

Washington State Elks Association Newsletter



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Informing, Educating, and Communicating with WSEA Members

February 2026

Elks Celebrate 158 Years of Service, Charity, and Community Impact



Founded February 16, 1868 – A Legacy of Giving Continues

February 16, 2026 — The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks proudly celebrates its 158th anniversary, honoring a legacy built on service, patriotism, and compassion in action. For more than a century and a half, the Elks have stood shoulder to shoulder with their communities—answering the call, lifting up neighbors, and proving that real charity is not a slogan, but a way of life.

This milestone year also leads to a once-in-a-century celebration: on July 4, 2026, the Elks will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Elks National Memorial and Headquarters Building in Chicago—an American landmark that embodies the heart of the Order.

Dedicated in 1926, the Elks National Memorial rises 96 feet above Lake Michigan as a breathtaking tribute to those who served our nation and to the Elks who made its creation possible. In 2026, thousands of Elks from across the country will gather in Chicago to honor a century of history—and renew a promise that still matters: to serve, to give, and to lead with purpose.

That promise continues today with impact that is measurable and undeniable. Elks Lodges nationwide award \$5 million annually in scholarships, and through the Elks Community Investment Program, the Order will deliver \$17.6 million in grants to strengthen neighborhoods, support seniors, fight hunger, and improve community safety. In 2024, Elks volunteers generated more than \$531 million in charitable impact, reflecting the strength of a mission that never stops moving.

With nearly 800,000 members and close to 1,800 Lodges nationwide, the Elks continue to welcome American citizens age 21 and older who believe in God and share a commitment to serving others.

In this issue...

Elks Legacy- Happy Birthday!	1
WSEA President Message	2
WSEA VP Messages	3-7
All Americal Lodge Contest Info ...	9
Engaging Elected Officials	10
District Deputy Contacts	11
Most Valuable Student Info.	12
Important Dates	12
ENF Report	13-14
EZ Child Find Program Info	15
Hoop Shoot Success	16
Polly Garland Award Info.	17-18
Ritual Contest Report	19
Lodge News/Convention	20-22
Event Information/Flyers	23-29

WSEA President Message

Finishing Strong, Leading Forward, and Strengthening Our Lodges Together



With Winter Convention and Exalted Ruler to Be training now behind us, we stand at an important moment in our fraternal year. What we do next matters. Now is the time to share what you learned, reconnect with your officers and committees, and ensure that every member -

especially those unable to attend - feels informed, included, and inspired. Strong communication is the foundation of strong lodges, and when members understand the opportunities and resources available to them, confidence and participation naturally follow.

As a reminder, our lodge fraternal year concludes on March 31. While much has been accomplished, meaningful work still lies ahead. There are candidates to initiate, delinquency numbers to reduce, and momentum to maintain. Let us finish this year with purpose and pride, crossing the finish line together. If your lodge needs support, the WSEA Membership Committee stands ready to assist. Lodges are also encouraged to consider special weekend initiations to ensure every candidate has the opportunity to complete their journey into our Order.

February ushers in one of the most critical seasons of our fraternal year: Lodge Officer nominations and elections. This is more than a procedural requirement—it is an investment in the future of our lodges. I encourage every lodge to sit down with prospective officer candidates and engage in open, honest, and supportive conversations about the commitment they are preparing to make. Leadership in our Order is not only a financial responsibility, but one of time, dedication, service, and heart.

We should reflect honestly and ask ourselves: how well are we preparing our current and future officers - not only to finish this year strong, but to lead confidently into the next?

When expectations are clear and support is strong, officers thrive. Please ensure candidates

understand what lies ahead, follow up on unanswered questions, and strongly encourage them to seek out a mentor - someone who can offer guidance, reassurance, and perspective throughout their year of service.

There are outstanding opportunities ahead to further support officer success:

- **District Deputy Clinics (April):** Offering valuable insight into Grand Lodge operations, lodge governance, and the chance to collaborate with fellow officers from across the state.
- **WSEA Officer Training (April):** Saturday, April 18 — Lakewood Lodge

Looking forward is essential to sustained success. What events are on your lodge calendar, or still waiting to be imagined? If you have an idea but are unsure how to bring it to life, reach out to your WSEA Committee Chairperson. They can help connect you with district or state leadership for guidance and support. The WSEA Marketing Committee is also available to assist with promoting events and creating customized materials to help your lodge shine.

One powerful message shared by new members at convention was a sense of disconnection - both within their home lodges and when visiting others. If we are to grow, retain members, and remain strong, we must intentionally break down these barriers. Engagement does not happen by chance; it happens when we make people feel seen, welcomed, and valued.

Take a moment to reflect on your own first experience in the lodge. How did it feel to walk through those doors for the first time? Who made you feel like you belonged? That same welcome should be extended to every new and visiting member, at every meeting and every event. A warm handshake, a friendly introduction, and a genuine conversation can make all the difference.

