

Washington State Elks Association Newsletter



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Informing, Educating, and Communicating with WSEA Members

August 2025

It's up to you to Be The Difference this year

Brian R. Klatt, Grand Exalted Ruler



After nearly 40 years as an Elks Member and 17 years serving as Grand Secretary, I am honored to now represent our Order as Grand Exalted Ruler for 2025-26.

I first want to thank my wife, Susan. Her dedication and support make this journey possible. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our friends, family, and fellow Elks. We thank you all for everything.

My theme is "Be The Difference." Keep it in mind all year—and beyond.

Be The Difference... in a veteran's life. Be it by helping them out of homelessness, providing Welcome Home Kits, visiting them in their home or retirement center, or mailing them a birthday or holiday card.

Be The Difference... in a student's life. Be it by organizing clothing and school supply drives, holding Hoop Shoot or Soccer Shoot contests, championing Drug Awareness, and promoting the many scholarships offered by the Grand Lodge programs and State Associations.

Be The Difference... in your Lodge. Be it by volunteering, getting involved, and using the many available grants to help those who need it most.

In other words, we need you to Be The Difference for our Order to grow.

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GER MESSAGE CONTINUED...

Susan and I are embarking on a year of travel, promoting our many Elks programs administered by our Grand Lodge committees. All our Order's endeavors strive to give back to and improve our communities.

Furthering our commitment to charity will make our Lodges even stronger. It will deepen the camaraderie among the Members of our Lodges as we work toward a common goal. As we succeed, upstanding members of the public will see our impact and will be motivated to join us. Working hard, sharing a vision, and staying true to our principles will bolster the spirit of Elkdom. I am confident sustained membership growth will follow.

The Elks National Foundation, the "Great Heart of Elkdom," is a catalyst for the many things we do. The Community Investments Program, a series of grants that meet specific local needs, turns 20 years old in 2025-26. The grant allocation total has been boosted to \$17.6 million. It will allow the Elks to be a major difference in our communities.

Members have repeatedly proven their commitment to meeting our annual per-capita donation goal, which will be set at \$5.15 per Member in 2025-26. It will go a long way, so thank you for all your efforts.



WSEA President Message



As the first rays of summer brighten our days and herald the start of an invigorating season, we stand on the threshold of a new fraternal year for the Washington State Elks Association. With anticipation and gratitude, Jen and I look back on the whirlwind of activity that has already marked these early days, and we look forward to the opportunities, partnerships, and growth that lie ahead. Our journey began not only with renewed commitment to our own members, lodges, and committees, but also with a spirit of exploration—seeking inspiration and innovation from our fellow Elks across state lines.

This summer, our calendars have been brimming with travel as we participated in numerous state conventions across the region. Each convention has been a unique tapestry of tradition and fresh ideas, a showcase of the energy and dedication that define the Elks organization nationwide. In every lodge and convention that we visited, we were welcomed with open arms—reminded again of the warmth and camaraderie that bind our Order together.

From the sunlit halls of Sitka Alaska to the bustling venues in Idaho, Oregon, and Montana we observed a remarkable diversity of approaches in serving members and communities. Some associations are piloting new membership drives, leveraging technology and social media to engage younger generations. Others have revitalized longstanding traditions, adapting time-honored ceremonies to resonate with today's Elks while still preserving our core values.

During our travels, we found ourselves particularly inspired by the inventive ways other states are nurturing their membership. At Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City, for example, we participated in group discussions focused on mentorship—pairing seasoned Elks with new initiates to ensure every member feels supported and valued from the start. The results speak for themselves: increased retention, more active participation, and a vibrant sense of belonging.

In another session we discussed committee development, where members brainstormed ways to empower volunteers and elevate the impact of every project. Their model emphasized clear communication, recognition for hard work, and opportunities for leadership at every level—not just among officers, but among all who are eager to serve.

Looking ahead, we are filled with hope. The friendships we have forged, the lessons we have gathered, and the enthusiasm we have witnessed are powerful reminders of what it means to be an Elk. This year, let us rededicate ourselves to our founding values: charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity. Let us reach out to our neighbors, lift one another up, and strive every day to leave our world just a little better than we found it.

As the long days of summer stretch before us, may we seize this moment of renewal. Let us celebrate what makes the Washington State Elks Association unique—while proudly embracing the innovation and fellowship that unites us with Elks everywhere.

Remember my motto: “Breaking the Communication Barrier”. Here's to an exciting start, to learning from one another, and to a year filled with growth, service, and joy. Step out of your box and you will see great opportunities for you to get involved.

Fraternally,

Scott Rainey
WSEA President



WSEA President Elect Message

By Ben Braden



We each have a choice, to tear down, or to build up.

We've all heard it in our heads, grandma's voice reminding us: *"If you don't have anything nice to say, consider not say anything at all dear."* It's a simple feel-good saying, but one with deep roots in how we

can shape the world around us. In an organization like ours, built on fellowship, service, and unity, it's especially important.

Negativity can seem subtle and unimportant. It might start as a single comment: *"That'll never work."* Or a complaint muttered without a solution. Before long, that energy will ripple outwards, turning enthusiasm into hesitation, replacing innovation with caution, creating inaction instead of action, causing dropped memberships rather than renewals.

