



Washington State Elks Association Mid-Winter Convention Newsletter

January 2024

PO BOX 110760 Tacoma WA 98411-0760 phone: 253-472-6223

Informing, Educating, and Communicating with WSEA Members

WSEA State Sponsor Message

Welcome to the 2024 Mid-Winter Convention here in Sea Tac.

Please take advantage of all the workshops and training sessions being held this weekend. I believe everyone will be impressed with the new meeting format, as well as the information that is being provided by the State Officers and Training Committee.

We are honored to have with us this weekend PGER Mike Luhr and Barbara, from Petersburg, Alaska, PGER Keith Mills and Amy from Filer, Idaho, and from Polson, Montana, Special Deputy GER Fred Barrett and Beverly. In addition to these great Elks from across the Northwest, we have four visiting State Presidents from Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. A testimony to the positive interstate relationship we have been building over the past few years.

With Idaho, Oregon, and Washington leading the way nationally, we have demonstrated what a group of talented and dedicated members can do to make positive change. Elizabeth Johnston is bringing continued awareness to our nationally recognized Veterans program, and Nancy Oakes has made great strides forward in our Membership and Marketing efforts.

It is exciting to see the continuing efforts and ingenuity of three Vice Presidents: Ben Braden from Washington, Blake Whitson from Oregon, and Sera White from Idaho. The three of them, working together, brought us the "My Elks App", as well as the new media "streaming campaign" in use in Oregon and Washington. This team has caught the eye of members all across the country. Join them in rebuilding a new and engaging Order.

This week you will be voting on proposing six (6) Grand Lodge Statute changes, at the National Convention in Austin, Texas. I urge you to support these revisions. A discussion will take place Saturday prior to the vote.

happy new year

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Only two months remain in this Lodge year, and there is a lot of work that needs to be completed before March 31st. Please let your State Officers or your District Deputy know if there is anything they can do to help you complete the tasks required to close out the financial year.

Lodge officer elections are coming up next month. Set your lodge up for success by electing the right dedicated member for the position.

I would like to send out a special **“Thank You”** to the dedicated members who gave hours of their time, to prepare for this convention. So, let’s have fun, work hard, and most importantly, remember to share what you have learned with other Lodge members who could not be in attendance.

Fraternally,

Roger R. True, PGER
State Sponsor



Past and present Grand Exalted Rulers with the 2024 Rose Parade Float representing the Chimes of Liberty and honoring Veterans



WSEA Membership & Marketing Team

Our purpose as the Membership and Marketing Committee is to use effective internal and external communications to relate to the membership and public our purpose, aims, and goals and publicize the good deeds of our order. We are working hard to meet the needs of the lodges. Should you wish to submit info, deas, questions, please contact a member of the Team:

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Nancy@garnettlaw.com,
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WSEA President Message



Welcome to the 2024 WSEA Mid-Winter convention. We just finished the festive holiday season, but now we need to

get right back into the work we do as Elks. The Executive Board has spent a lot of time with our State Sponsor to put together some meaningful training workshops to assist your lodge officers in performing their duties. Many lodge secretaries requested extensive training on their duties and responsibilities, so this convention we are having a full day workshop for secretaries. Training will touch many areas of responsibility, and the instructors have a wealth of knowledge and working experience. We hope this will be beneficial to all our lodges.

We also have many workshops of interest for other officers. These workshops will provide information for your officers and committee chairs on the various programs we support. Scholarships and Grants, Hoop Shoot, Lodge Activities, Drug Awareness, Veterans and more, all for you to learn more about how to do the charitable work that we as Elks do. We have included a workshop for Membership Drives and PR Planning, which I encourage all Incoming Exalted Rulers to attend. It will help you to get started in your year planning the membership drives

and help you to plan ways to expand our involvement in our communities. We hope to see you there.

We also have the ritual contests focusing on the 11 O'Clock Toast and the Flag Presentation. All PERs, current ERs, and incoming ERs are encouraged to participate. Washington has shown well in the previous contests at Grand Lodge. Who will be our shining star this year?

Welcome to the Out-of-State visitors we have this year, including Gerald Penn, Montana President; Mike (and Lori) Marvin, Idaho President; Nick (and Cody) Bettencourt, Oregon President; and Todd (and Sue) Schlegel, Alaska President. It seems like we just saw each other at another function somewhere, and here we are again! It is amazing how fast time goes by.