Together, through inspired leadership, clear communication, and meaningful engagement, we can continue to strengthen our lodges - and our fraternity - for generations to come.

Fraternally,
Scott Rainey - WSEA President

WSEA President Elect Message

By Ben Braden

Building Strength Through the LGP



Triangle

If you've been following the WSEA newsletters this year, you've read about how each of our committees - Lodge Activities, Government Relations, and Public Relations - plays a unique and

important role in the success of our lodges. But the real power comes when these three committees work *together* as one coordinated team towards one common purpose.

Individually, each of these committees makes an impact. Together, they form what I call the **LGP Triangle**, a collaborative foundation built to drive engagement, pride, and growth within every Washington State lodge.

That's the idea behind the **LGP Triangle**: a unified approach that blends the energy of **Lodge Activities (L)**, the accountability and advocacy of **Government Relations (G)**, and the storytelling power of **Public Relations (P)** into a single engine for lodge success. When these three committees are aligned, everything else in the lodge naturally follows: membership, engagement, and community presence.



Lodge Activities: Creating the Spark

It all begins with activity. Lodge Activities Committees create the spark. They create those events that bring members together, raise funds for charity, and remind us why being an Elk is special. These moments of fellowship and service are the heartbeat of our lodges.

But activity alone isn't enough. To keep the momentum going, we need to capture the *impact* of those moments. That's where our second committee comes in.



Government Relations: Capturing the Impact

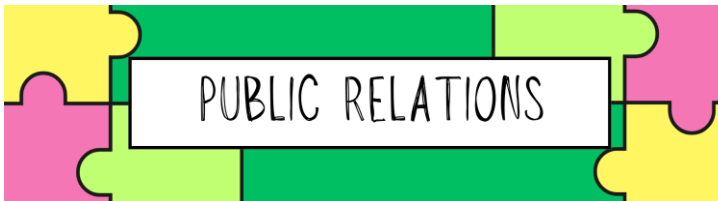
The **Government Relations Committee (GRC)** ensures that the incredible charitable work done by our members doesn't go unnoticed. That it's not missed by our own members, nor by our communities or city and government leaders.

Every volunteer hour, every donated dollar, every life touched through our programs tells a story of compassion and service. The GRC collects that data, builds lodge-level fact sheets, and transforms local efforts into a powerful statewide narrative of impact. Those reports not only satisfy Grand Lodge requirements - they build pride, strengthen advocacy, and help ensure the Elks remain a respected voice across Washington.

WSEA President Elect Message Cont.

The GRC also plays a vital role in protecting our lodges by monitoring legislation. A mandate helping maintain our nonprofit status and keeping us informed about the rules and regulations that affect how we operate. When performed diligently, these tasks safeguard the very foundation of our Order.

And once that information is gathered and organized, it's time for our third partner to take the stage.



The **Public Relations Committee (Marketing)** turns facts into stories and statistics into smiles. They take the charitable reporting from Government Relations and the excitement from Lodge Activities and transform them into content that inspires. Social media posts, community articles, website highlights, and lodge newsletters articles that show the world what it means to be an Elk.

When we share those stories widely and consistently, they ignite pride among our members and generate admiration from those outside our walls. That visibility leads directly to member engagement and membership growth.

The Cycle of Connection and Growth

When the LGP Triangle works in harmony, it creates a powerful cycle:

1. **Lodge Activities** engage members, build fellowship and pride.
2. **Government Relations** documents the results and strengthens our relationships with civic leaders.

3. **Public Relations** spreads those stories, attracting new members and renewing community pride.

And then, that visibility fuels the next activity and the cycle begins again.

This isn't just a committee structure, it's the foundation of success. It's how we strengthen our lodges. It's how we build lasting pride in Elkdom, and ensure our fellowship and charitable mission continues to thrive for generations to come.

Let's build the LGP Triangle into our foundation. Host events with purpose. Track your impact. Share your story.

When our committees work together, **our lodges don't just function — they flourish.**



Support Washington Elks Charitable Trust

The Washington State Elks Association Charitable Trust, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, funded largely by direct member donations and grants from our Elks National Foundation achieved each year through member donations to ENF. The Washington Elks Charitable Trust stands as a cornerstone of our shared mission to serve veterans, youth, and communities across the state.

The Charitable Trust ensures that those who bravely served our country receive the recognition and support they deserve through our nationally recognized Veterans program. Additionally, it supports a wide range of local initiatives that benefit our local communities and individuals of all ages. From scholarships for traditional college and vocational-technical education to the Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness campaigns, EZ Child ID programs, and Americanism initiatives, the Trust fuels committees central to each lodge's outreach. These programs embody the Elks' commitment to nurturing the potential of youth, fostering patriotism, and promoting healthy, thriving communities.

WSEA Vice President East Message



Happy New Year!

First, thank you to all who gave their time to attend Winter Convention. I hope it was valuable

and helped renew your spirit of Elkdom.

