



January 15-18, 2026

## Learning, Leadership, and Fellowship in SeaTac

Welcome from our State Sponsor Roger R. True, PGER.



I want to welcome all of you to the 2026 January Mid-Winter Convention here in Sea Tac.

Your attendance this weekend confirms your commitment to your Lodge, the State Association, and our great Order. Please take advantage of all the workshops and training sessions. I believe everyone will be impressed with the new meeting format as well as the information that is being provided by the State Officers Training Committee.

We are very fortunate and honored to have with us two (2) visiting PGER's. PGER Mike Luhr and Barbara from

Alaska and PGER Keith Mills and Amy from Idaho. They are no strangers to Washington, and I am grateful they took the time out of their busy schedules to join us.

Only two months remain in this Lodge year and there is a lot of work that needs to be completed before March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please let the State Officers or your District Deputy know if there is anything they can do to help you.

I know we will have a great convention, and I want to thank everyone for your attendance. I would also like to send out a special "Thank You" to the dedicated members who gave hours of their time to prepare for this convention. Let's have fun, work hard, and remember to share what we have learned with other Lodge members who could not be in attendance.

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## WSEA President Message



Welcome to the **2026 Washington State Elks Winter Convention!** We are excited to welcome members, guests, and visitors from out of state to a full schedule of training, seminars, and events designed to strengthen your lodge, grow membership, and highlight

the programs that make Elkdom shine.

In your registration packet and on the WSEA website, we have provided a short agenda outlining the events scheduled for each day. The website also includes an expanded agenda with brief summaries of each session and event.

The Winter Convention is our primary **training convention**, offering the most up-to-date information on Elks programs, leadership techniques, and practical tools you can take back and apply in your lodge.

We are kicking off the event with the Executive Board meeting on Wednesday, where we will discuss the status and plans for the State Association, the Therapy program, and the Charitable Trust programs. These meetings are open to all members.

We have revamped our state training program with the help of our State Training Chairperson, Jim Henry. One major change involves the “Exalted Ruler-to-Be” training, which has traditionally been held in October. Since most lodges do not yet know who their next leader will be at that time, we collectively decided to move this training to the Winter Convention. This change allows incoming leaders adequate time to prepare before their installation. This is an invitation only training distinctively designed for the incoming Exalter Ruler.

Friday is designed for incoming and current officers, lodge committee members, and chairpersons, as well as lodge members. Throughout the day, State Committee Chairpersons will present their programs and share strategies to strengthen our promotions, increase involvement within our communities, and attract new members.

Evenings are designated as social time, giving everyone the opportunity to mingle, reconnect with old friends, make new ones, discuss what they’ve learned, and share ideas. The hospitality rooms will open daily at 5:00 p.m. and close at 11:00 p.m., following the eleven o’clock toast. Also, ticketed events include a Thursday Welcome Reception, Friday dinner, and a Cribbage tournament.

Saturday is Association Business Day. We will begin with a Membership Session presented by Grand Lodge Membership & Marketing Chairperson Rick Gathen and Area 8 Membership Committee Member Steve Meier. This session is open to everyone. It will be followed by the WSEA Business Session, during which we will vote on future officers, discuss the current status of the state, and outline plans for the future.

After lunch, we are honored to welcome one of our therapy patients, who will demonstrate what typically takes place during a home visit. Presented by Sarah Junkin Clark and Becky Gibson. This is necessary to do on your list.

This is followed by the Open General Session, where everyone is invited to join. This is one of the highlights of the convention, a chance to recognize our dignitaries, enjoy inspiring speeches, look ahead to the future, and wrap up the convention together.

Jen and I look forward to seeing everyone again.

Fraternally,

Scott Rainey  
WSEA President

## WSEA President Elect Message

By Ben Braden



Welcome to the 2026 WSEA Winter Convention, our annual January gathering dedicated to training and strengthening the leadership of Washington's Elks. For our volunteer officers, training is more than learning

rules and procedures, it's empowerment through competence, a connection to our shared purpose, and an opportunity for meaningful leadership growth.

Investing time in training builds skills that create confidence and turn our effort into impact. It advances our organization's vision by



transforming "just helping" into effective, purpose-driven service. Strong training fosters dedication across our membership and helps prevent burnout among the small but mighty group of volunteers who make our lodges shine.

Each of us attending this Winter Convention has an opportunity to become a better leader, a stronger volunteer, and a more effective Elk. But only if we fully buy-in to the training offered here. Will you do that?

Training equips us not just to serve, but to lead. Mastery builds confidence, and social or professional confidence is contagious. It

ensures our fellow members feel capable and valued rather than frustrated or overwhelmed. Training provides the "how" behind our shared goal: the success of our lodges.

