

# Washington State Elks Association Newsletter



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Informing, Educating, and Communicating with WSEA Members

December 2025

## Grand Lodge Challenge: Resolve to Start One Program in the New Year



For many of us, the turn of the calendar year often marks a time of reflection, which can often spur a desire to improve, grow, or just maybe, in 2026, make a commitment to Be The Difference in our communities.

One way to do this is to start a new program in your Lodge. The Grand Lodge Activities Committee has numerous structured programs available to all Lodges with minimal cost impact and a range of target audiences.

Medals of Service & Valor for first responders, Soccer Shoot, Junior Golf, JROTC awards, Scouting awards, Antlers Program, Dictionary Project, and Student/Teenager of the Month/Year are just some of the established programs available to all Lodges.

Let's challenge each other to start just one new program in our Lodge this year. Don't kick the can to the next Lodge year. Let's get started now! The work we do in the next 90 days will set a strong foundation for a successful program the following Lodge year and well beyond.



Do you have any current or former educators who are Members in your Lodge? If so, ask them to help start a Student/Teenager of the Month/Year program with the local high school or a Dictionary Program in a local elementary school.

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Do you have any current or former police officers, fire fighters, or medics who are Members in your Lodge? If so, ask them to help with the first responders awards.

Do you have any veterans or active military members in your Lodge? If so, ask them to help connect with the local JROTC units in your community.

Do you have any Members who are parents of kids who play organized soccer? If so, ask them to help start a Soccer Shoot at their child's school or club.

Does your Lodge have a golf league? If so, ask your golf league commissioner to help start a Junior Golf program in your Lodge with the local golf pro at the course your league plays at.

Does your Lodge want to attract younger Members—many of whom might have kids—and create a more family-oriented atmosphere? If so, ask your Lodge PER Association to help establish an Antlers Program.



Think about the amazing range of Members in your Lodge. Approach them personally and ask if they will help. Most Elks want to help their Lodge, and many will say “no one ever asked me,” even though your Lodge’s newsletter has asked Members for help for months (or years!).

If your Lodge is already doing every program Grand Lodge has to offer, great! But if not, let’s resolve to start just one new program, right here, right now, so we can Be The Difference in our communities today and tomorrow!

## WSEA President Message



Do you already have holiday plans? Are you attending social gatherings, traveling with family, going to Holiday parties, or planning a visit to distant relatives? As you participate in all the wonderful

traditions we enjoy this time of year—whether at the lodge or with friends and family—pause for a moment. Is someone missing? Is there a member or relative you have not seen in some time? Reach out to them. Invite them to join you at one of your events. Remember, not everyone has loved ones nearby, and may feel hesitant about attending alone.

Additionally, December holds special significance in Elkdome as a month to honor members who have



passed on to their next journey. Let's keep their families in our thoughts as well. Consider giving them a call or inviting them to the lodge for the Christmas festivities. Show them that they are valued and remembered during this season.

Last week, Jen and I had the privilege of attending the grand opening of Moses Lake Lodge 2892. We extend our congratulations

to all officers and members on this accomplishment. Your diligence and commitment have resulted in an impressive and welcoming lodge. Keep it going.



Winter Convention is fast approaching—please make sure you are registered. Something new this year is “Exalted Ruler to Be” Training will be at winter convention.

We have a well thought out curriculum for them throughout the convention to help them get ready for their year in office. We also have various training sessions and seminars for all of you to attend. We will also be electing next year's WSEA Officers. Come support your candidate.

Grand Lodge Membership & Marketing Director Rick Gathen & Committee Member Area 8 Steve Meyers will be giving a Membership presentation Saturday morning at convention. Every officer and member is encouraged to attend.

Thank you and Congratulations to all the lodges for selling WSEA calendars. Remember that the funds, stubs, and accountability lists need to be turned into the state office this month.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Scott & Jennifer Rainey, WSEA President

**Elks Care - Elks Share**

## WSEA President Elect Message

By Ben Braden



### Government Relations: Turning Action into Impact

Last month, we talked about the heartbeat of our lodges — our activities. Now let's talk about how we make that heartbeat

truly flow: through the work of our **Government Relations Committee**.

Now, don't let the name fool you — this committee is about much more than legislative contacts. It is the *charitable reporting arm* of Elkdom, and it's how we show the world (and often more importantly, ourselves) the incredible difference we make every day.