We've all seen how powerful negativity can be, even here in the Washington Elks. Not just in passing conversations, but in decisions that affect our state and our entire Organization. A simple and fun game like cornhole, a hit with membership engagement, is discontinued because of a few unfounded negative comments. A nationally launched mobile app designed to strengthen lodge engagement and communication is discontinued, not because it didn't work, but because negativity drowned out support.

Our lesson here isn't to ignore challenges or pretend everything is perfect. It's to remember that our words carry weight. Our input can either be a spark that ignites excitement, or a bucket of

water that extinguishes it. Which influence do you want your words to have?

We each have a role in shaping the culture of our organization. It starts with being mindful. Before speaking, pause and ask yourself: *Is this helpful? Is it kind? Could it inspire or encourage?* Constructive feedback is vital, we all understand that, but it should come from a place of care, curiosity, and collaboration, not criticism for the sake of it.

Positivity isn't just about blindly smiling and nodding. It's about investing in what *could be*. Supporting new ideas, cheering on volunteers, and giving projects or events the grace to grow, evolve and become something amazing. When we speak with optimism, we foster belonging and member retention. We give others permission to try, to lead, to create.

The next time you're tempted to voice a critique, try starting with a positive. Or better yet, offer to help them. Our organization's future vitally depends on members who build up rather than tear down.

Be the reason someone feels encouraged, not defeated. Live Grandma's advice and help ensure that the Elks organization remains not just alive, but thriving, growing and enthusiastically doing great things for our members and communities. I know with your help, we will succeed.



WSEA Vice President East Message



Now I hope all of you are having a great Summer. As always, mine is flying by too quickly.

It has been a busy Summer with back-to-back State and Grand Lodge Conventions, but it is always inspiring to attend those conventions and then try to bring home and share that same feeling. Whether you've been a member for years or just joined, it's worth taking a moment to remember what makes being an Elk something to be proud of.

Elks Lodges across the country donate millions to veterans, youth, and local charities every year. We award scholarships, support community events, and provide for those in need. When we say "Elks Care, Elks Share," we mean it—and our actions prove it every day. That's what being an Elk is all about.

Elks Care - Elks Share

Remember, in your community, **you** are *the Elks*. That was something our Past Grand Exalted Ruler said at one of the conventions, and it really made an impact.

Think about that statement. Then ask - How is your lodge representing that title?

Then...get to work! Plan lodge events thoughtfully. Reach out to support veterans, youth, and your community. Be present, be active, and be proud!

As always, we are here to help!

Have a great rest of your Summer.

Lana Davick
WSEA 1st Vice President



JOIN THE CLUB

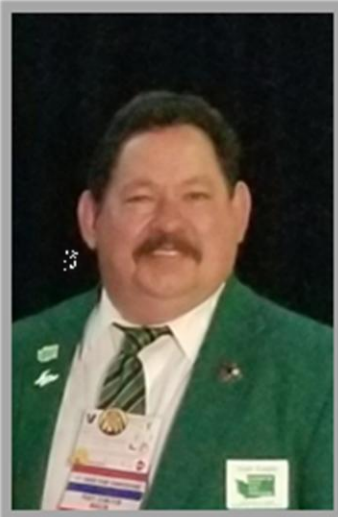
Scan the QR code to join the Fidelity Club with a monthly donation to the Elks National Foundation through your credit card or bank account. It is an easy and secure way to support your Foundation!

Learn more at enf.elks.org/FC



Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities

WSEA Vice President Central Message



It was such a pleasure to see so many familiar faces at the WSEA Summer Convention in Pasco this past June! I hope everyone left feeling energized, inspired, and ready to kick off the new year with fresh ideas and renewed purpose.

The Charitable Trust just wrapped up its second fundraising campaign: *"You Are the Key to Our Success."* The key-themed fun at Convention brought lots of smiles—especially for Julie Seeder, who selected the winning key and unlocked a \$500 prize! In an incredible gesture of generosity, Julie donated half of her winnings back, bringing our total to \$750. Even more amazing, a kind-hearted donor matched every contribution up to \$10,000. I truly hope we were able to take full advantage of their generosity. A huge congratulations to the lodges that received the very first Charitable Trust grants—your creativity in such a short time was impressive, and we can't wait to see what you'll dream up with a full year to plan.

We have just returned from an unforgettable experience at the Elks Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City. The spirit of unity, shared purpose, and heartfelt moments was everywhere and reminded us why this work means so much. Patti and I were able to visit 3 local lodges and had a great time meeting new people.