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it is one of the most meaningful for us as Elks. It is a time when we celebrate and reflect on our accomplishments, while looking forward to a renewed commitment as we prepare to move into the next lodge year.



Across our state, in every lodge, Elks have truly stepped up - supporting our communities, serving our veterans and youth, and strengthening our lodges. None of this would be possible without dedicated

members who so generously give their time, talent, and heart. As we approach the end of the year, I encourage every Exalted Ruler to recognize those efforts and the individuals who helped make this year such a success by submitting nominations for our **End-of-the-Year Awards**, including **Officer of the Year**, **Elk of the Year**, **Citizen of the Year**, and **Exalted Ruler of the Year**.

Another very special recognition is the **Polly Garland Award**, which honors the women whose support, service, and commitment make a difference in our lodges. Their contributions are invaluable, and this award provides us the opportunity to formally acknowledge the impact they have throughout the year.

Nominations are submitted online. Please give thoughtful consideration to submitting nominations for these honors—because a little recognition truly goes a long way and can mean more than you realize.

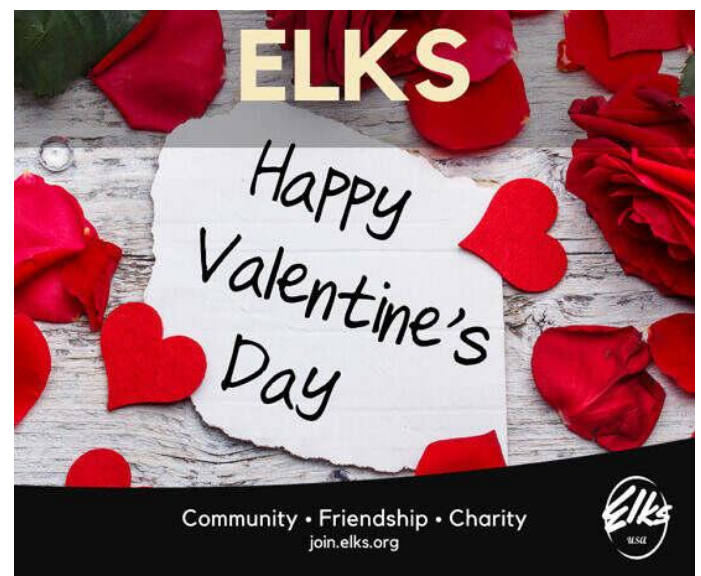
While we celebrate the successes of this year, it is also time to begin **looking ahead to the next lodge year**.

Officer nominations will soon be underway, and I encourage members to step forward, support one another, and consider how they can continue serving in leadership roles. Strong lodges depend on engaged members who are willing to lead with integrity, enthusiasm, and vision.

Let us close this year with pride, appreciation, and fellowship—recognizing those who have helped make it successful—while also preparing for another strong year ahead.

Fraternally,
Lana Davick

WSEA Vice President – East



WSEA Vice President Central Message



Dear Washington State Elks Members,

It was truly wonderful to see so many of you at the Winter Convention. The event was filled with a great spirit of camaraderie, and I hope each attendee left with

something valuable. Whether you gained new knowledge from the seminars or found inspiration from your fellow Elks, your presence made the convention a memorable success. Thank you for contributing to such a positive experience!

These next couple of months are going to be busy. There is the State ritual contest and the State hoop shoot on February 7th. Both of these are great events to see and offer opportunities to support and celebrate the hard work and talents of our members and support our youth.



Elections & Nominations

Our lodges are also preparing to elect new officers. It is important to ensure that every candidate understands the responsibilities involved in their role. Be sure everyone knows what they are getting

involved in and remind them that we will have more training coming up in April. Take time to celebrate their willingness to serve - these dedicated individuals are stepping up to lead

our lodges forward, and their commitment deserves both recognition and gratitude. Hosting an enjoyable Installation of Officers is a great way to start the year as a unified team. When officers work together, it lays the foundation for a successful lodge year. Their teamwork helps make the lodge a fun and welcoming place, encouraging other members to participate in activities. Don't forget to capture a photo of all your officers together. A lodge that works as one is always stronger.

“ GREAT THINGS COME FROM THREE THINGS... COMMITMENT, HARD WORK AND STRONG FINISHES.”

GARY RYAN BLAIR

As the current year draws to a close, let's make a concerted effort to finish strong in membership. Now is the time to plan initiations, reach out to members who have fallen behind, and discover how we can better support them. Ask what would make their experience more rewarding and keep them engaged in our Elk family. Every effort you make truly matters.

If you are interested in becoming more involved at the state level, we encourage you to contact an executive board member. Let us know which committee interests you—we would love to help you find your place and make an impact.

And one more thing... **GO HAWKS!**

Scott Knight
2nd Vice President
Washington State Elks



WSEA Vice President South Message



February may be a short month, but it feels like the Elk year really picks up speed as we head into the final two months. There are so many wonderful things happening at our lodges in February and March, and the energy is contagious!