Every hour volunteered, every dollar donated, every meal served, every child helped - it all matters. When we capture that information and report it properly, it becomes more than data. It becomes our story; it is our goldmine. It's proof that our members' efforts change lives. These reports are fuel firing the pride Elkdom requires to survive and grow.

The Government Relations Committee doesn't just track impact; it enables us to *amplify* it. Those reports show our members how their dues and volunteerism make a difference, building pride and purpose - and that pride leads directly to stronger membership retention, while at the same time fueling the ask. That moment a member is so proud of their lodge, of their fellow members, they are shaking with anticipation for the opportunity to ask their friends, their co-workers or their family to join.

If the reporting is done right, if it captures every effort made around your lodge that pride will sit throbbing within their membership card, it will beam out it's lighthouse lens and become embroidered as the Elks oval on their shirt, and it will be there ready to burst out through conversation that leads towards a membership form as that opportunity arrives in the elevator or in line at the store.

## Government Relations Committee



And here's where it actually gets more exciting: those reports are also a powerful tool for the Government Relations committee to utilize within the legislative side of the committee's mandate. Those numbers, that goldmine, when used during a yearly November reach out to local city and government officials, or maybe when included as an invite to the same people for a lodge event, creates the community awareness every lodge requires to be truly successful in their neighborhood.

So, as you plan your lodge activities, remember - everything you do has impact. Work with your Government Relations Committee to capture it, celebrate it, and share it. Because the more we show what Elks do, the brighter our light shines.

Next month we'll get into another partner in this committee sandwich - the **Public Relations Committee**, we'll talk about how Public Relations turns that light outward for all to see. They take the facts and turn them into stories that shine a light on our lodges, inspiring both members and communities alike.

## WSEA Vice President East Message



### Happy Holidays!

This is the time of year I love seeing the Elks shine!

In November, lodges across the state hosted charitable Purple Bubble Balls, Community Thanksgiving dinners serving hundreds of free meals, Veteran's Day Stand Downs, Quilts of Valor presentations, and special dinners honoring our Veterans. Many of these efforts were supported through our new WSEA grant program, and it's wonderful to see how far those dollars are reaching.



November also brought the grand opening celebration of our newest lodge facility, the beautiful Moses Lake Lodge #289. The members and volunteers should be proud of what they have built. The turnout was impressive, and it was encouraging to hear words of support from leaders both within and

beyond our state. This beautiful new lodge, opening its doors to the community, is a strong reminder that we are still growing, still serving, and still building connections across the country.



With December near, it is time to honor our departed members with our annual Memorial Day ceremony. Soon after, we will welcome Santa Claus as he arrives to serve free breakfasts, take photos, make cookies, or dance with special-needs children. Many lodges will also use their CIP grants to support food banks, clothing banks, or whatever resources our communities need most during this season.

As we look toward the new year, I hope we each take a moment to reflect on what it means to be an Elk—the friendships we've formed and the lives we've touched. Let's carry that sense of purpose and renewal into 2026.

Shortly after the holidays, we will gather for our Mid-Winter Convention in SeaTac. This is always a wonderful time to reconnect, learn, and reignite our enthusiasm for Elkdom. We've added new training opportunities and activities to the agenda this year, and we hope to see many of you there!

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
See you in 2026!

**Lana Davick**  
WSEA Vice President – East

## WSEA Vice President Central Message



Dear Members,

I hope you all enjoyed a joyful Thanksgiving surrounded by family and friends. As Elks, we truly have so much to be thankful for—the meaningful work we do that touches lives, and the friendships we build

along the way.

This month, many of you will continue serving our communities through toy drives, food drives, and Christmas celebrations. These efforts embody the spirit of the Elks and remind us why our mission matters. Please remember our Veterans and those less fortunate, especially during this season of giving.



This past month, Patti and I—along with most of the Executive Board—had the privilege of attending the Grand Opening of Moses Lake Lodge #2892's new building. It was a wonderful event, filled with excitement and pride. The members there should be very proud of both their beautiful new facility and the strong team they are building. If you have the opportunity, I encourage you to stop by and see it for yourself.



## WINTER CONVENTION

By now, registration for the Winter Convention in January should be complete. A special thanks goes to President Scott Rainey, who has been working tirelessly to ensure this convention is both educational and inspiring. For new members, conventions are a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow. For longtime members, they are a chance to reignite your passion and reconnect with the heart of our organization.