A special shout-out to the Kelso-Longview Ritual Team for their outstanding performance—you made us proud! And let's

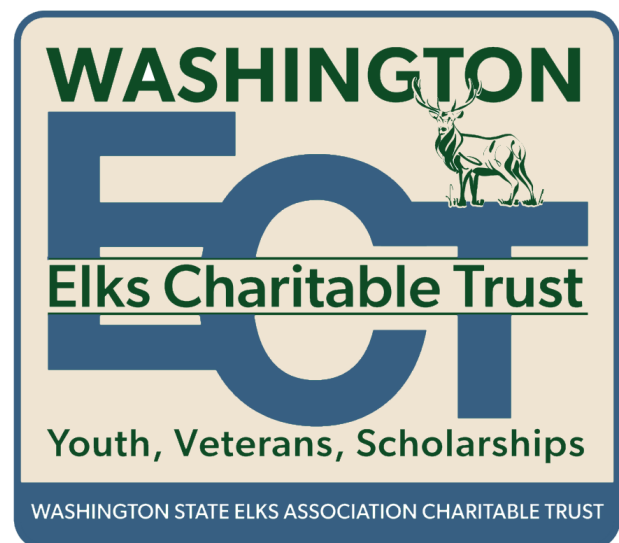
give a big cheer to Robert Bornstedt, who earned **first place nationwide** in the Flag Charge contest. This may be a new contest, but Washington is already building a winning legacy—two national champions and counting!

Thank you to WSEA President Scott and First Lady Jennifer Rainey for their exceptional leadership and representation. Your impact was truly felt. And hats off to Jim and Jessica Howes for crafting the most welcoming and lively hospitality room at the Convention—Washington pride was front and center, and yes, Sasquatch was an absolute star!

As we move forward, let's build on this momentum. The summer is still full of opportunities to support the WSEA Therapy Program. I'll be making appearances at a couple of golf tournaments—hope to see many of you on the green! And if golfing isn't your thing, don't worry—there are plenty of other fun ways to get involved and show your support.

Here's to the friendships we've built, the mission we share, and the amazing work still ahead.

Scott Knight
WSEA 2nd VP



WSEA Vice President South Message

By Caroline Bradwell



I am thrilled to share my very first VP message with you! The E-Board is working hard to make WSEA the best state organization it can be, and I am proud to be part of the incredible efforts to enhance our training, support our lodges, and serve our members.

Can you believe how quickly summer is flying by? July was full of fantastic events, and we have even more lined up for August and September! I hope you've had the chance to attend—or are planning to join us for—some of our great activities, including golf tournaments in Yakama, Kelso, Tacoma, Colville, Ocean Shores, Vancouver, and Sequim. There were some exciting car shows in Vancouver, Sequim, Kelso-Longview, Tri-Cities, and Mt. Adams, just to name a few!

If I missed mentioning your lodge you may not be using the WSEA calendar. Make sure your events are on the WSEA calendar and events page. It's quick, easy, and a wonderful way to get FREE advertising for your lodge! Take advantage of this resource to spread the word and boost participation.

The Grand lodge convention in Kansas City the first week of July was so inspiring! Grand Exalted Ruler, Bryan Klatt, introduced this year's theme: "**Be the Difference.**" What a powerful reminder of what we strive to do in our lodges and communities every day.

Did you know all Elk members are welcome to attend Grand Lodge? You don't have to be an ER or DD! It's an experience I truly wish every member could have. Hearing 6,400 people recite the Pledge of Allegiance or sing *God Bless America* together is an unforgettable moment. Add to that the incredible people you meet and the wealth of knowledge you gain, it's something special. This year's classes and presentations were excellent, and they'll soon be available on **elks.org** under Convention Presentations. I encourage you to check them out and gather fresh ideas for your lodge!

One key message from Grand Lodge was the importance of membership. We all play a part in inviting, welcoming, and engaging new members. When you're out in the community wearing an Elk hat or shirt, you're making a statement—an invitation for others to ask about the Elks. Be ready with your "elevator pitch" and invite them to an event as your guest. Every new member strengthens what we can accomplish together in our communities.

Don't forget—the South District Ritual Day is September 13 at Mt. Adams Lodge. I would love to see every lodge in the South District represented at this event.

Let's **Be the Difference** and make this year one of growth, service, and fellowship!



Membership Committee Message

By Nancy M. Oakes, PER
Committee Chairperson

I know that we have been talking to the Exalted Rulers, Secretaries, and the Membership Committee Chairs in each lodge and asking them to implement their Membership Plan for 2025-2026 lodge year. But it doesn't just stop there, it is the responsibility of EVERY member to recruit new members. How do you do that? You invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, teachers, the cashier at your regular grocery store, even your favorite barista, new members are all around you!

Membership dues are what fund the lodge operations. There is a percentage of the overall dues that go to Grand Lodge and to the State Elks Association, but the majority of those dues are for the overhead and operation of the lodge. Therefore, when you don't pay your dues, you are cutting short your lodge budget and the operating funds that ensure our lodges stay open.

If you are having a problem financially, and cannot pay your dues in full, please talk to your lodge. I am sure some kind of arrangements can be made to resolve the issue.

Our lodges are still going through a recovery period due to the closure requirements during COVID. Recovery does not happen as quickly as the downhill spiral happens, and if your dues are delinquent, you won't have a current membership card, so you won't be allowed into the lodge, and you cannot spend money in the lodge which helps to keep the doors open. See where I'm going with this?

I will be coming around to as many DD Clinics as possible and am always available to talk to you about membership drives, orientation, delinquency issues, retention, and more. We did not finish with a Plus 1 for our state this last year, but let's all work to get it done this year!

Thank you for all your energy, caring, and time.