Your presence at the 2026 WSEA Winter Convention isn't just fulfilling a requirement, it affirms your vital role in the future of our Order. When you invest your time in what is shared here, and bring it back to life in your lodge, you provide the fuel that powers our collective success. Embrace these opportunities to learn, train, and reinvigorate your passion for the Elks.

Training is growth. It is not a one-time event, but a cumulative process that builds upon our Spring Officer Training, Summer Convention, and the Spring and Fall District Deputy Clinics. This is your opportunity to gather the tools that strengthen your leadership and support lasting lodge success.



When we train together, volunteer together, and honor the obligations we accepted when we became Elks, and those when we stepped forward as officers, we come together with purpose: to build and reinforce the foundation of the 35 lodges across our state.

# THANK YOU

Thank you for being part of our Winter Convention, and most importantly, thank you for volunteering at your lodge and committing to leaving it better than you found it.

"There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed."

— Woodrow T. Wilson



## WSEA Vice President East Message



Welcome to Winter Convention!

I hope you all had a very happy holiday.

I am excited to see everyone

in the new year.

We have had a great year thus far. With the new year let's take this opportunity to bring new energy and excitement back to our lodges and finish the lodge year strong. Winter Convention always brings many training opportunities. Please plan how your lodge can attend the sessions to take back the most information.



This year, we've added the ER-to-Be training, thank you to the incoming Exalted Rulers who will join us. We hope to present a valuable and enjoyable training. We also have a fun meet-and-greet with our committee chairs, it is a great chance to learn about the committees, discover ways to help, and ask questions about how your lodge can make the most of our programs.

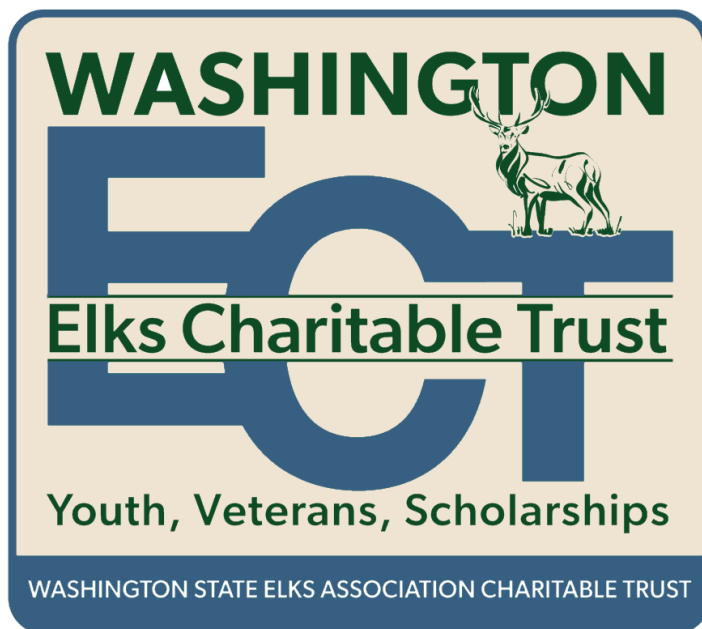
If you've been following our email updates, website, or Facebook page, you've seen the latest digital campaign for the Washington Elks Charitable Trust. Thank you all for your support! The Executive Board is thrilled with the success of these efforts and the grants we've been able to provide our lodges. We hope to see even greater success the coming year.

The Executive Board has worked hard and continues to be committed to working together to keep growing and improving our association. We are always here to help and look forward to any feedback you may have.

After Convention let's return to our lodges ready to fill calendars, initiate new members, and celebrate those who have made this lodge year so successful.

Enjoy this time together! Mingle, make new connections, learn, and have fun!

Lana Davick  
WSEA Vice President – East



*Elks* Care — *Elks* Share

## WSEA Vice President Central Message



Welcome to the 2026 Washington State Elks Mid-Winter Convention!

I am happy to see you have all taken the time to be here. This shows your commitment to our wonderful organization.

President Scott Rainey has done a great job of putting together some informative presentations for all of us. Throughout the weekend, be sure to check the event schedule for special workshops and social gatherings designed to enhance your convention experience. Don't hesitate to ask questions or offer your insights during discussions, your voice is invaluable to our



collective progress. Remember, the friendships and networks you build here can last a lifetime and bring fresh energy back to your home lodges.

I look forward to seeing all the Exalted Rulers To Be at the new training on Thursday morning. We hope you will get a lot of useful information from this training. Another new thing that Scott has set up is a meet and greet with all the committee chairs. If you need information on how to run a hoop shoot or new ideas for getting new members this is the place to do it

Take time to talk to people from other lodges in the hospitality rooms. You can get a lot of new

ideas just by having a conversation with a new person. If you see someone who is wearing the 1<sup>st</sup> convention ribbon, make a point of reaching out to them and making them feel welcome.