I hope everyone has a wonderful time at our convention. Visiting with old friends from the past, meeting and socializing with new friends, and re-charging our engines so we may head back out into our communities and spread the good word about what we do – proving again that -

Elks Care – Elks Share

Bob Walker
WSEA President 2023-24

WSEA Vice President Elect Message



Greetings and Welcome to 2024 Washington State Elks Mid-Winter Convention.

Once again we have many different training sessions scheduled to help you be a successful leader in your lodge. There is a lot of information available and I hope you will attend as many as you can. Be sure to take the information back with you to your home lodge and make good use of it. Lodge secretaries are attending a full day of training on Friday.

Membership continues to be one of our main focal points again this year. Washington State has extended the number of membership drives we can hold in a calendar year and will allow us to do one two-day event each year. Our membership and Marketing Committee is available and wants to help you have a successful membership drive. Please reach out to them for assistance in how to set up a successful membership drive.

As I write this, your local lodges have just finished judging the Most Valuable Student Scholarship Contest and the local winners are being forwarded for district judging. State judging will follow with winners being forwarded to grand lodge. Winners will be announced later this spring.

Now is a good time to start pushing information on the several vocational scholarships we offer through the state association. Deadlines for these are in the spring. Go to waelks.org for information and deadlines.

Hoop Shoot is underway with the district hoop shoots in progress this month. The Washington State Hoop Shoot will be held on February 10th at St Martin's University in Lacey.

As I am gearing up to be installed as your State President, I have made some adjustments to the state committee chairs. While most of the chair positions are filled there is plenty of room for people to be on the working committees. This is a great way to get involved with the state association. Please plan to attend the WSEA Needs Session on Saturday morning for more information on committee openings. You can also contact me or the vice-president from your district.

Don't miss the general Session or the business session as there are important items we will be discussing and voting on including several proposals that we will be taking to grand lodge to be voted on the floor in Austin.

Also, be sure to take part in the 11 O'clock Toast and the Flag Presentation Competitions. You could earn the opportunity to represent the state at Grand Lodge in July.

Enjoy your stay here at the convention.

Fraternally,
Michael Dahl, PDDGER
WSEA President Elect

WSEA Vice President West Message



Well, the Holiday season is done. I hope everyone had a wonderful time with their families and friends.

Now is the time that we need to finish off the Fraternal year and get ready to start the new year.

Exalted Rulers and Leading Knights,

you have the hardest parts this time of year. Busy keeping the lodge active, finishing out the year strong with membership growth, submitting awards, making new budgets, planning next year's events, and training your new and existing officers in their new upcoming positions.

Winter convention is here, I hope that you have as many officers as possible and members attending. We have a lot of training for everyone. Please try and have your officers and members attend all the training courses and take notes for your officers and members to review and take back to your committee chairs.

This is also a good time to reach out to the other lodges attending conventions that are not in your district. Find out what events worked for them and what didn't work. There is always something new that you can try at your lodge. Create or expand on your contact list. It is always good to have a go to contact for questions on events that you're interested or currently doing in your lodge. You could also pair up with another lodge to do community events.

While you're there, step out of your comfort zone and talk to people. You might even find a mentor that you can go to for assistance and guidance as you go through the chairs or running your committees.

If you need assistance, please reach out to your Program Advocate or myself. We are here to help you. If we can't answer your questions, we will reach out to the many program chairpersons to get you the answer or assistance that you need. WSEA has many programs that can assist you.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Fraternally
Scott Rainey
WSEA 1st Vice President, West District





Benjamin Braden

2nd Vice President

816 33rd Street
Anacortes Wasington, 98221

Thank you, everyone, for what you do for the Elks, for the Washington State Elks Association, for your lodge and most importantly for the members of your lodge and their surrounding community.

Your attendance at this convention displays to all your dedication to our order and your pride in membership. A membership that has blossomed from our 2021 low of 16,418 to an astounding 19,521 Washington Elks!

+3100 members in 3 years!

As we come out of the season of giving, I want to make sure each and every one of you hears thanks from the Elks. That each of you know what you do not only matters, but it's also making a difference in your community, in the lives of your membership, in the longevity of your lodge and within the state association itself.

Our state association has made the effort over the past two years to increase Elks awareness across our state and our lodges are capitalizing on those efforts and building the foundation of our order, the most important person in our ranks, the member, at each and every initiation throughout our state.

Speaking of initiation – Congratulations Bremerton lodge for winning our state ritual competition and best of luck at our Grand Lodge convention in Austin, Texas next July. We know you will represent the state of Washington well, thank you all for your extra effort.