Nancy M. Oakes



As always, I am available for any assistance you may need. Feel free to contact me at Nancy@garnettlaw.com, or via text/phone call at 307-250-3378.

WSEA Membership Committee



Our purpose as the Membership 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
Beverly Maddox



30 Years Ago – in New Orleans, Louisiana, 1995, the Elks made history. With a single motion, an enthusiastic second and a members vote at the National Convention, women were welcomed as full voting members, for the first time, into the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. A moment in our history that opened our doors to new voices, new leadership, and a strong future. Here's to 30 years of inclusion and egalitarian progress built upon the simple foundation our thespian fellowship created over 157 years ago.

Elks National Foundation in Washington State

Worksheets to Keep Your Lodge Aiming High – Aim for ENF Excellence in WA State & the Chairman’s Challenge

Washington Lodges, here we are at midsummer, over a quarter of the way through this Elk year. I’d like to encourage everyone to follow the following rubric and Chairman’s Challenge checklist included in this month’s issue of the WSEA newsletter. If you stay on top of it and turn everything in prior to the end of the Elk year, not only will your lodge fare well with the contests, but they will succeed in their efforts to make a difference in the community they serve!

Fraternally,

Julie Seeder
WSEA ENF Chair

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 36 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:

Scott Rainey

President Elect:

Benjamin Braden

Vice President/East:

Lana Davick

Vice President/Central:

Scott Knight

Vice President/South

Caroline Bradwell

Secretary:

Steve Scholz

Treasurer:

Robert Finley





Aim for ENF Excellence in Washington State



ENF PROGRAMS	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Satisfactory	1 - Needs Improvement
WSEA State President \$20 Per Capita Award	Reaching the \$20 per capita or greater 1st Place: \$1,000 award 2nd place to all lodges with \$20/capita: \$500 award	Achieving \$15 per capita or greater <\$19.99/capita	Achieving the GER goal of \$5 per capita or greater <\$14.99/capita	Achieving less than the GER goal of \$5 per capita <\$4.99/capita
ENF Chairman's Challenge Awards	Achieving 750-1000 points on the Chairman's Challenge form \$100 award	Achieving 650-749 points on the Chairman's Challenge form \$50 award	Achieving 550-649 points on the Chairman's Challenge form	Achieving less than 550 points on the Chairman's Challenge form
CIP GRANT PROGRAM	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Satisfactory	1 - Needs Improvement
CIP Grants	Receiving and implementing 4 or more grants successfully within the current Lodge year (40-50 points)	Receiving and implementing 3 grants successfully within the current Lodge year (30 points)	Receiving and implementing 2 grants successfully within the current Lodge year (20 points)	Receiving and implementing 1 grant successfully within the current Lodge year (10 points)
Promotion of ENF in the Lodge and Community	Promotion of CIP grants at the lodge (posters/website/news letter); WSEA newsletter/website calendar , in the Elks Magazine , and publicly (news sites/newspapers). <i>Send in articles attached as proof to jseeder2171@gmail.com in March. Ties broken by utilizing a larger variety of the above.</i> (5 points ea, 40-50 points or more)	Promotion: lodge, state, nationally, and publicly (5 points ea, 30-35 points)	Promotion: lodge, state, nationally, and publicly (5 points ea, 20-35 points)	Promotion: lodge, state, nationally, and publicly (5 points ea, 10-15 points)
Overall Grants Score	80-100 points 1st: \$500, 2nd: \$300, 3rd: \$200	50-75 points	20-45 points	0-15 points












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

Elks National Foundation Chair Challenge Guidelines

WORKSHEET

The Chair Challenge encourages a broad-based fundraising program and is not built for Lodges to receive a perfect 1000 point score.

Read through the [Chair Challenge Guidelines](#) page and fill out the worksheet below. The amount of **points available** to your Lodge this fiscal year will be based on prior year's fundraising, **due dates** and remaining opportunities. Linked reports in the category descriptions on the Guidelines page can help inform the amount of **points available** to a Lodge. **Points available** to a Lodge will be different than the amount of **points allocated** to each category.

DONE?		POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS ALLOCATED	DUE BY
<input type="checkbox"/>	Registering as ENF Fundraising Chair	50		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Earning the ENF Fundraising Chair Certificate	included above		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordering new, updated ENF supplies for the new fiscal year	50		 = March 31
<input type="checkbox"/>	Using the ENF in Our Community Poster	50		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acquiring new donors	60		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acquiring new sustaining givers	70		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Support	70		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Retaining second-year donors	5 pts ea	___/70 pts	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Retaining third-year donors	2 pts ea		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewing donors	13C		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reactivating donors	included		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation frequency	50		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilizing an Online Remittance form	60		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donors receiving Foundation Fellowship recognition	90		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Making a leadership donation	50		
	Extra Credit <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	20 pts ea		
	Total	1,000		

Washington State Elks 2025 Hoop Shoot Report

Lodges who ran a Hoop Shoot Contest:



- Aberdeen
- Lynnwood
- Ballard
- Moses Lake
- Burien
- Olympia
- Everett
- Raymond
- Forks
- Seattle
- Greater Spokane
- Hoquiam
- Kelso-Longview
- Lakewood
- Long Beach

- Sequim
- Shoreline
- Tacoma
- Tri-Cities
- Vancouver

Thanks to the lodges who filled out a report without running a competition:

- Mount Vernon
- Ocean Shores/North Beach
- Port Townsend



You have completed the report, maybe your lodge is ready to host a hoop shoot contest? Let your district hoop shoot leader lend a hand in getting it on the calendar for the coming year!