At this convention we will be having elections for some new state officers. We have some wonderful, qualified members who are running to assist the State. Talk to your fellow lodge members and vote for who you feel will be best.

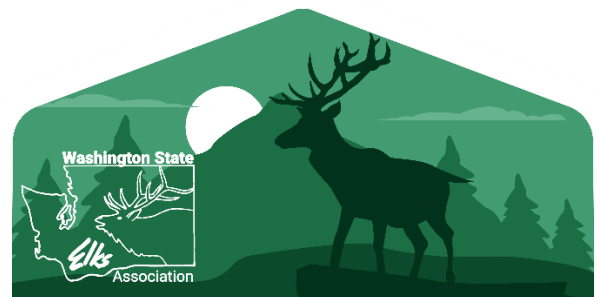
As we gather for this important event, I encourage everyone to make the most of the opportunities presented—attend the sessions, share your

experiences, and take time to build lasting connections with fellow Elks. Your participation strengthens our



community and helps us continue to foster growth and support for our lodges across Washington State. Let's work together to ensure this convention is both productive and enjoyable for all, setting the stage for a successful year ahead.

Scott Knight  
Vice President Central District



Discover **Elks.org**

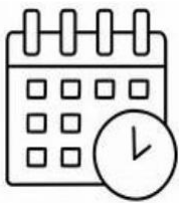
## WSEA Vice President South Message



### Welcome to the 2026 WSEA Winter Convention!

Whether this is your **very first Winter Convention** or one of many you've proudly attended as a long-time Elk, we are thrilled to welcome you! This year's Convention is packed with **fresh ideas, exciting updates, and powerful opportunities** designed to energize you and strengthen your lodge.

From **Registration through the Saturday closing**, you'll find a full and dynamic schedule filled with chances to learn more about our organization, sharpen your skills, and bring valuable insights back to your lodge. Consider dividing up the classes among your lodge members so you're covering more ground and ensuring no great information is missed - teamwork **makes the impact even stronger!**



**Don't miss the Meet & Greet with State Chairpersons and the Membership Team** on Friday at 4:00 PM in **Grand Ballroom 1 & 2**. This is a fantastic opportunity to make

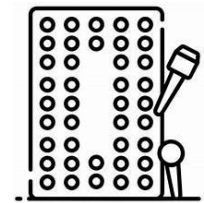
connections, ask questions, and discover new resources that can directly support your lodge's success.

**Incoming Exalted Rulers**—your journey begins Thursday with a full day of targeted training classes created to help you lead with confidence in the coming year. Be sure to check out the **ER Handbook on the WSEA website**, filled with practical tools and resources to keep you on track. Additional recommended classes on Friday will further

prepare you for a successful and rewarding year ahead.

### Ritual matters—and it matters deeply.

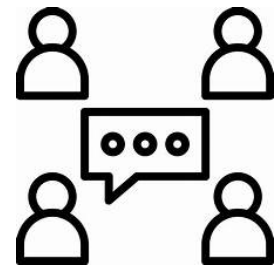
Please send at least one representative from your lodge to the **Ritual Session on Friday at 2:00 PM in Cascade Room 1 & 2**. Even if state competition feels out of reach, every lodge performs the Initiation Ritual—and that moment shapes a new member's first impression. This session focuses on the basics, practical tips, and ways to deliver a confident, meaningful ritual that inspires pride—not discomfort. I strongly encourage each lodge to have someone attend and bring these invaluable tips back to your officer team.



I'm also especially looking forward to the **Cribbage Tournament on Friday night!** I've been brushing up on my 15-2, 15-4 math and can't wait for a fun evening of friendly competition while raising money for the **WSEA Therapy Program for Children**. It's a win all around!

Finally, be sure to **have fun, meet new people, and reconnect** in the Hospitality Suites each evening.

Some of the best ideas, advice, and inspiration are shared in these informal gatherings. Build new friendships from across the state and enjoy reconnecting with familiar faces you haven't seen in a while.



Here's to an unforgettable **2026 WSEA Winter Convention**—full of learning, laughter, and meaningful connections.

**All the Best,**  
**Caroline Bradwell**  
WSEA 3rd Vice President

## There is Still Work to be Done: Maintain and Increase Membership as the Year Closes

By Nancy M Oakes, PER  
WSEA Membership Committee Chair

Well, 2026 is here and while it may signal the end of one year, the Elk year still has 3 months to go and in terms of Membership, we have a lot to do in a short amount of time to get it all done!