This year's Winter Convention featured several outstanding presentations packed with ideas and tips to help our lodges thrive. While I can't highlight every class, I do want to share a few that truly inspired me.

The **ER-to-Be Training**, held on the Thursday prior to the start of the Convention, was very well received. Most of our lodges sent a representative or an anticipated ER for the coming year. This training was new this year and holding it during the Winter Convention significantly increased participation. It represents a meaningful commitment our State Association is making to support our lodges and prepare incoming ERs for success. Even more officer training opportunities will be available this April.

The **Ritual Class back to basics**, presented by Area 8 Ritual Chairman Richard Shipley, along with Skip Barnes, Richard Seeder, and Heather Beal, focused on the importance of learning the story of Ritual and presenting it well to our members. It really got me thinking about how our forefathers of the Elks were thespian performers who created Ritual as a meaningful way to tell the story of who we are and what we stand for.

When you attend a play or school performance, you expect the actors to know their parts, tell the story clearly, and deliver a message. They practice, learn their lines, and understand the story they are sharing. Ritual is no different — it *is* a performance. Our new members receive the story of our Order through the Initiation Ritual. We've all learned bedtime stories at some point; some of us can tell them from memory, while others glance at the book to keep going. I challenge each of you to take time this year to truly learn your part as an officer — not

for competition, but for the meaningful performance you give to your membership.

The **Therapy Program Demonstration** was especially moving. One of "our kids," along with her family, shared her journey, progress, and the impact this program has had on their lives. It was incredibly inspiring. As Washington State Elks, we are blessed to have a program unlike any other. The life-changing value it provides to the children and families we serve simply cannot be measured. A video highlighting three of our kids and their accomplishments was heartwarming — and yes, there were a few tears. Making a monthly donation is easy, just one click away and every contribution truly makes a difference.

The **Grand Lodge Membership Presentation**, led by Richard Gathen, Grand Lodge Membership Chair, and Steve Meier, Area 8 Membership Chair, was both motivating and informative. They shared valuable insights on membership growth and retention. I encourage you to connect with a lodge member who attended this session to learn what ideas your lodge may be implementing as a result.

And then there's **ElksOnline.org** — wow! If you haven't visited yet, you really should. Create an account, set up your "My Super Cool Profile," and start exploring. There are trivia games, lodge visit check-ins, challenges, resources, discussions, and so much more. It's an amazing platform, and I hear Lodge Challenges are coming soon! Be sure to thank Arnold Ross when you see him for all the hard work he's put into bringing this to life.

Remember, **conventions are open to all Elks members** — you don't need to be an officer to attend. I encourage you to join us at the Summer Convention, take advantage of the informative classes, and see what sparks inspiration for your lodge. You may even find yourself interested in serving on a state committee.

I feel truly blessed to be part of an organization that allows me to be part of something bigger than myself — an organization that makes a real difference in our communities and in individual lives. Be the Difference!

Fraternally,
Caroline Bradwell, WSEA 3rd Vice President

CALLING ALL WASHINGTON STATE ELKS LODGE OFFICERS!

OFFICER TRAINING



IT'S TIME TO SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS AND READY FOR ACTION!

STATEWIDE OFFICER TRAINING

LAKWOOD ELKS LODGE #2388

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND BE THERE!

Quantifying Success can Earn Your Lodge an Impressive Award from Grand Lodge

The All American Lodge Contest “A” stands as the most prestigious honor bestowed by the Grand Lodge, recognizing exceptional membership involvement and dedication across the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Lodges earn points by participating in 48 categories, reflecting a wide range of activities and achievements. These include posting a gain in membership, active participation in Grand Lodge programs, and meaningful work within the communities.

The contest is designed to encourage Lodges to excel in all aspects of fraternal life, fostering a spirit of friendly competition and shared purpose.

Final entries are carefully reviewed and judged by a member of the Fraternal Committee, ensuring that the most deserving Lodges are recognized for their outstanding efforts. All Lodges can download the official application from the Grand Lodge website.

To participate, Lodge Secretaries and Exalted Rulers should complete their respective portions of the application listing the winners in each category and submit them to their District Deputy by April 1.

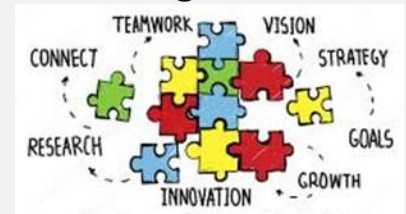
The District Deputy then has until April 15 to complete judging and have winners to the state chairman. Finally, the state chairman must submit their selections to the Fraternal Committee member by April 30.

Now is the time for your Lodge to shine! Take pride in your accomplishments and let your hard work be recognized at the highest level.

Download the application today, get involved in as many categories as possible, and submit your entry for a chance to earn the title of All American Lodge.