The report isn't too difficult to fill out, maybe a competition might not be so difficult either?

WSEA Hoop Shoot Statistical Information:

Over 300 Volunteers Stepped up Last Year
2000+ Participants

Kelso-Longview	712
Olympia	452
Tacoma	300
Long Beach	300
Raymond	120

Your District Hoop Shoot Leaders:



East:
Rita Gardne
509-990-0887

Central:
Scott Fylling
408-568-6015

West:
Syd Nunez
747-225-1375

North: Jim Howes 206-779-6815
South: Rob Dahl 503-421-3456

10 lodges did not host a hoop shoot contest and did not fill out a report. If your lodge did not host a hoop shoot contest what can we do to help?



WSEA CALENDAR RAFFLE

For over twenty years, WSEA has held the Calendar Raffle to support the State Association's Projects and Charitable Work. Calendars are sold during the last half of the year with Daily Drawings every day of the following year. For every drawing to have the exact same odds of winning, tickets drawn are put right back into the barrel, meaning that any given ticket can be drawn again!

The concept of a Calendar Raffle is very simple. For only a \$10 buy-in with 365 Winners per year, the odds of winning are one out of fifteen! WSEA sells 5,500 Calendars per year.

Each day of the year has a dollar amount assigned: <https://waelks.org/calendar/raffle/>

Winner on Weekdays gets \$25
Winner on Weekends gets \$50
Winner on Holidays gets \$100
Winner on February 16 gets \$500

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was founded on February 16, 1868, therefore the highest amount won celebrates the Birthday of our Order.

Lodges sell Calendars to their own Members as well as to the public. While selling Potential Members the WSEA Calendars, a great opportunity is presented to tell folks about the Elks and how the Elks supports Children, Youth, Sports, Scholarships, Veterans, and each local Community.

WSEA has 35 Lodges, all of which participate in this annual fundraiser. The WSEA Lodge selling the most Calendars based on the Lodge's Membership receives a \$1,000 bonus. The Lodge selling the second most receives \$500.

Support your local Elks Lodge! Support WSEA! Support the Winner who may be YOU!

In addition to selling Raffle Calendars, each Lodge has the opportunity for Membership Outreach as we pack around Calendars to sell, we pack around Membership Applications as well! Let's make good use of the resources we have to reach more people! Encourage folks to look online at the WSEA website to see when they win! When folks look at the Winners, while they are on the website they will explore and see many other things WSEA does!

May each Lodge sell their original Allocation and your Lodge can order more! Contact the WSEA Office to get more when you sell out! If you are having an Event or a Membership Drive at your Lodge, be there, sell Calendars, raise awareness of who we are and what we do in our Communities!

Many Thanks to All for supporting WSEA! -Bill Plumley, WSEA Calendar Chair

District Deputy Teams 2025-2026



Central:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Scott Knight

Esquire: Peter Schultz

Auditor:

East:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Richard Shull

Esquire: John Dabney

Auditor: Craig Johnson

Assistant to the Auditor: Patty Wilson

North:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Arnold Smith

Esquire: Aaron Reid

Auditor: Mike Campbell

Assistant to the Auditor: Sheryl DeMarsh

South:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Virginia Basil

Esquire: Caroline Bradwell

Auditor: Michele Jenkins

West:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Heather Beal

Esquire: Brandi Wallace

Auditor: Mike Leavit

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.

Most Valuable Student (MVS) Scholarship News

BIG CHANGE THIS YEAR FOR WASHINGTON STATE MVS SCHOLARSHIPS. It was proposed that 2 scholarships be awarded at the District level – one boy and one girl in each of the 5 districts. The Executive committee approved and the vote of Summer Conference attendees approved the final budget.



The state Charitable Trust will match lodge donations up to \$200. Each district will be awarding scholarships with donations from lodges and matching contributions from our state funds. We will have 2 - \$1000 scholarships in each district.

Each lodge will have until December 30th to raise the funds. District judging of applications will be completed by end of January.

We realize lodges face limited budgets, so we are encouraging lodges to think "outside-the-box" for ways to raise that money. Suggestions have included – dinners, raffles, pass the hat, car wash, bingo/poker nights, bidding to pie the face of an officer or lodge member. If you need help with fundraising ideas please reach out.

Most Valuable Student Scholarship applications are completed online. Starting August 1st and closing on November 12. Judging begins at the lodge level in December, followed by District judging in January, State judging in February and finally Nationally in March and April.

I encourage you to contact high schools in your area, alert local newspapers, radio stations, social media to let them know about the scholarships. Let's have an increase in the number of applications over the 465 we had last year.

Please reach out to me, your District coordinator or your lodge chairman for questions.