We all share this journey because we care deeply about what we do. And while moments of burnout are natural, conversations with fellow members often rekindle our energy and remind us of the impact we make together.

Conventions are also a great time to talk to the Executive Board members and let us know if you have a committee you would like to be involved in on the State Level. There are many opportunities available. The State needs your passion and ideas.

Let's carry that passion forward into the holiday season and beyond.



Patti and I wish you all a Merry Christmas!!

Scott Knight,  
Central District VP

## WSEA Vice President South Message



**Honor the Past and Embrace the Future.** This has been my slogan since I was Exalted Ruler, and I believe it will always inspire and keep us Elks relevant.

Mark and I were fortunate enough to attend the St Helens Lodge No. 1999 take over at the Astoria Lodge No.180 on Thursday Nov. 6. This was a

fund raiser for the Astoria lodge to continue the preservation of this magnificent lodge building. Hearing the words of our Opening Ritual delivered on the lodge floor by the St. Helens officers, with over two hundred Elks members in attendance from lodges all over Oregon and many from Washington was truly Honoring the Past. Those in attendance included Past Grand Exalted Ruler Keith Mills and his wife Amy. Keith gave the installation obligation to a new incoming Trustee for the Astoria lodge. What an honor that new officer received. This lodge has been in the same building since 1923. The building features Beaux Art architecture combined with motifs from the American Renaissance. In 1990, the lodge building was added to the National Registry of Historical Buildings.

The lodge is open on Thursdays and Fridays; if you can, consider visiting this historic site. I am sure they would accept a donation to continue the restoration projects.

Moving across the state to Embrace the Future we attended the Grand Opening celebration at Moses Lake No. 2892. What a magnificent event with Colville lodge No 1753 helping and cooking a fantastic meal. Moses Lake is the newest lodge to join our great organization. This lodge chartered last year about this time, and they have come along way. Purchasing a building that is a real treasure for a new lodge. The building was a steak house previously and the lodge was able to purchase the lodge, building, grounds, and all the contents of the restaurant. Wow, a true gift to have commercial kitchen and all the supplies! State Sponsor Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Roger True and several of the WSEA officers were in attendance along with our Discover Elks race car driver Madex Moran and he even brought his race car. The membership there is growing and really has made an impact on the

community in a short period of time. They are open several nights a week so when you visit the East Side of our state this is a must stop and show your support of our newest Elks lodge.

During December we hold our Memorial Service for our absent members who have passed. What better way to Honor our Past than to pay tribute with our Memorial Ritual. As we write the names of our members on the tablets of love and memory let us honor our absent members. Just as we do each time, we recite the 11<sup>th</sup> hour toast.

Embracing the Future. How many of you have checked out Elksonline.org site? I challenge you to do so before January 1, 2026.

### Why This Matters

A strong online presence is no longer optional. It is central to:

- Keeping members informed, excited, and engaged in your lodge.
- Encouraging participation and volunteerism
- Showcasing lodge pride and accomplishments
- Highlighting the great work you do for the community.
- Attracting visitors, future members, and potential partners
- Creating a lasting, positive identity for your lodge

When lodges actively use the tools and guidance available through Elksonline.org, they naturally build **higher engagement, stronger pride, and a consistent online identity** that benefits the entire district and the entire state.

**Honor our Past,** visit our Historical lodge buildings, Perform the Rituals of our Opening and Closing, Initiation, and Memorial services.

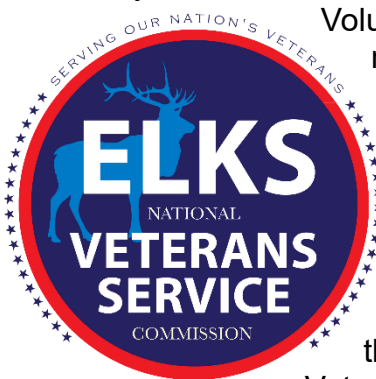
**Embrace our Future.** Use our new social media, websites and feature your lodge to your membership and the community.

We are the Future! Be Proud to be an Elk! Happy Holidays!

Fraternally, Caroline Bradwell VP South

## Volunteers are Selfless—But They Would Enjoy Recognition

Do you know an outstanding volunteer at your Lodge? Nominate them for your state's Elks National Veterans Service Veteran



Volunteer of the Year! This award recognizes excellent Members who serve veterans in their communities throughout the year. This honor is given to two individuals from each State Association, usually one man and one woman. The winners are selected from nominations sent to each State ENVSC Chair—and now is the time to send in your nominations.

