell for 33 years and we have 3 grown children. We enjoy RVing, boating, and having fun with Elks friends!

I became a member of the Vancouver Elks Lodge #823 in February 2018. After my initiation as a new member, I became Assistant Esquire and continued as Esquire, Esteemed Lecturing, Loyal Knight, Leading Knights and Exalted Ruler. I became an active committee member and chaired several committees and events in the lodge over the past 8 years.

I am proud and honored to have competed in Initiation Ritual, Flag Charge and winning the State 11th hour Toast. I was humbled to represent Washington State at Grand Lodge in Austin Texas this July. Ritual is an important part of my Elk experience. This fall I attended Ritual judge training, and I hope to receive my certification to word judging at the next training session.

The lodge has recognized my commitment and awarded me Elk of the Month in 2018, 2019, and Officer of the Year 2019. I received South District Officer of the year for 2022-23.

I am currently a member of the Auditing and Accounting, Chairman of Drug Awareness and Youth Activities committees. I am a Board Member and Secretary of the lodges Vera's Basement corporation, and Secretary for the PER association at Vancouver 823.

This year I am serving appointments as South District Drug Awareness Chair, State EZ Child ID program and State South District Financial Trustee 1 year.

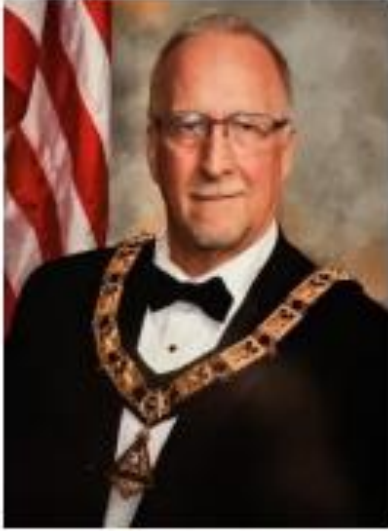
I believe in and support our great organization and what we can accomplish together in our lodges, in our districts, in our state organization and in our Nation as Elks!

Honor our Past Traditions and Embrace our Future!

Please support me in my election to the position of WSEA Vice President South District.

Fraternally,
Caroline Bradwell, PER Vancouver Lodge #823

DAHL ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR VICE-PRESIDENT, SOUTH



Greetings to my brother and sister Elks! I am running for WSEA Vice-President, South, and I am asking for your votes and your support!

These are exciting yet challenging times for our Order and our association and I look forward to the opportunity to continue my family's legacy of service, as your next Vice-President.

As a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, I had a successful 25 year career in public safety, serving as a law enforcement officer and firefighter. For 10 years, I served as Fire Chief. In my "second career," I work as an occupational health and safety professional, working in a number of different, challenging environments, including high-rise construction and major manufacturing. I am currently the Director of Safety for

Lease Crutcher Lewis, a 140 year old northwest contractor.

I have been a member of the Kelso-Longview Lodge for the past **38 years** and have been very active in my lodge, the state association and Grand Lodge. I have sat on a number of local and state committees, currently serving as our lodge Membership, Lodge Activities and Youth Activities chairs, while also being a part of the Veterans Service and Public Relations Committees.

I served as **Exalted Ruler** in 2018-2019 and guided my lodge to a **1st place** finish in the **All American Lodge** contest in Division IV. In 2023, I was appointed as **District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler** for the WA South District. This year, I am serving a 2nd term in that role and am also sitting as the **WSEA Chaplain** for the second time and have served as the South **District Hoop Shoot Chair** for the past six years. I have supported and competed in the Ritual Contest for many years, winning top honors in many stations! I was coach for the state championship team in 2021-22. For the past several years, I have served as a **Trustee** for the Therapy Program for Children, a program that I am so very proud to be a part of.

To be certain, I am a very active and contributing member of the Order of Elks. I am very proud to be a part of the Washington State Elks Association and know that I can make great contributions to the leadership, outreach and service of the association to the local lodges and our communities.

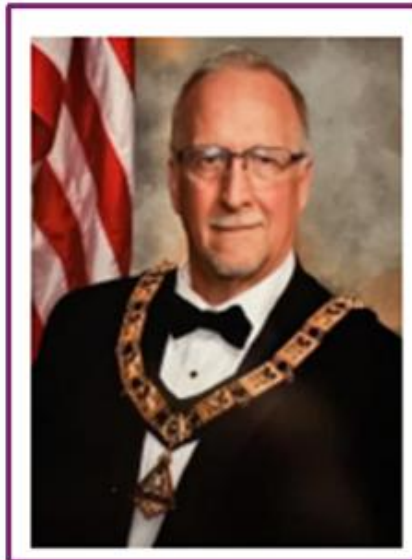
If elected, I will provide strong leadership, communication, counsel and support to all of the South District lodges, as well as the rest of the state, while working to guide the programs of the association and our amazing State Major Project.

Thank you for your support and your votes!

VOTE

ROB DAHL, DDGER

VICE-PRESIDENT SOUTH



HONESTY, INTEGRITY, PRIDE

- **Dedicated Elk for 38 Years!**
 - **US Marine Veteran**
 - ***District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, 2 Terms***
 - **State Chaplain, 2 Terms**
 - **Therapy Program Committee Member**
 - **District Hoop Shoot Director**
 - **Lodge Committee Chair**
- (Membership, Youth Activities, Lodge Activities)**

CONTINUING A LEGACY OF SERVICE