Cheri Michaelson
Chairperson
cemichaelson@gmail.com
503-314-9952



Important Dates/Lodge Events & Activities:

(more info on WSEA calendar)

August 9

[Kelso Longview Golf Tour.](#)
[Kelso Longview Lodge](#)

August 14

[South DD Clinic](#)
[Mt. Adams Lodge](#)

August 22

[Vancouver Golf Tour.](#)
[Vancouver Lodge](#)

August 23

[East DD Clinic](#)
[Colville Lodge](#)

[Sequim Golf Tour.](#)
[Sequim Lodge](#)

August 24

[North DD Clinic](#)
[Everett Lodge](#)

September 13

[South District Ritual Day](#)
[Mt. Adams Lodge](#)

New WSEA Marketing Committee: Building Our Future Together



Hello, fellow Elks! I'm Greg Heimgartner from Walla Walla Lodge #287, and I'm honored to chair our newly formed WSEA Marketing Committee.



MISSION

****Our Mission****

The Marketing Committee is committed to ensuring every lodge across Washington State has the tools needed to attract new members, retain existing ones, and strengthen community connections. We're taking a hybrid approach that honors our traditions—community events, newsletters, local media—while embracing digital opportunities like social media and online outreach to reach younger demographics and busy professionals.



VISION

****Exciting Technology Opportunities****

We're exploring AI tools that can help lodge officers create content quickly, generate professional graphics and press releases, and analyze community demographics for optimal event planning. For smaller lodges with limited volunteers, these tools can be game changers.



****Progress Update****

While we're in early stages, things are progressing steadily. We're taking a thoughtful approach to build sustainable systems that truly serve our lodges' needs. Every step forward brings us closer to ensuring the Elks remain a vital community force.

JOIN OUR TEAM

****Join Our Team****

Whether you're interested in AI innovation, traditional outreach, or creative campaigns, there's a place for you. We need volunteers to help build a marketing foundation worthy of our heritage and equal to tomorrow's challenges.

If you're interested in this vital mission, please reach out to me via email at greg@gregheimgartner.com or by phone at 509-301-1979.

Americanism Committee Summer Report

Submitted by John Dabney, PER
WSEA Americanism Chairman

Do you know who your WSEA District Americanism Committee Chairs are for 2025-2026? If not, let me introduce them to you:

Central District: Karina Murphy from Olympia Lodge # 186

East District: Monte Hodgson, PER from Colville Lodge #1753

North District: Susan Gregg, PER from Mt. Vernon Lodge #1604

South District: Ann Neil from Vancouver Lodge #823

West District: Anne Lawrence from Bremerton Lodge #1181



When you meet these volunteer leaders of the State Americanism Program please thank them for all their hard work in supporting the youth patriots of our state. Pictured here at Summer Convention (L to R) are John

Dabney, Ann Neil, Monte Hodgson and Sue Gregg. Missing are Karina Murphy and Anne Lawrence who were not able to attend summer convention.

Americanism covers several programs which are available to each of the Lodges:



Fly the Flag Program: Recognize local businesses and neighbors who fly the flag proudly and properly. The Fraternal Committee implemented a

program that presents a recognition certificate for flying the United States flag 24/7. Local Lodges can present a Grand Lodge Recognition Certificate of Honor to local businesses and merchants for proper display of flying our U.S. flag during the day and at night with appropriate illumination.

Promote the following Rituals of Special Services for your Lodge, these are open to the public:

- June 14th – Flag Day Service
- Flag Retirement Service – may be coordinated with other groups such as the Boy Scouts or a Junior ROTC group
- POW/MIA Remembrance Service – 3rd Friday in September. That is Sept. 19th this year.
- November 11th Veterans Day Service

Finally, the Program that receives the most recognition for challenging young, inquisitive minds to explore American Values is the Americanism Essay Contest. This is where

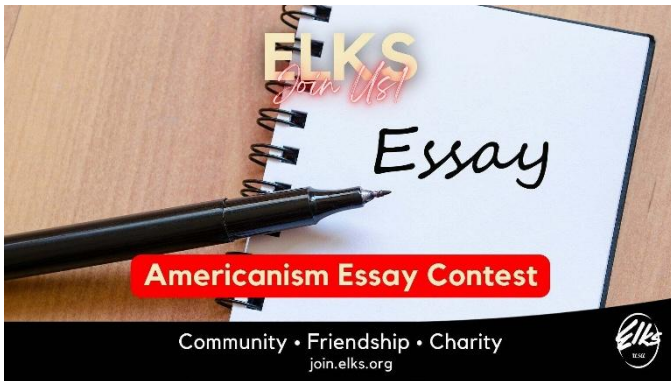
Americanism Report Continued...

the team focuses our most attention. Although the Grand Lodge Web page has not updated the new Program yet, this year's theme was announced at the Grand Lodge Convention.

It will be:

“What Does Service to Your Country Mean?”

There are four divisions in the Essay contest: 5th Grade, 6th Grade, 7th Grade and 8th grade. Students who compete in the Americanism Essay Contest are eligible to win \$100.00 for first place in each of the four division. \$50.00 for second and \$25.00 for 3rd at the State level. Several lodges additionally have prizes for the top essays from their Lodge. The 1st Place winners at the State the level are sent to the national for final judging with the opportunity to win \$1,000.00 for 1st place in each division, \$500.00 for 2nd and \$250.00 for 3rd place.