As we gather in SeaTac for our annual Winter Conference, I will once again be holding my Membership Training Session which is on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 2:20 pm.

On one side of the room, we will have an outdoor booth setup complete with popup canopy. We will show you how to place your tables, what to display on your tables, how to display the appropriate banners we have created specifically for these events, and more.



On the other side of the room, we will have a lodge membership drive set-up. This will show you how to set up your tables, what to display, banner set up, and more. We will be walking you through those numbers.

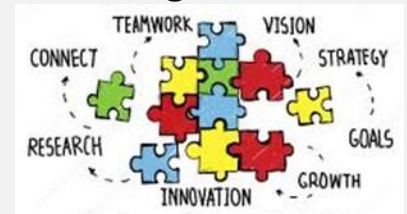
Another important aspect of membership we will review is Orientation. I personally think this is a critical phase of membership. We will go over how to prepare an Orientation packet for new members and provide samples of information to place in the packet.

While all the above is important, what is critical is what happens in January and February. These are two crucial months to get a lot done! **BOOK YOUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVES NOW! You have two months to make a huge difference in your lodge.** Bringing in new members in these two months gives you the month of March to get everyone initiated.



Not sure where to start? Please set up a meeting with me and let's plan a membership drive for your lodge. I will help you plan details, advertise, and I will even show up and work the event with you. Now is the time to pull out all the stops so you can obtain that

## WSEA Membership and Marketing Committees



Our purpose for the Membership and Marketing Committees 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 the Committees.

### Marketing Committee Chair:

Greg Heimgartner, PSP  
Greg@GregHeimgartner.com  
509-301-1979

### Online Presence Coordinator:

Arnold Ross  
arnoldross@msaldj.com  
elksonline.org

### Membership Committee Chair:

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

### Team Members:

Jen Steele  
Aaron Reid  
Richard Shull  
Scott Fylling  
JD Smith  
Missy Wheat  
Lolly Titherington  
Beverly Maddox



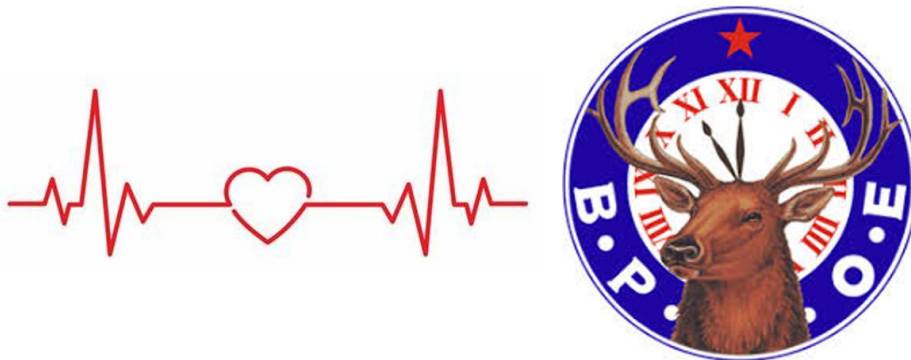
10% increase for your lodge, and we can have a Plus 1 in membership for our state. We have done it before, and we can do it again!

This is also your last opportunity to order those specialty banners for your lodge. I need to know which lodges have the current pop-up banners for Veteran's, Hoop Shoot, Therapy Program, and Scholarship. I know there are many sets of these out there and I must have an update of their whereabouts, so please bring that information to the seminar.

As always, I am here to assist you with any Membership needs. You can reach me at: 307-250-3378. Call or text and I will get right back to you. Let's all make a difference this year and take care of what takes care of our lodges and our Order: **MEMBERSHIP!**



This will be my last Membership training session, so I hope all the ER's and the incoming Exalted Rulers attend this valuable workshop. I will be the State Membership Committee Chair until June, so remember to contact me for any assistance you may need. It has been my privilege to serve the WA State lodges these past 3+ years and I look forward to continued success in all lodges.



**Activities are the heartbeat of your Lodge.**

**Together, we can strengthen them.**

Join the Lodge Activities Committee for an energizing, idea-packed presentation that blends creativity, connection, and practical tools to boost engagement in every corner of

Your Lodge. You'll walk away with ready-to-use strategies, fresh inspiration, and a renewed sense of what Elkdom can look like when we collaborate, innovate, and bring the FUN back to fellowship. Come for the ideas, and you will leave with momentum!

Friday January 16 - 2:00p to 2:50p - Cascade 3 & 4

We look forward to seeing you at Winter Convention!