Veteran service has always been an important part of being an Elk, from last century to this one. As 2024-25 Volunteer of the Year winner from Arkansas, Joy Gunter, explained, "The Elks are continuously thinking of new things that we can do for our veterans."

Gunter serves as the Voluntary Service Representative at the VA Medical Center in North Little Rock, Arkansas. She visits the hospital several times each month, consistently providing activities like bingo with snacks, and special events that give veterans something to look forward to. Recently, she and her fellow Elks cooked hot dogs and hamburgers for a fishing derby at the VA.

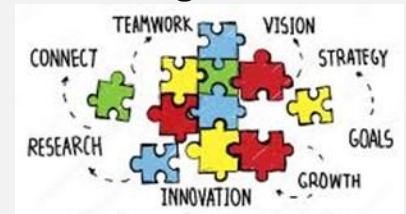
Another Volunteer of the Year award winner who is making a difference for veterans is Judith Wutzke from Lewiston, Idaho. Judith supports programs at the Idaho Veterans Home like meals for sporting events, craft making, and the Bakes and Bites program, which allows veterans to create their own dishes and share memories. These activities help veterans stay connected with each other.

Volunteers like these are just two examples of the many Elks serving veterans every day. Make sure the volunteers in your Lodge know you appreciate them.



Nominations for the Veteran Volunteer of the Year Awards are due by January 31, 2026. To nominate someone from your Lodge, please visit our website to fill out a form and send it to your State Veterans Chair at: [elks.org/vets/volunteerawards](https://elks.org/vets/volunteerawards).

## WSEA Membership and Marketing Committee



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

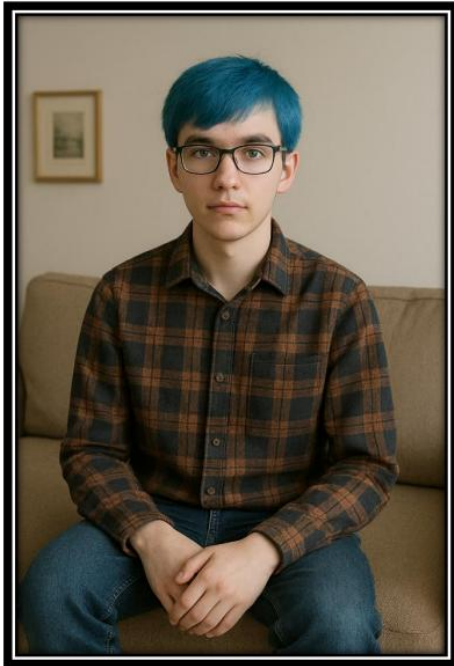


## OUR KIDS

Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children, Inc.  
Our State Major Project



The Washington Elks Therapy Program client who this month's outreach story spotlight wanted to try something a little bit different. One of things he wanted to try is using a pseudonym and an AI generated photo for himself.



“John Nominous” is the name our client chose for himself to be known as for the sake of this story, and John would like you to know that he is extremely grateful for all the goals he has been able to accomplish thanks to the opportunity of working with an occupational therapist.

Some of the things John loves include: his family, seasonal holidays, learning about technology, sharing jokes and riddles, listening to music, and singing karaoke. Because of his disabilities, John has needed support in developing

skills related to daily selfcare tasks, contributing to his family via household chores, understanding and budgeting his money, building and maintaining friendships, keeping track of his belongings and personal information, and working with his body sensations so as to stay regulated even when difficult life situations throw his nervous system out of balance.

John and his family would like to express their very deep appreciation for the generosity of the Washington Elks and what a difference it has made for them. In preparation for this story, John helped AI generate this photo. Thank you, Elks, for helping “John Nominous” have a realistic looking photo, and for helping the person who made up the name “John Nominous” live his best life possible.

THANK YOU, ELKS

## 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:**

**Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: 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.

**Final WSEA Calendar Raffle Reminder: All Materials Due Now!**



To the lodges who have turned in all of their payment/stubs/log sheets to the WSEA Office for Calendar raffle. Kudos to you!

For the remaining lodges, remember the end of the year deadline.

All calendars have been distributed to lodges, now all we need is to receive everything turned back in by the end of the year deadline.