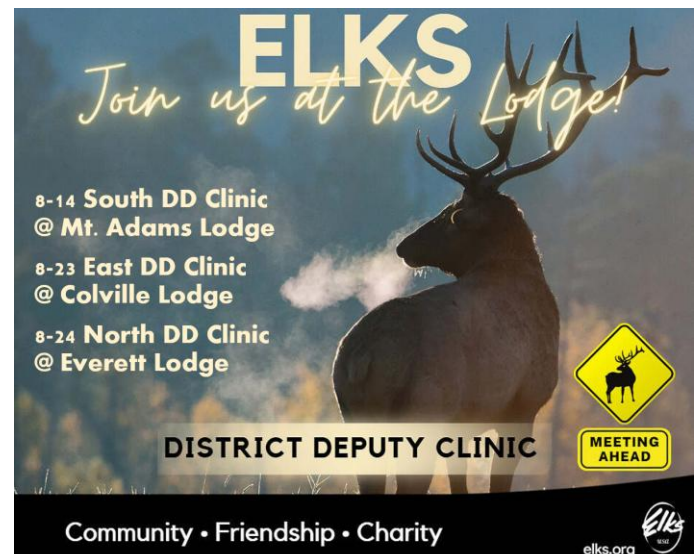
Of the 36 Lodges in Washington State only nine submitted Essays. There were a total of 157 essays submitted. We can do better than that and the kids deserve the opportunity to compete. We continue to have eight lodges throughout the state that do not have an Americanism chair to get the information out to the community.



Our goals for this fraternal year are threefold:

1. All Lodges have an Active Americanism Chairman
2. Double the Lodge participation from 9 to 18 Lodges submitting essays to the State.
3. Increase the total number of essays submitted from 158 to 250.

As soon as the Web site is updated, I will be sending out the needed information to the five District chairs and the Lodge Chairs. Please get this information to local schools (public and private), youth groups (church groups, 4-H, athletic coaches, club advisors, etc.). Have a great rest of your summer!





Elizabeth Johnston

Who is your State Veterans Chair?

Elizabeth Johnston is a publicly recognized advocate for Service Members, Veterans, and their families with over two decades of experience in crisis response, resource coordination, and community empowerment. In her role as a Military and Family Readiness Specialist (MFRS) for the Washington Military family programs, she has guided thousands of Service Members, Veterans, and families through deployment cycles, emergency support services, and vital resource connections, always with empathy, discretion, and deep knowledge of military programs and protocols.

A trusted leader and innovator, Elizabeth was selected as a beta tester and WA State trainer for the Family Management Program (FMP), helping to implement and refine data systems across the nation. She has been a go-to expert for Command on issues of family readiness, crisis management, and suicide intervention, and she regularly delivers briefings and trainings at local, state, and national levels.

Outside of her professional role, Elizabeth chairs the Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS) for the Washington State Elks, leading a network of volunteers across 39 counties. Under her leadership, the organization has expanded the ‘Welcome Home Kit’ distributions to become #1 in the nation for four consecutive years, created housing and utility assistance programs, and implemented the Veterans Emergency Relief Assistance (VERA) grant to support those Service Members and Veterans in urgent need.

As the founder of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, she launched programs like Glory Boots, Pay It Forward, awarded through a Paul Newman program—for her Operation Glory boots program, providing Danner Acadia boots to Service Members in Kuwait and Iraq, comfort care kits, financial aid, and emotional support to thousands of service members and their families. She also built and managed multiple veteran-focused websites and hosted a widely respected military radio talk show called Military Soup.

Elizabeth’s tireless efforts have earned her national, state, and local awards and recognition. She is the recipient of the Golden Tennis Shoe Award from U.S. Senator Patty Murray, the Public Spirit Award from the National American Legion Auxiliary, and the Meritorious Service Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. She has been honored as WSEA’s Citizen of the Year at both the local, State and National level, Kiwanis International – “Rendering service beyond what is ordinary or expected”, WDVA Outstanding Female Non-Veteran Award, named Woman of the Year by Lifetime Network, and recognized by the daughters of the American Revolution for her contributions to women in American history. Her commitment has also been acknowledged by the Department of Veterans Affairs, members of Congress, and even the White House.

Elizabeth is the proud mother of a Cavalry Scout and an OIF/OEF Marine, both have deployed. She’s a certified crisis responder, an ordained minister, and a longtime community organizer. Whether briefing a military audience, organizing veteran support events, or quietly solving problems behind the scenes, her mission remains the same: She will support them ‘Until they all come home’.