The struggles each of you have gone through in your positions as officers and committee chairs are as unique as they are common, and we know exactly how real your endeavors have been and the time and effort you have put in for the benefit of the Elks. Take the time at this convention to relax, enjoy your fellow Elks, garner as much as you can out of the seminars and most importantly reinvigorate yourself to return to your home lodge ready to preach the benefits of the Elks from the treetops – you are what makes the Elks great.

Thank you,

Benjamin Braden

2nd Vice President WSEA
Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler
Past Exalted Ruler Ballard Lodge #827



 206-856-1580

 benjaminbraden@aol.com

 waelks.org

WSEA Vice President East Message



Welcome to the WSEA Winter Convention. Thank you, all, for traveling to be here.

Conventions are one of my favorites! They are the time we reconnect and reenergize our excitement for Elkdom.

The WSEA has put together a great agenda of topics and speakers for you. Please plan with your officers and take the time to go to as many of the sessions as you can and learn from these amazing Elks who have put in the time and effort to share their knowledge and create presentations to help you and your lodge.

It has been so exciting to see a revitalization around the state in the interest and passion for ritual. Thank you, everyone, for your efforts. Exalted Rulers, Leading Knights, and Past Exalted Rulers don't forget to compete in the 11 O'Clock Toast and Flag Presentation Contests on Friday during lunch. These two individual contests are our most honored traditions in remembrance of our absent members and honoring our flag. If you aren't going to compete, please stop and watch.

When the sessions are over enjoy the time with your fellow Elks. I don't know how many ideas I have gained, lessons I have

learned, or connections I have made in the Hospitality Rooms. We all share this bond of Elkdom. We also share the same struggles and can share the same successes.

After the convention we are in the final stretch of our lodge year. Take the information you learn, the ideas you gain, and the excitement you leave with back to your lodges. Share it with your members, talk to them about what it is to be an Elk and how they can help in their lodge, plan some new events and membership drives, initiate lots of new members, and let's finish this year strong!

Fraternally,

Lana Davick
WSEA 3rd Vice President



Lodge Activities

Winter Convention Workshop

Friday January 19th 9:30-10:15 am



Are you looking for fun and inexpensive ways to entertain and engage your membership?

Do you have difficulty finding volunteers for day to day activities and big events?

Has your lodge been successful at recruiting volunteers?

We want to hear your ideas and success stories and help those lodges that are struggling

This is an interactive workshop and we would love to see exalted rulers, leading knights and Lodge activities chairman in attendance. Learn some, share some and remember.....WE ARE THE ELKS! Together we make each other better!

The state activities chair will also be sharing some fun alternatives to activities you may already be doing. Fun and maybe a few prizes!

SPOUSES SOCIAL

Members & Spousal Members Welcome



WASHINGTON STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION WINTER CONVENTION 2024

Friday, January 19, 2024

11am - 12:30pm

at the Burien Elks Lodge #2143

Come check out the closest Lodge to our convention. Roundtrip transportation from the SeaTac Double Tree to the Burien Elks is available

Cost - \$20

For more information contact:
Jennifer Braden 206-650-2986

FEATURING:

- Lunch Buffet of Soups, Salad, and Sandwiches
- Wine
- Non-Alcoholic Beverages
- Wine-O Bingo with bottles of wine for winners
- Raffle Baskets for Charity



PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE as of 11.1.2023

| Date: | WEDNESDAY | COMMITTEE | ROOM |
|-----------|--|---|--------------|
| | State Casual attire | | |
| 1/17/2024 | 2:00pm - 5:00pm | Exec Comm Meeting | NW 1 |
| 1/17/2024 | 2:00pm - 5:00pm | Charitable Trust | NW 1 |
| | THURSDAY | COMMITTEE | ROOM |
| | State Uniform, shirt/tie for sessions, Business casual for others | | |
| 1/18/2024 | 7:30-5:00 | WSEA Registration | Lobby |
| 1/18/2024 | 8:30-Noon | Financial Trustees | NW 1 |
| 1/18/2024 | 8:30-Noon | Therapy Trustees | NW 1 |
| 1/18/2024 | 8:30-Noon | Program Advocates | NW 1 |
| 1/18/2024 | Noon-1:00 | LUNCH | |
| 1/18/2024 | 1:00-1:50 | Committee Chairs (PA's Attend) | NW 1 |
| 1/18/2024 | 2:00-2:50 | Therapy Trustee Training | NW 1 |
| 1/18/2024 | 3:00-4:00 | PA/Exec. Comm. Forum | NW 1 |
| 1/18/2024 | 5:00-6:30 | Welcome Reception | NW 2-3 |
| 1/18/2024 | 6:30-11:00 | Hospitality Rooms | |
| 1/18/2024 | 6:30-9:30 | PSP Reception | Private |
| | FRIDAY | COMMITTEE | ROOM |
| | Red shirts, shirts and ties for session, casual after | | |
| 1/19/2024 | 8:30am - 3:00pm | Secretary | E 1 - 2 |
| 1/19/2024 | 8:30am - 9:15am | Hoopshoot | C 1 |
| 1/19/2024 | 8:30am - 9:15am | MVS with Vocat Grant | C 2 |
| 1/19/2024 | 9:30am - 10:15am | Lodge Activities | C 1 |
| 1/19/2024 | 9:30am - 10:15am | Drug Awareness | E 3 - 4 |
| 1/19/2024 | 9:30am - 10:15am | ENF | C 3 |
| 1/19/2024 | 9:30am - 11:30am | FRS - Knowing Reports | C 2 |
| 1/19/2024 | 11:00am - 1:00pm | Spouse Social - adv. Tix. Required | Burien Lodge |
| 1/19/2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm | Ritual (Flag & Toast) | E 3 - 4 |
| 1/19/2024 | | | |
| 1/19/2024 | 1:00pm - 1:45pm | Membership & Marketing | C 1 |
| 1/19/2024 | 1:00pm - 2:45pm | Veterans | E 3 - 4 |
| 1/19/2024 | 1:00pm - 2:45pm | State Major Project | C 3 |
| 1/19/2024 | 2:00pm-2:45pm | Membership Drive & PR Planning | C 1 |
| 1/19/2024 | 3:00pm - 4:00pm | Grand Lodge Austin, TX info | E 3 - 4 |
| 1/19/2024 | | | |
| 1/19/2024 | 5:30pm-6:00pm | cocktails - reception | NW Ballroom |
| 1/19/2024 | 6:00pm-6:45pm | dinner | NW Ballroom |
| 1/19/2024 | 06:45pm-7:30pm | special entertainment | NW Ballroom |
| | SATURDAY | COMMITTEE | ROOM |
| | Lodge uniforms, shirts& ties for sessions, casual after | | |
| 1/20/2024 | 8:00am-8:45am | Caucus meetings | TBD |
| 1/20/2024 | 9:00am - 9:45am | WSEA Needs | G 1-2 |
| 1/20/2024 | 10:00am - 11:30am | General Session | G 1-2 |
| 1/20/2024 | 11:30-1:00pm | LUNCH | on own |
| 1/20/2024 | 11:30-1:00pm | PSP (invitation only) | Private |
| 1/20/2024 | 1:00pm - 3:30pm | Business Session | G 1-2 |
| | SUNDAY | COMMITTEE | ROOM |
| 1/24/2024 | 9:00am - Noon | Alcohol Server Training | C 9-10 |
| G= Grand | NW= Northwest | C= Cascade | E= Evergreen |



Discover Elks

An Area 8 Elks Awareness Program

Discover .org

This year the Washington State Elks Association and the Oregon State Elks Association are making an unprecedented investment in promoting Elks Lodges across the states of Oregon and Washington.

We have a streaming video advertising campaign called Discover Elks that began on September 1, 2023. These ads are 15 or 30 seconds and are aired on streaming video platforms such as Hulu, Paramount plus, ESPN and others. Residents will see streaming ads about the Elks geolocated to their lodge communities within Oregon and Washington.

We themed these ads Discover Elks because we're inviting people in communities across Oregon and Washington to Discover the Elks and what we do for our communities for the very first time. We're also extending an invitation for those who might have heard about us to Re-Discover the Elks, who we are and to consider joining us again.

In addition to our streaming ads, we have launched three new platforms to coordinate with this campaign. One is on Facebook under Discover Elks where our video ads and social media materials can be shared. The second is our YouTube channel for Discover Elks. There you can find our streaming ads, as well as additional ad content that we've created specifically for social media.

These videos invite people to visit our third platform, discoverelks.org. This is our brand-new area 8 membership portal. We specifically designed this website to incorporate all the states in area 8 in the hopes that our areas associations will be interested in promoting this Discover Elks program themselves and capitalize upon the successful tools we have created. **We will do more if we do it together.**

This program is a partnership between the Washington and Oregon state associations – we are running the exact same campaign in two states at the same time and have made these resources available to all lodges and State Associations to utilize. **We are better together.**

Alaska, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Idaho: they can all participate in these ads as well. **We are stronger together.**

We hope you enjoy our efforts and if you would like to help invite your state and its communities to discover the Elks visit discoverelks.org today and then ask us how we can help you get started.