WSEA Lodge Activities Committee

## 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

**Elks Care – Elks Share**



## **District Deputy Teams 2025-2026**



### **Central:**

**District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler: Scott Knight**

**Esquire: Peter Schultz**

**Auditor:**

### **East:**

**District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler: Richard Shull**

**Esquire: John Dabney**

**Auditor: Craig Johnson**

**Assistant to the Auditor: Patty Wilson**

### **North:**

**District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler: Arnold Smith**

**Esquire: Aaron Reid**

**Auditor: Mike Campbell**

**Assistant to the Auditor: Sheryl DeMarsh**

### **South:**

**District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler: Virginia Basil**

**Esquire: Caroline Bradwell**

**Auditor: Michele Jenkins**

### **West:**

**District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler: Heather Beal**

**Esquire: Brandi Wallace**

**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 have given hope to children in our region for more than 99 years.



Hoop Shoot season is in full swing with district competition taking place this month and the Washington State Finals to take place on February 7, 2026, at Saint Martin's University in Lacey.

The Elks Hoop Shoot is a free throw contest for youth ages 8-13. This program has been running for over 50 years and aims to help kids develop grit and perseverance through friendly

competition.

The program is free to all participants and provides a great opportunity for kids to connect and experience the life lessons that come with dedication, practice, and competition.

Participants compete in local contests, with winners advancing to district, state, regional, and finally, the national finals. The national finals are held annually in Chicago.

Please have one of your attending members come to the Hoop Shoot session this Friday morning. Check your schedule for the start time. We want to see attendees from the successful Hoop Shoot Lodges but also from Lodges that have not run the program in years.

Stop by to see what is new, what is working and why we should not be cheating our kids who deserve a chance to compete in local hoop shoot competitions in all lodge communities. That is why this program was started over 50 years ago and why we maintain it now. Talk with us and perhaps you can plan on getting your foot in the door next year.



## Important Dates/Lodge Events & Activities:

(more info on WSEA calendar)

### January 15-18

#### WSEA Winter Convention



#### SeaTac Double Tree

### January 17

#### Ocean Shores Lodge

#### Tall Elks Coin Box Dinner

### February 1

#### South District Hoop Shoot Finals @Huntington MS

#### Kelso

### February 7

#### State Hoop Shoot Finals St. Martin University/Lacey

#### Tacoma Lodge

#### WSEA Ritual Day

### February 14





## ELKS ONLINE

### WSEA ONLINE PRESENCE



SCAN TO REGISTER

WASHINGTON LEADING THE HERD INTO THE DIGITAL AGE

## EARN THE LIMITED EDITION PIN

- ✓ Register at [elksonline.org](http://elksonline.org)
- ✓ Add a profile cover photo
- ✓ Add a profile banner image

- ✓ Write a short profile bio
- ✓ Vote on a lodge presence item
- ✓ Earn the Winter Convention Check-in Award

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

[elksonline.org](http://elksonline.org)

## Port Townsend Elks Support Local Marching Band Invited to Washington DC for America's Birthday Celebration!

Dear Fellow Washington State Elks,

Just 15 minutes outside of Port Townsend lies the small rural community of Chimacum, home to Chimacum High School. This year, their band has received an extraordinary honor, they have been selected as the only high school in Washington State chosen to represent us in Washington D.C., on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, for America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.



To make this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity possible, the students must raise a total of \$100,000. These funds will support updated uniforms, travel expenses, lodging, meals, and the various costs associated with such a monumental trip.

The Port Townsend Elks Lodge is fully committed to helping this incredible group of students succeed. We are planning an outdoor BBQ fundraiser in early spring, and we are exploring additional fundraising efforts within the next several months.

But we cannot do it alone.

We are asking all 35 lodges across Washington State to join us supporting the Chimacum High School Band. If each lodge raised \$3,000, we would reach the needed goal and ensure these students can proudly represent Washington and the Elks on the national stage.

Supporting youth has always been the heart of Elks' values-Americanism, Charity, Brotherly Love, Fidelity, and Justice. This effort reflects all of them.

To make a donation you may access the website Chimacum Marching Band has established at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/chime-in-with-the-band>

You may also submit a check to Port Townsend Elks Lodge, and we will issue a final payment on behalf of all contributors to Chimacum High School.

At Winter Convention, we will have this information posted within our hospitality suite, wishing/hoping that you help support the marching band.

Together we can help these hardworking students achieve something truly extraordinary.

Thank you for your support and dedication to our youth and our communities.

Fraternally,

Port Townsend  
Elks Lodge





## Refocusing for Lodge Success: Year-End Awards Move to the Executive Board



The Washington State Elks Association has made an important organizational change designed to strengthen both our statewide operations and the support we provide to local lodges. Beginning this year, responsibility for the **Year-End Awards**, including *Exalted Ruler of the Year*, *Officer of the Year*, *Elk of the Year*, and *Citizen of the Year*, will shift from the **Lodge Activities Committee** to the **WSEA Executive Board**.