About the reason for the deadline: WSEA must be in compliance with Gambling Commission. All sales must

be completed before January 1, 2026. Please do your part with on-time submission of all required materials so that WSEA is in compliance with all laws and the daily drawing can begin on schedule.

Many thanks to each lodge for doing your part in calendar sales and while you are at it, membership outreach!

Bill Plumley, PER Forks #2524, WSEA Calendar Raffle Chairman



**Important Dates/Lodge Events & Activities:**

(more info on WSEA calendar)

**December 6**  
**Procrastinators Craft Show**  
 Ocean Shores Lodge

**Holiday Ball**  
 Kelso Longview Lodge

**December 7**  
**Elks Memorial Ceremony**  
 All Lodges

**December 10**  
**Bradwell Fundraiser**  
 Vancouver Lodge

**December 13**  
**KOPA Dinner**  
 Kelso Longview Lodge

**December 31**  
**New Year's Eve Party**  
 Everett Lodge  
 Kelso Longview Lodge  
 Ocean Shores Lodge  
 Vancouver Lodge



**January 15-18**  
**WSEA Winter Convention**  
 SeaTac Double Tree

## News of the Lodges:

### It's the News that's Exciting for ALL Washington Elks Lodges!

Starting with this December edition, we are proud to launch a brand-new feature highlighting lodge submissions from across our state! This celebrates the heart of Elkdom, our community service, charitable impact, and the meaningful happenings in lodges just like yours. Whether it's youth programs, Veterans support, community fundraisers, scholarships, parades, ENF activities, or uplifting stories of service, this new section is designed to showcase the amazing work our members do every day.

This isn't just a spotlight; it's an invitation. We want *your lodge* to be part of it! Submit clear, timely, and impactful stories that answer the who, what, where, when, and why. Especially those highlighting who benefited from your events, such as students, veterans, or families. And don't forget a great high-quality photo featuring people in action, those serving, giving, and Being the Difference.

This exciting addition will bring our statewide newsletter to life celebrating our lodges, inspiring member engagement, and showing how Elks do it in every corner of Washington.

For what to submit and how to do it right, check out the official *WSEA Newsletter Guidelines* now available at [waelks.org](http://waelks.org). Login then look Under WSEA Business, click on Policies, Procedures and Manuals to find the Newsletter Submission Guidelines.



## Seattle Lodge #92

On November 10th the Seattle Elks Lodge participated in community outreach by supporting Veterans at the Compass Blaine Veterans Center with an early Veterans Day dinner.



A big thank you to Seattle member John for being the lodge liaison, and to the group of volunteers who prepared and served the Veterans dinner.

## Sequim Lodge #2642

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Sequim Elks Lodge presented the Sequim Food Bank a check for \$6,000.00. These funds were acquired by Bonnie Richardson via the Elks Spotlight Grant (\$2,000.00) and the Elks Beacon Grant (\$4,000.00) The grant funds will assist the Sequim Food Bank Holiday Meal Program.



Accepting the check is Andra Smith, Food Bank Executive Director(standing center). Presenting the check is Maura Mattson Left (Elks Grant Writer), Magan Waldron (right) Sequim Elks Exalted Ruler and Bonnie Richardson, seated (Elks Grant Writer).

## Bremerton Lodge #1181



Bremerton Lodge uses their ENF Impact grant to distribute books and dental kits.

## Ballard Lodge #827



The Ballard Elks raised \$12,777 for charities by dressing up and hanging out with friends for their Saints and Sinners Ball. Their charities received: \$2,555 Building Fund, \$3,000 Therapy Program, \$3,000 Vet's Welcome Home Packages, \$1,221 Elks National Foundation, \$500 Lodge Christmas Basket Program, \$500 Lodge Thanksgiving Program, \$500 Lodge Scholarships, \$500 Youth Activities/Hoop Shoot, \$500 Past Exalted Ruler Association, \$500 New Bar Construction fund. All the charity and lodge causes benefited by members and guests having fun together within the lodge!

## Seattle Lodge #92



Exalted Ruler John along with Alex from the Ballard Eagleson VFW Post presented Scholarships to three deserving soldiers. Their service is greatly appreciated.



Seattle Elks lodge#92 will continue to work with the VFW to support service members.