Let's show the strength and spirit of Elkdom. Participate in the All American Lodge Contest “A” and make your Members proud. Be The Difference by promoting the All American Lodge Contest.

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

Engaging Elected Officials Matters: Message from Grand Lodge

Every day, federal, state, and local officials make decisions that influence our Lodges. Because of this constant change, it is essential for every Member to participate in our shared responsibility: monitoring legislation, advocating when necessary, and building strong, respectful relationships with elected officials.



One of the most effective ways to build these relationships is simple: Invite your elected officials to Lodge events and activities. Before we can ask legislators to support favorable laws or oppose harmful proposals, it is crucial that they understand who the Elks are, what we stand for, and whom we serve. Inviting officials to youth banquets, veterans programs, Flag Day ceremonies, or charitable distributions exposes them to the heart of our mission.

These personal interactions are far more effective than letters or testimony alone. When elected officials see firsthand the good works our Lodges perform, they develop an appreciation that lasts far beyond a single legislative session.

Sharing our annual state and national charitable statistics, especially during Lodge visits, helps public officials understand the measurable impact of our programs.

While the Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee stands ready to advocate and defend the Order, we rely on every Member to monitor local developments. And when the moment comes to support or oppose legislation, Lodges with well-established relationships with their elected officials are far more effective at being heard.

State Associations are also encouraged to host capital events, open houses, and displays highlighting State Major Projects and Lodge programs. Every Member should know their elected officials at the local, state, and national levels. Understanding them helps Lodges anticipate issues and foster meaningful connections.



Just as importantly, remember to thank legislators when they support the interests of our Order. A sincere thank you today builds goodwill for tomorrow.

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.

Most Valuable Student Committee Report



What an ending to 2025! The year ended and the first month of 2026 is in the books. Judging of applications has been completed for Lodge and District Levels. Judging at the state level is starting. If you are interested in helping judge Most Valuable Student (MVS) applications or reviewing applications that indicated WASU attendance, please let me know.

We had 10 lodges send in money (\$200 per lodge) for the District Level Scholarships by the December 30th deadline. THANK YOU! I received another check in January and will accept any additional contributions through the end of March. Talking with chairmen and Exalted Ruler's at the convention, I learned several lodges approved the money, but I had not received it. Please remind your lodges that we will be doing the scholarships again for the 2026-2027 year, and to budget for that contribution. If a District has contributions in excess of the \$1000 it will remain in that district. The state budget reflects matching \$1000 per district. Your input is appreciated to decide just how to use any excess contributions.



There is a scholarship committee ZOOM meeting scheduled the 2nd Monday of each month, starting at 7:00pm. This is the ideal time to share ideas, ask questions and get information. I will be respectful of your time and timely with getting information out at the beginning of the meeting. Please join us and invite members of your lodge who might be interested in learning more about the scholarships.



Most Valuable Student Scholarship Committee/Member Zoom

2nd Monday of the month, meeting starts at 7 pm.

Please contact me for the zoom meeting link at: cemichaelson@gmail.com or 503-314-9952.

On side note, I am very willing to share my ZOOM account with you if you would like to hold a meeting for other ELK business. Just contact me at 503-314-9952

Cheri Michaelson
WSEA MVS CHAIRMAN



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

February 7
State Hoop Shoot Finals
St. Martin University/Lacey

Tacoma Lodge
WSEA Ritual Day



February 28
Tri Cities Lodge
Soccer Shoot

March
All Lodges
Installation of Officers



April 12
West District DD Clinic
Naval Lodge

April 17-19
WSEA Quarterly Business Meeting/All Officer Training
Location: Lakewood Elks

Elks National Foundation: Aim for Excellence in Washington State — Let's Finish Strong!

Elks of Washington State — our Elk year is **winding down**, and March is right around the corner! That means it's time to pull together and **celebrate the impact we've made**, as well as finalize the paperwork that highlights our efforts this year.

March is an **important milestone** in the Elks National Foundation (ENF) calendar — it's when most awards, final reports, and grant paperwork are due, and it's our opportunity to show the full scope of the good work our lodges are accomplishing in communities across our great state.

What Lodges Need to Know



CIP Grant Reports: Submit all Community Investments Program (CIP) grant final reports, including receipts and documentation of how your projects were publicized. This is your chance to spotlight the difference your lodge has made. Please send your proof of advertising and publicity **beginning March 1, 2026** — via **email (preferred)** or postal mail.



Aim for Excellence Rubric: This tool serves as your guide to lodge success — measuring achievements in **per member donations**, the **Chairman's Challenge**, CIP grant awards, and promotion of those projects throughout the year.

Why This Matters



The **Aim for Excellence in Washington State** process is more than paperwork — it's a **celebration of Elk service and impact**. By participating fully:



Your lodge gains **recognition at the state and national levels**.

You strengthen your community influence through showcased ENF support. You motivate your members by highlighting their giving and service.