This adjustment reflects us recognizing that the activities of a lodge are paramount to its ultimate success. Lodge Activities are where Elks spirit comes alive, in the events, programs, and moments that engage our members, build pride, and connect us to each other and our communities. With that in mind, we want the **Lodge Activities Committee** to focus 100% of its energy and creativity on what it does best: helping lodges do *more* and *better* activities.

By removing the administrative duties associated with the Year-End Awards, we're freeing the Lodge Activities Committee to provide more hands-on support and guidance to lodges across Washington, encouraging innovation, boosting participation, and helping lodges turn great ideas into great member experiences.



Our goal is simple: **stronger lodges, thriving membership, and deeper community impact.**

As part of this renewed focus, the **State Lodge Activities Committee** will continue to spearhead the **All American Lodge Contest** sponsored by the Grand Lodge. This program

recognizes lodges that excel in every aspect of Elkdom - from membership involvement and community service to effective communication and leadership development. The WSEA has set an ambitious goal of achieving **100% participation by all Washington lodges by March 2027**.

The All American Lodge contest mirrors the direction and goals of our State Lodge Activities Committee. Its

emphasis on active, engaged, and proud lodges aligns perfectly with our mission to help every lodge across Washington become more dynamic, visible, and successful in their communities.



The Washington State Elks Association knows that lodge pride and activity are the foundation for growth. Together with the **Government Relations** and **Public Relations** committees, the Lodge Activities Committee will focus its efforts on helping build a strong foundation that fosters visibility, engagement, and the community presence that keep our lodges vibrant for generations to come.

The WSEA Executive Board is honored to take on the responsibility of managing and presenting the Year-End Awards. This move ensures that these prestigious recognitions remain consistent and celebrated at the highest level of our Association while allowing our committees to stay laser-focused on helping lodges succeed.



**More support for lodges. More engagement for members. More pride in being an Elk.**

That's what this change is all about.

## Recognize Excellence — Submit Your Nominations Today!



Spring is near and now is the perfect time to look around your Lodge and ask: *Who among us has gone above and beyond this year?* The WSEA gives us four outstanding awards - Exalted Ruler of the Year, Officer of the Year, Elk of the Year, and Citizen of the Year - to spotlight the individuals whose service, leadership and commitment make our Lodges stronger.

### Why these awards matter

- ✓ **Celebrate outstanding service:** Each of these awards recognizes someone who has exemplified the ideals of our Order: charity, justice, brotherhood, and fidelity.
- ✓ **Strengthen the Lodge culture:** When you nominate someone, you're saying "we see you, we appreciate you, and we honor you and your efforts." That builds morale, inspires others, and fosters a culture of recognition.
- ✓ **Elevate our Association:** Strong nominations from your Lodge bring visibility not just to the individual, but to your Lodge's spirit and involvement. It matters.
- ✓ **It's simple, do it!** The nomination forms and guidelines are on the WSEA website; the deadline is March 15 for submission.

### Which award is right for the nominee?

#### Exalted Ruler of the Year

This award honors a Lodge's Exalted Ruler who has made significant accomplishments during the Lodge year (April 1 to March 31). Key points:

- The nomination should reflect major leadership, growth, committee engagement, membership efforts, program participation.
  - Following the All American Lodge contest form will help with this nomination.
- It's your Lodge's opportunity to acknowledge the top leader who set the tone, advanced your mission, and achieved measurable results.

#### Officer of the Year

This award recognizes a current Lodge officer (other than Exalted Ruler) who has excelled.

- Must be a current officer.
- Demonstrated leadership, committee participation, promptness in duties, support of the Lodge's mission.
- Example: attending training, helping other officers, spearheading a project.

#### Elk of the Year

This is for a Lodge member (who is *not* a current officer) whose service shines.

- The nominee should be a member who volunteers, supports committees, lifts the Lodge, fosters a positive culture.
- This is your behind-the-scenes (or maybe front and center) hero award.

## Citizen of the Year

This award extends outside just Elks membership, it honors a citizen (Elk or not) who has made a meaningful contribution to your community in alignment with Elk values (charity, service).

- Does *not* have to be an Elk.
- The nomination should focus on their service to your community, their alignment with Elks mission, and the positive impact they've made.

### How to submit — Your action checklist

1. **Review the criteria now:** The WSEA's State Yearly Awards sets the deadlines, format (online submission), and required content. [waelks.org/policies/](http://waelks.org/policies/)
2. **Select your nominee(s):** Gather your Lodge leadership (Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Secretary, etc) to identify one strong candidate per category.
3. **Document their accomplishments:** For each nominee, write out clear examples of what they did: leadership, initiative, service, results.
4. **Complete the nomination form(s):** Use the online forms on the WSEA website. Entries must be submitted by March 15.
5. **Promote the nomination within your Lodge:** Let your members know you're submitting. Announce the nominee, thank them publicly, build excitement.
6. **Prepare for recognition:** State winners will be announced at the WSEA Convention. Your Lodge's nominee may be requested to attend.