## News of the Lodges Continued...

### Everett Lodge #479

November 19, 2025, was turkey delivery day for local troops and Veterans. Everett Lodge partnered once again with the Fleet Reserve Association #170 Auxiliary. 64 turkeys were delivered to the Naval Family Support Center and 9 were picked up from Everett Elks lodge. That's a lot of turkeys! The Elks contribution to this project was funded by the ENF Focus grant.



Participating Elks: Steve Osterberg, Joe Tiffany & Nancy Wolke. Participating with FRA 170, Auxiliary members Gloria and Brian Kirk.

### WSEA Convention Committee Report and Future Summer Convention News

By Wm. Bim Lindsey, Eastside Coordinator  
WSEA Convention Committee



The future of WSEA summer convention has been a hot topic of discussion for the convention committee and WSEA Executive Board. The courtyard has long been a

draw for the Red Lion location in Pasco for the past 20 years (or more). Our WSEA summer convention site will be in Pasco for 2026 (incoming President Ben Braden) and again for

the 2027 WSEA summer convention (incoming President Lana Davick). 2027 is when the contract for holding the WSEA summer convention expires with the Red Lion in Pasco.

Not to worry though. Your convention committee has been actively working on this issue and secured proposals for the 2028 and 2029 summer conventions from both the Red Lion Pasco hotel and the Mirabeau Park Hotel in Spokane. (Other locations didn't meet our requirements).

After reviewing the contracts and considering input and feedback, the convention committee made a recommendation to the WSEA Executive Board. The executive board accepted the committee's recommendation to move the summer convention. The first summer convention in Spokane at the Mirabeau Hotel will be in 2028 (incoming President Scott Knight).

The Mirabeau Hotel's address is 1100 N Sullivan Road. The distance from Pasco to Spokane is 135 miles, while the distance from Ellensburg to Spokane is 173 miles and Ellensburg to Pasco is 107 miles. In general, the travel distance to Spokane is about an hour longer drive than to Pasco from the westside.

The committee will provide regular updates and information related to the similarities and differences are between the two hotels over the next couple of years by providing information in various editions of the State newsletter as we move closer to this transition to a new convention site. To end on a good note for this announcement, members should know that the Spokane site has an open courtyard area that will be available for similar use as the Pasco convention site in past years. More information is coming soon!

## WSEA Winter Convention Announcement

The Washington State Elks Association will hold its Winter Convention at the Double Tree by Hilton, Seattle Airport, starting Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The hotel is going to set up a Breakfast Buffet as well as a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon Special to help expedite eating times. You can also order directly off the menu.

Friday entertainment this year is going to be a cribbage tournament. This is not a tournament for beginners so please be advised there is no time for teaching how to play the game.

**ATTENDEE REGISTRATION:** Full registration refund through Jan 2nd 4:00pm, no refunds after.

When you register on Zeffy, please understand that they provide their services AND credit card processing completely free to all Non-Profit Organizations. They are able to do this because they ask for donations during the registration process. If you feel that you would like to donate please do so. WSEA does not retain any of these donations.

**HOTEL GUESTROOM RESERVATIONS:** Hotel refund policy: 48-hour advance notice of your scheduled arrival date is required for a refund. After 4pm Monday Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, contact the hotel directly for changes or cancellations.

Bed options are 1 bed or 2 beds in the room. Need for ADA/Handicap accessible rooms are given priority. You can request a specific room however there is no guarantee that you will receive it. There is a \$25 charge per night if you request a mini refrigerator in your guest room. The total will be added to your bill at checkout.

**Hospitality room reservations:** If additional items are needed for the hospitality rooms, they must be ordered through the Convention Chairman 2 weeks prior to arrival and will be added to the charges for the Hosts guestroom bill. Each hospitality room host will have a guestroom assigned to the same area as their hospitality room.

**Please understand:** After December 5<sup>th</sup>, there is no guarantee hotel rooms will be available so please register promptly and accurately.

**ADVANCE MEAL TICKET PURCHASE:** Full refund through Jan 2nd 4:00pm, no refunds after.

Tickets need to be purchased in advance so we can properly report plate counts by the required contract date. If no meal choice is made for Friday dinner it will be entered as Steak.

**Please understand:** You do not have the ability to purchase these tickets at convention.

### **FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT:**

This year our Friday night entertainment will be a Cribbage Tournament! All proceeds will benefit the State Major Project - Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children, Inc. entries will be available on site. If you have the ability to register in advance it will help so we can set up the room properly.