You help Washington State Elks continue building stronger communities — from supporting youth and veterans to scholarships and therapy programs.

Let's Rally Together!



Whether your lodge has hit its ENF per-member giving goal, achieved a strong Chair Challenge score, or completed dynamic CIP projects — **every effort counts!** Now is the time to ensure your lodge gets the credit it deserves for the generosity, creativity, and volunteer spirit shown throughout the year.

If you have questions about the rubric, reporting, or how your lodge can finish strong, please don't hesitate to reach out — I'm here to help!

Let's AIM for EXCELLENCE together — and make this our best year yet!

Warmly,

Julie Seeder, PER
WSEA ENF Chair

206-478-1638 - jseeder2171@gmail.com

Elks Care - Elks Share



Aim for ENF Excellence in Washington State



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

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 1st Place: \$500 award 2nd Place: \$300 award 3rd Place: \$200 award (3 lodges can win, unless there are more than 3 with a perfect score of 1000 pts)	Achieving 650-749 points on the Chairman's Challenge form	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

Child ID Program: Provided Free by the WSEA Charitable Trust Program

What is the program? The Child ID system is a digital fingerprinting child or adult identification system that captures essential information to assist in locating a child or adult during emergencies.

Key features:

- **Comprehensive Identification:** It records a child or adults' vital facts, including weight, height and FBI quality fingerprints along with a videos interview about their interests and captures their mannerisms
- **Digital Storage:** Parents or guardians receive a USB thumb drive containing all the person's information and the ability to print in an emergency situation
- **Emergency Preparedness:** The system aims to provide law enforcement with crucial information to help locate a child or adult quickly in case of an emergency.
- **No information is stored** anywhere except on the USB thumb drive!

How can your lodge get a kit to use as your event?

Email: elks823carolinebradwell@gmail.com to reserve your kit today!

Washington State Elks Association

sponsors of

EZChildID[®].com

EZ Child ID System Features

- Your relative's card includes contact Info, fingerprints, photos & video interviews.
- Parents or guardians receive a printed EZ Child ID card, or delivered a digital format.

"The first 2 hours after a child is abducted are the most critical."
—National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

This system is also valuable for

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



Protecting Our Greatest Resources

Contact your nearest Elks lodge for dates and times of the next sign-up event

Shoreline Lodge Works to Re-Build a Bigger and Better Lodge Hoop Shoot Contest



Congratulations to all of this year's lodge hoop shoot winners and a huge thanks to the parents and volunteers who were flexible the day of our event. After COVID we started back up with just two participants. The lodge had 22 contestants with a shooter in each division.

Our day started out with sunshine and a cold bite in the air.

We had a glitch at the school site and were unable to locate the janitor. No worries,

parents and participants were willing to return to the lodge to do the shoot. A huge thanks to Bill Anderson for his donation of a basketball hoop on wheels. We were able to perform our event behind the lodge. Because of the cold all participants and spectators watched inside from the game room until it was their turn to shoot.

Six shooters advanced to the District shoot on January 10th.

Of our lodge winners, three shooters advanced to State shoot held at St. Martin's College in Olympia on February 7th.

The hoop shoot committee could not have provided this opportunity to our community without the help of our volunteers and parents of the participants.

We will be cheering our kids on at State in hopes they advance to the Regional Shoot in Nampa, ID on March 14th and again to National Hoop Shoot Competition later this year.

Thank you participants and volunteers,

Larry Phillips,
Shoreline Lodge #1800 Hoop Shoot Committee Chair



Recognize a Remarkable Woman in Your Lodge — Nominate for the Polly Garland Award!



supporting Lodge committees, volunteering for State Association efforts and nominations help us publicly say: “Yes, we see you. You matter.”

The process strengthens our Lodges. Selecting a nominee gives your officers an opportunity to reflect on who is making a difference, often with little fanfare, and to bring their story to life for the rest of your membership.

Who Should You Nominate?

The nominee must be a woman, 18 years or older as of January 1 of the judging year.

She **cannot** be a Lodge officer or employee.

She **does not have to** be an Elks member, what counts is her strong support of the Lodge and/or the State Association.

The nomination should focus on **their service to the Lodge or State Association**, not general community service unless that service is specifically a Lodge committee project.

What Will Happen when You Submit?

Each Lodge may submit one nomination (500 words or less) by March 31, using the official form and process.

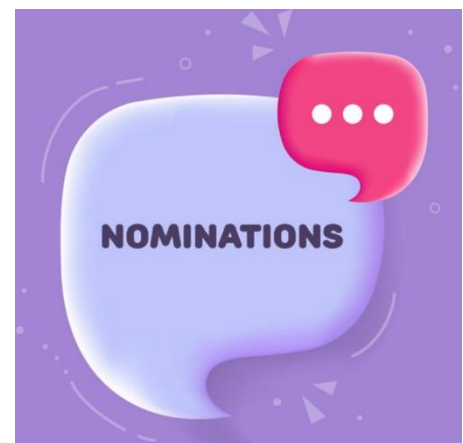
District winners are selected, culminating in a State winner. The Lodge that nominates the State winner receives a \$1,000 award; other Lodges whose nominees win at District level receive \$500.