### Make it count

- Choose **specific and measurable achievements** rather than vague praise. ("Led membership growth by X%", "spearheaded program Y", "organized fundraising campaign").
- Highlight how the work aligns with the Elks values: *Care – Share*.
- Remember the judging process is confidential, you are submitting your best case for your nominee to represent your Lodge.
- Submit early. Don't wait until the last minute, give yourself time to polish the nomination.

### Set the example

- Identify the Exalted Ruler, Officer, Elk and Citizen who represent the best of our Mission.
- Recognize them. Nominate them. Celebrate them.  
Your Lodge's future will be stronger for it.



By submitting strong nominations, you show that your Lodge **values its members** and **takes Elkdom seriously**. You honor leadership, initiative and service. You elevate your entire lodge.

Thank you for your dedication, your leadership and your commitment to moving Elkdom forward.



**WSEA West District Vice President Candidate**  
**Heather L. Beal**

My fellow Elks, I humbly ask for your support for the upcoming WSEA West District Vice President election. Since retiring from the Navy, I've followed in my father's footsteps and joined the Elks. I've taken on numerous challenges and positions and have loved the opportunities for growth and collaboration they have all brought. The great work our Lodges do for the community is not as well known in our communities as it could be, and I want to be part of the solution to fix this.



I'm a Navy veteran with 23 years of active-duty service. One of the greatest honors I have had was to carry the Navy Flag in the Grand Lodge Convention opening.

I've been an active member of WSEA serving as the Membership Services Chair, the Ritual Chair, Lodge Activities Committee West District Chair, and as a member of the Training Committee. I love the opportunities I have helped build and strengthen not just our Lodge programs, but built relationships and helped develop leaders. Every Elk that is encouraged to step forward and get involved is a potential leader, and it's so important to honor that effort and enable their journey.

If elected, my goal is to make our Lodges stronger through building connections between people and resources. We're all one team. Our Lodges deserve an organization and leaders willing to do everything they can to enable their combined success. We must support each other as well as our local communities. We need to work harder at the state level to help you inform your communities about the incredible work you do. Please consider voting for me for WSEA West District Vice President. I'd be honored to have your vote and would work hard to help build a better future for our state. Thank you for your support!

**Elks Accomplishments:**

- Authored 'All-American Lodge Contest "A" Handbook' for Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee
- Authored 'About Our Flag and Flags in the Lodge' Manual for Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee
- Awarded the Erik K. Mulholland Award as Grand Lodge Flag Charge Competition Winner in 2023
- Proposed two Grand Lodge Statute Amendments that were subsequently passed

**Elks Videos/News Features:**

- ENF – ENF National Convention Video Report. A Community Force.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqx\\_O67o0d4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqx_O67o0d4) July 2022.
- ENF – Take a CIP: Episode 7. Interview on Great Cascadia Zombie Challenge (Beacon Grant)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2kDHv6M\\_pQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2kDHv6M_pQ) Oct 2021.
- Elks National Veterans Services – 3 Questions with an Elk.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gnw0JZAhdKE> Nov 2020.
- ENF – CIP News. Bremerton, Wash., Lodge No. 1181 Teaches Scouts How to Zom-Bie Prepared!  
<https://www.elks.org/cip/cipcentral/news.cfm?StoryID=120244> Oct 2019.

*Remember... “Heather Helps”*



To the Lodges, Officers, and Members of the Washington State Elks Association.  
I am writing to announce my candidacy for Vice President West and to ask for your support.

Coming from a multi-generation family of Elks, I enthusiastically joined the Forks Elks Lodge #2524 in 1994 and have been active in my Lodge for all 31 years. Once elected to an Officer position, I have progressed through the Chairs, culminating to the position of Exalted Ruler in 2000-2001, which was so much fun that I served again in 2001-2002. Even after the term of Exalted Ruler, I continued to serve the Forks Lodge as a 9-year Secretary, 10-year Trustee, served as Chairman of the Board, House Chair and am currently the Treasurer.

The All American Forks Lodge is 100% volunteer and has a way of putting everyone to work. I have continually served on various Lodge Committees, chaired many activities, been a volunteer cook, a volunteer bartender and a 21-year volunteer bookkeeper. These efforts have rewarded me as the Lodge Elk of the Year, numerous Lodge Officer of the Year awards and the distinguished recognition of the WSEA Officer of the Year in 2021.