WSEA Veterans Chair & Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service Chair

Email: Elks4vets@gmail.com Cell 360-430-6682



WA State Elks Association

ELKS NIGHT AT THE RACES

**AUGUST 9
Polson, MT**

**TRACK OPENS AT 5 PM
QUALIFYING AT 6 PM
RACING AT 7 PM**

Visit our booth promoting

- Elks and Lodges near the track
- Youth Initiatives
- Veterans Programs



Discover **Elks.org**



**Support our Discover Elks Sponsored
Super Late Model #05 & 17 year old Driver
Madex Moran**

LOCATION: Mission Valley Super Oval, 1113 N Reservoir Rd, Polson, MT 59860

ELKS NIGHT AT THE RACES

**AUGUST 9
ELMA, WA**

TRACK OPENS AT 4 PM

RACING AT 6 PM

Visit our booth promoting

- Elks and Lodges near the track
- Youth Initiatives
- Veterans Programs
- Community Outreach



Discover [Elks.org](https://www.elks.org)



**Support our Discover Elks sponsored IMCA
SportMod #10 and 17-year-old driver
Brayden Brookshire!**

LOCATION: Grays Harbor Raceway 32 Elma McCleary Rd, Elma, WA 98541



3rd Annual TALL ELK GOLF TOURNEY

SATURDAY
9th
AUGUST 2025



SPONSORED BY

REGISTER TODAY!

\$125 per player

\$500 per team

(includes play, sack lunch, drink coupons
and awards banquet)

KELSO-LONGVIEW ELKS LODGE #1482

THREE RIVERS GOLF COURSE

2222 SO. RIVER RD

KELSO, WA 98626



Click the QR code to register

FOR MORE INFO CALL 503-421-3456



EVERETT ELKS PRESENTS

CARNIVAL

NIGHT



• GAMES • FOOD • RAFFLES • FUN •

Come play and eat 4-7 pm
Social Quarters Open 4-9 pm



August 23, 2025



BPOE #2524 Annual

COOKIN' FOR THE CAUSE



A Tall Elks Fundraiser

September 6th, 2025
Forks Elks Lodge #2524
941 Merchants Road
Forks, WA 98331



Winner takes all event. Grand prize to be determined. Bragging rights are guaranteed for First place. Others can brag if they so choose. \$50.00 Entry fee per team includes cooking space and meat for competition. This will be a single meat event. Pork Ribs Only. Meat will be provided, no outside meat will be allowed. Contestants will provide their own cooking equipment. Pre-Registration not required. Cooking begins at 8 am. Open to the public at 2 pm. Judging by 3 pm. We guarantee there will be no professional judges used, and therefore may have no clue what they are doing. Food service By 4 pm. \$15 per plate. R.V Spots and camping locations available on site for Elks Members and competitors, first come first serve basis. No reservations.

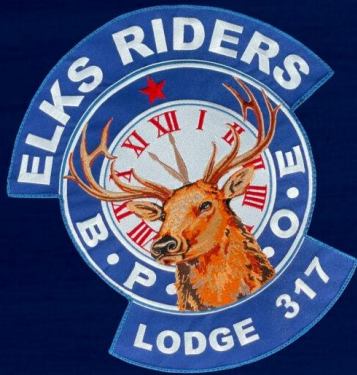
For more information, rules, sponsor opportunities, donations, or to register:

email darel.maxfield@gmail.com

call 210-683-5357

Port Townsend Elks Riders
Membership Drive

Honouring All Who Served



Sept 13th 2025

Dinner only : \$12 5pm

Burgers/Fries

Dinner/ Band: \$20

Band Only: \$10 7pm

Music by: Randall Wolfe Band

Proceeds To Help Local Veterans



50/50 Raffle

SAVE THE DATE
SEPT. 19 & 20, 2025



ELKS VANCOUVER LODGE

11605 SE McGillivray Blvd,
Vancouver, WA 98683
www.elks823.org



A blend of tradition German fare
along with general merrymaking

Music • Food • Fun

Friday & Saturday

SEPT. 19 & 20, 2025

4:00PM to 10:00PM



www.elks823.org

Want to be a sponsor or vendor?

For more information on being
a sponsor, vendor or volunteering
Elktoberfest823@gmail.com



Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children

Location

Copper Bowl
750 S. Main Street
Colville, WA 98273

Lodging:
 Benny's Colville Inn
 509-684-2517

Date
Time

Saturday, September 27, 2025

12:30PM Check-in

Bowling starts at 1:00PM

After-party with raffles to follow
 at **Colville Elks Lodge**
 Kitchen & Bar will be open

RV Spots: can be reserved
 at the Colville Elks Lodge by
 going to elks1753rvpark.com

Teams of 4 or 5 people

\$25 per Bowler

Don't have a team? No Problem, just show up and you'll be paired
 with Elks from another lodge!



For Questions Contact: JOHN MOSER, Colville Elks Exalted Ruler, at 509.690.7554
 or

JENNIFER BRADEN, WSEA Therapy Action Committee Member, at 206.650.2986

Puyallup Elks Lodge

Coin Box

DINNER AND THERAPY
PROGRAM PRESENTATION

6 PM THERAPY PROGRAM
PRESENTATION WITH SPAGHETTI
DINNER TO FOLLOW

Dinner is complimentary with full coin
box donation or \$20/adult \$10/child

OCT
3

TO BENEFIT "OUR
KIDS"



WASHINGTON STATE ELKS
THERAPY PROGRAM

RSVP REQUIRED FOR DINNER
EMAIL: secretary@puyallupelks.org