Each year we have a powerful opportunity to shine a spotlight on the extraordinary women who steadfastly support our Lodges and our mission. The Polly Garland Award was established to honor a woman whose dedication mirrors that of Polly Garland herself: a woman who worked tirelessly to further Elksdom and our ideals.

Why It Matters

By nominating a deserving woman in your Lodge, you don't just recognize their service, you reinforce the value we place on support, service, and loyalty within Elksdom.

Because volunteer effort is the fabric of our Lodges, behind-the-scenes organizing,



The recognition at the annual Convention is significant. It not only honors the individual, it honors the Lodge for valuing and supporting her work while creating an infectious pride.

Your Lodge's Action Plan

1. Gather your leadership (Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Loyal Knight, Lecturing Knight) and commit to reviewing potential nominees.



2. Ask around your Lodge: who behind the scenes supports committees, organizes events, lifts the spirits of members, and fosters our Elks Spirit?
3. Pick your nominee, capture their story, focus on **specific** examples of what they did for your Lodge or State functions, committees, events. Keep it to 500 words.
4. Submit the form by March 31 to your District Leader, in accordance with the rules. Make sure the nomination packet respects all criteria.

5. Celebrate her nomination: announce it to your membership, thank her publicly, build positive momentum.

Make It Happen

This is more than a nomination. It's a statement: We honor service. We honor commitment. We honor those who work behind the scenes to make our Lodges stronger, and our Association more vibrant. When we submit nominations for the Polly Garland Award, we are saying "we value you" and "we stand with you."

So, look around and see the unsung volunteers in our Lodge. Bring their contributions forward into the spotlight. Make every Lodge proud to participate in this important tradition.

Thank you for your leadership, your dedication, and your willingness to support this meaningful recognition program.



For additional information go to the Washington Elks Website or contact a district or state leader for assistance in making your Lodge nomination.

Polly Garland Packet on Washington Elks website:

www.waelks.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Polly-Garland-Award-Judging-Packet.pdf

Ritual Committee Report and News

I can't believe it is February already. Happy Valentines Day!

I am happy to hear that the Winter Convention was a great success. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to illness, sending a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone that made the Ritual competition and training successful despite my absence.

CONGRATULATIONS to our 3 winners that competed for 11 O'clock Toast and the Flag Charge. Hal Bornstedt from the Kelso-Longview lodge for winning 1st place Exalted Ruler 11 O'clock Toast. Hal will be doing the 11 O'clock Toast at the Summer Convention during the Memorial Service. Heather Beal from the Bremerton Lodge for taking 1st place Overall 11 O'clock toast she will, along with Richard Seeder from the Lynnwood lodge, who took 1st place at the Flag Charge will be representing State Of Washington at Grand Lodge Convention.



Heather Beal 11 O'clock Toast



Richard Seeder Flag Charge



Hal Bornstedt PER 11 O'clock toast

Just a reminder that it isn't too late for your lodges to compete at the State Ritual Competition at the Tacoma Lodge, February 7th it will start at 10:00am.

This year the lodge that wins will have a choice of \$10,000.00 for travel to Grand Lodge or \$5,000.00 to go to your lodge for Ritual or Membership. Competing also helps with points for All American points. Why isn't your lodge competing in Ritual yet?

SAVE THE DATE

May 16th and 17th for Training. More information is coming soon!

Carrie Massey
WSEA Ritual Committee Chair
360-355-6664
carriemelks1482@gmail.com

News of the Lodges:

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

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. Let's see your lodge featured in an upcoming state newsletter!

Shoreline Lodge #1800

Raising money for therapy is hard work. Just ask our Major Projects chairman Dan Machut, PER.

Since New Year's Eve our members have pulled together and with the help of our chairman and his team of volunteers, we have hosted multiple events this month. We have raised \$3,453.35 so far and we still have two and a half months remaining in the lodge year to raise some more. Way to go Dan and Shoreline Elks!



Everett Elks Lodge #479

Everett Elks lodge provided grocery gift cards to support the ongoing need for food stability to Veterans, local school students and families impacted during the holiday season. Catholic Community Services, a community support organization recognized the work of the lodge on their social media. Pictured is the committee Chair Dennis Andersen.



Elks Care - Elks Share

WSEA 2026 Winter Convention Highlights



WSEA
Winter
Convention
2026



WSEA 2026 Winter Convention Highlights Continued...



Thank you to all who made this amazing and successful WSEA Winter Convention possible, especially the WSEA Executive Board, WSEA Committee chairs and committee members, Presenters, those who worked behind the scenes and to all Elks Members who were able to attend and participate!

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY CHILI COOKOFF!