In 2022, I joined the Grand Lodge District Deputy team, serving as District Auditor 2022-2023, District Esquire 2023-2024 and District Deputy 2024-2025.

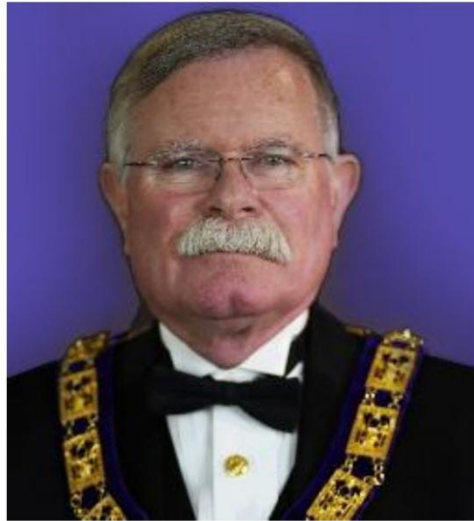
While many of you know me around the Elks, what you may not know is that I've been working for the WA State Department of Corrections for over 30 years, the last 21 years as the Warehouse Manager for a State prison. In my spare time, I enjoy going to baseball games and concerts, but I also enjoy visiting other Elks Lodges. I have been to nearly all the Lodges in Washington State and enjoy the camaraderie and fun exhibited by our Elks family in other Lodges. Although we have the same principles, we each operate uniquely and experience our own challenges. As an officer of the WSEA, I will bring my wealth of experiences to help and work with all Lodges to see them succeed. We can stand together, roll up our sleeves and help our communities, but let's not overlook the opportunity to have fun along the way!

My spirit of serving the Elks and our communities has never diminished. I am proud to be an Elk and that is why I'm running for VP West. I thank you in advance for your support.

Fraternally,

Dean McCoy, PDDGER, West District  
Forks Lodge #2524

**LARRY STALEY**  
**FOR WSEA VICE PRESIDENT WEST**



Greetings fellow members. I am a candidate for the position of WSEA Vice President West. I have been a member of our order for 17 years with the Bremerton Lodge #1181. I ask for your support for the upcoming election for Vice President West.

**Employment:**

Sergeant, San Diego County CA, Sheriff's Dept. (RET)  
Colonel, United States Army Reserve (RET)  
Instructor, California Military Academy, San Luis Obispo, CA

**Education:**

Bachelor of Arts, National University, San Diego, CA  
Master of Arts, University of Redlands, Redlands, CA

**Elks Experience:**

Lodge Secretary  
Trustee  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee  
Member, Auditing and Accounting Committee  
Exalted Ruler  
District Deputy, Grand Exalted Ruler

**WSEA Experience:**

Program Advocate  
Financial Trustee

**Awards:**

All American Inner Guard, Western Division 2015-2016  
ENF Bronze Plaque

**Memberships:**

P.E.R. Association, Bremerton Lodge #1181  
Oregon/Washington P.E.R. Association



# Be a Better Presenter

## CONNECT AND SHARE IDEAS!

WE SHARE OUR LIVES WITH OTHERS TO BUILD BRIDGES AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH DISCUSSION AND DOING THINGS TOGETHER. WE “PRESENT” TO OTHERS OUR THOUGHTS AND BELIEFS THROUGH STORIES, LESSONS LEARNED AND SHARING. THIS COULD BE IN THE SOCIAL QUARTERS ABOUT OUR LATEST FISHING TRIP, AT A COMMITTEE MEETING WHERE YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR IDEA FOR A NEW LODGE ACTIVITY/EVENT, OR IN FRONT OF A LARGE CROWD ON A TOPIC YOU WERE VOLUNTOLD TO DELIVER.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO PRESENT YOUR IDEAS TO OTHERS MORE EFFECTIVELY, THEN COME AND JOIN ME FOR 45 MINUTES OF IDEAS ON “HOW TO BE A BETTER PRESENTER”



**JOHN KRISTOFZSKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE  
INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE WILL BE  
LEADING THIS WORKSHOP**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 16TH AT 9:30 AM  
(SEE CONVENTION AGENDA FOR LOCATION)**



# Washington State Elks Ritual Competition

Saturday Feb 7 at 10 AM  
Tacoma Lodge 2013 S. Cedar Street Tacoma WA  
98405

What is new this year?

Winning teams will have the choice of a \$5000 prize  
to be used for Ritual or Membership projects  
at their lodge

OR

\$10,000 to use towards travel expenses to attend and  
compete at Grand Lodge

RSVP Carrie Massey at [carriemelks1482@gmail.com](mailto:carriemelks1482@gmail.com) if your  
lodge will be attending