We look forward to seeing you at the Convention!

Fraternally and Sincerely,



Noel "Sandy" Barber, Convention Chairman  
Washington State Elks Association



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

Kelso-Longview Elks #1482

# Holiday Ball

A Night of Cocktails, Dinner and Dancing to the  
Coastal Night Owls!

SATURDAY | 6 | DECEMBER  
2025 | 5:30PM

Scan for Tickets



Dinner is your choice of Salmon OR Lemon pepper chicken

Tickets: \$30

*Semi-Formal*

*Open to Members & Guests*

FUNDRAISER DINNER EVENT  
SUPPORTING

# CAROLINE BRADWELL

FOR THE WASHINGTON STATE  
ELKS ASSOCIATION

**\$30 FOR  
FUN & FOOD!**



RSVP via  
Zeffy by  
12-02-25



TO OFFICE

360-256-0823

Lodge@elks823.com

**December 10  
Vancouver Elks**



# ELKS HOOP SHOOT

Lynnwood Elks #2171

Lodge Contest

**Monday  
December 8, 2025**

**4:00 – 6:00pm**

*Madrona K-8 School*

9300 236th St SW, Edmonds, WA 98020

**BEST SCORE OF 25 FREE-THROWS  
BOYS & GIRLS DIVISIONS**

**FREE Registration 4-4:30pm**

**3 age groups: 8-9 year olds, 10-11  
year olds, and 12-13 year olds**

***Each participant must bring a form of ID  
showing their birthdate.***



**Lodge Contest  
Dec. 8, 2025**  
*Madrona K-8 School*



**District Contest  
Jan. 10, 2026**  
*Kellogg Middle School  
Shoreline, WA*



**State Contest  
Feb. 7, 2026**  
*Saint Martin's University  
Lacey, WA*



**Regionals  
March 14, 2026**  
*Nampa, ID*

**2025 Elks Hoop Shoot  
National Finals**

**April 16-19, 2026**  
**Chicago, IL**

<https://www.elks.org/hoopshoot/nationalFinals.cfm>

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Youth ages 8-13 advance through local contests (starting with preliminary contests or a Lodge contest), Districts, States, and Regionals to the National Finals in Chicago.
- Six National Champions will have their names and photos displayed at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts.

**Spread the word to kids you know ages 8–13 to start practicing their  
free-throw shot and get ready to compete December 8th!**

**High school students can earn volunteer hours!**

**Email [richseeder@att.net](mailto:richseeder@att.net) to volunteer**


# **OMAK ELKS FESTIVAL OF TREES**

Join us **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025**, at the Elks Lodge for an evening of holiday sparkle, appetizers, and spirited bidding!

**\$25 includes 1 drink & appetizers**

 **SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS**

**• DOORS OPEN 4 PM • EVENT AT 6 PM**

Let's kick off the season together—you won't want to miss it! 

Tickets are on sale Grandmas Attic, Rawson's, Puttin' on the Ritz and the Omak Elks or from Elk members Sandy Ervin, Betty Cleveland and Danna Grooms.



# VANCOUVER ELKS LODGE #823

# NEW YEAR'S

## PURPLE BUBBLE BALL

DECEMBER 31, 2025

6PM - MIDNIGHT

\$75 PP  
(DINNER, MUSIC & 3  
CHAMPAGNE TOASTS)

RSVP BY 12/19

GET YOUR TICKETS ON EVENTBRITE OR  
THROUGH THE OFFICE

**DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL NIGHT OF  
MUSIC, MERRIMENT, AND COMMUNITY!**



**TICKETS \$75 Per Person**

**Three-Course Gourmet Dinner by Say Ciao**

**Champagne Toasts**

**Live Music by Vancouver Community Jazz Band**

**Exciting Raffles**

**Tickets through Office or Eventbrite**

**Please RSVP by December 19th**

**Dress Attire: Semi-Formal 'Purple'**

**Fundraising for: Washington State Childrens Therapy Program**

# Kelso-Longview Elks #1482

# NEW YEARS EVE

COUNTDOWN TO



WITH US!

*Party!*

**TICKETS:  
\$35**

**WEDNESDAY, December, 31**

Social @7pm

Appetizers @7:30pm

Music: **CHORDIAC** @8pm-12am

Champagne Toast @12am

Light breakfast to follow

**OPEN TO MEMBERS & GUESTS**