FEB 8

CHILI CONTEST
3 pm

Winner will be announced at halftime

KICK OFF
3:30 pm



CHILI COOK OFF!

\$10 entry/tasting fee
Fee will be waived if you
sign up for a minimum of
\$5/month with Fidelity Club
(an ongoing monthly donation
program to support ENF)

**HOT DOGS +
BURGERS**

Available for purchase

DRINK SPECIALS

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**
Elks National Foundation provides
funds to support programs for veterans,
scholarships, and youth, as well as
providing grants to enable our lodge to
help build a stronger community.

ANACORTES ELKS LODGE 1204

February 8th 2026

CHILI COOK-OFF



Proceeds go to "OUR KIDS."
Washington State Elks Therapy Program.



CHILI COOK OFF

on

February 8th 2026

Anacortes Members and Invited Guests
welcomed to Participate.

Bring:

Your warmed-up
Homemade Chili

And

List of Ingredients by 3pm
Sour Cream, Onions and Cheese provided.

\$7 for Tasting

Please bring a dessert to share for the
Dessert Bar!



SUPER BOWL SUNDAY February 8th 2026 Kick off @3:30pm
Chili Cook Off Champ announced at HALFTIME!
SUPERBOWL RAFFLES!!!!



HOQUIAM ELKS LODGE
#1082

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

CRAB DINNER

With Spaghetti and Garlic Bread

\$35.00 PER PERSON

Only 150 Tickets available

\$15.00 for Spaghetti only

Saturday, Feb 7, 2026

Crab Races - 4:30 pm

Dinner - 6:00 pm

Crab Races

Live and Silent Auctions, 50/50 and Raffles

Dinner includes 1 and 1/2 crab, Spaghetti, Cole slaw and Garlic Bread

Made with PosterMyWall.com



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 if your
lodge will be attending



Kelso-Longview Elks #1482
presents

SOUP @5:30PM

COOK-OFF

Wed FEB 18 2026

\$10 to Enter OR EAT
Entry Fee covers 1 Meal for Entrant

#1 Soup & People's Choice Winners

Proceeds will benefit **DAV**
Disabled American Veterans

Open to Members & Guests

Sign up sheet in the Lounge!

Raffles!

SOUP & Salad!

Elks USA

11TH ANNUAL

Ladies of the Elks Tea

FUNDRAISER

'Fun with a Purpose'

SUNDAY MARCH

22

2026



Questions?
Interested in Attending?
Interested in Hosting a table?
Contact:
Ivona-360.798.0119
Sheila-360.487.6654

Kelso-Longview Elks #1482

46

HOQUIAM ELKS
#1082

30

**BINGO
AND
BRUNCH
WITH
BRANDI**



48

It's Back....Join us for Brunch before 9 games of
Basket Bingo. 10th Game with be a Blackout and
the prize will be scratch tickets

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - OPEN TO PUBLIC 21+

SATURDAY, FEB 21, 2026

\$2 BINGO BOARDS | PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ENF

**Brunch is \$15 - Includes a
Mimososa Bar**

**BRUNCH STARTS AT 10:00AM
BINGO AT 11:00 AM**

48

21

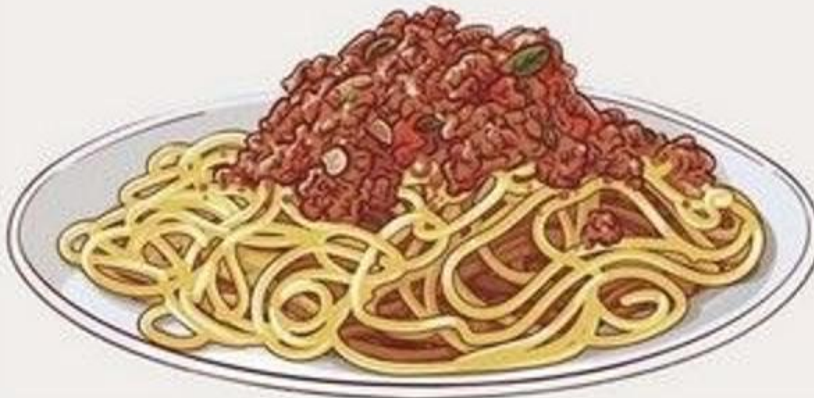
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COIN BOX

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Friday ~Feb 27th @ 5 pm



\$10

or a full A box
of coins

Moses Lake Elks Lodge #2892

All money collected will go to the
Washington State Elks Therapy
program.

**Bring in a full coin box or baggie with
coins!**

For Members and their Guest



◆ Bremerton Elks Lodge ◆

Murder Mystery

Dinner Fundraiser

A Night of Mystery, Magic & Fun



\$25
Tickets on sale
at office

Save the Date!



March 14th



Doors Open at 5pm
Dinner 5:45pm
Mystery starts 6:30pm
Unveiling the Mystery & Winners 7:40pm

Open to Members and their Guests