Discover **Elks**.org

Discover Elks

An Area 8 Elks Awareness Program

The Discover Elks Facebook Page can be found at
<https://www.facebook.com/discoverelks>.

The Discover Elks YouTube Channel can be found at
<https://www.youtube.com/@DiscoverElks>.

The Discover Elks Website can be found at
<https://www.discoverelks.org>.

Be part of our awareness campaign and purchase your Discover Elks graphic or large window sticker at our registration area during convention. Be part of making the Elks better and help other Discover Elks today.



Discover **Elks**.org



Discover **Elks**.org

Contact information:

Blake Whitson - blake.orncelks@gmail.com – Oregon State Elks Association

Benjamin Braden – benjaminbraden@aol.com – Washington State Elks Association



Discover **Elks**.org



Discover **Elks**.org



Discover **Elks**.org



Discover **Elks**.org

Elks Participate Rose Parade

The 2024 Elks, "Chimes of Liberty / Protecting our Future". Honors the branches of our United States Military and Veterans. Veterans are held in high regard in our Association and our 2024 Float reflects our commitment and pledge. "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Orders of Elks will never forget them." Our Float riders will consist of members of the United States Army, Marine Corp, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force. Additionally, three members of the West Covina Lodge No. 1996 Antlers Club will be riding on this year's float.



Joe and Virginia Basil



Past GER Keith Mills and Amy Mills



Americanism Essay Contest Deadlines Approaching

By Claudia L. Housley, WSEA Chairman
Email: claudialhousley@gmail.com or
housley327@aol.com

We are all Elks, and we are Elks because someone invited us to join. What we do within the Elks is done more than likely, we always do because we were asked by a friend. I completed “my ER year” in 2000: with friends, for friends, and friends always.

Then came “Americanism.” Everybody understands the word but it defies classification. It encompasses everything yet defies distinctiveness and characteristics. Having said that, this past year as Chair of the Americanism Committee was a journey I shared with my friends this way: It is an iceberg. And for all intents and purposes, the Americanism Committee is the Americanism Essay Contest. That is clear and visible. However, beneath its surface is ALL of us. And as such, it defies definition. It becomes moot.

The Essay Contest Deadline for all entries to be received at the lodge was **Friday, December 15, 2023**. We are now harvesting the yield of our extremely difficult, collective effort to contact the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth graders who had the fire of patriotism lit by their teachers to enter this year’s contest: “What the Bill of Rights Means to Me.”

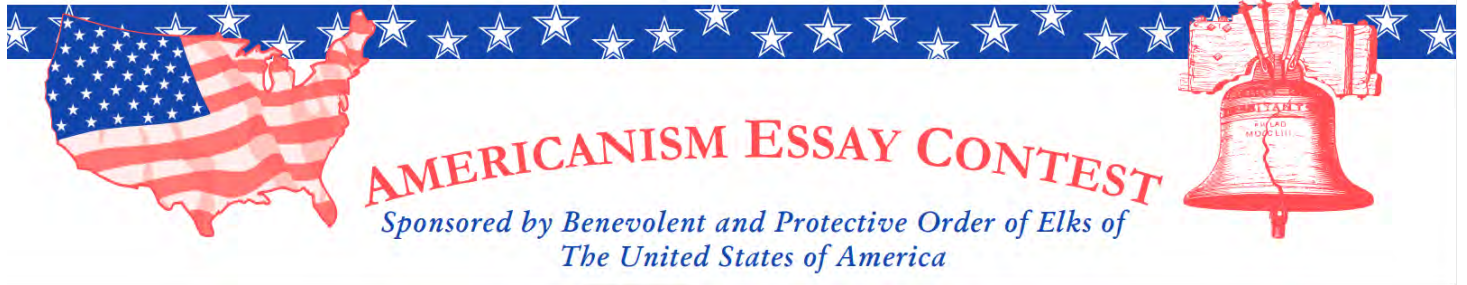
We received an invaluable contribution to our State Americanism Essay Contest from two professional and current teachers. I mention them that way because they **are**

full-time teachers who teach our target population of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and they both created a comprehensive Lesson Plan “on their own time.” If you have ever been a teacher, you all know WHAT creating a lesson plan entails. Buddy Keller and Krystal Keller-Danielson created this lesson plan that has been sent to all Americanism Chairs.

What dedication and professionalism went into this excellent tool that helped teachers help their students to understand and gather enough confidence in themselves to submit an entry!

We owe all of our 34 lodge chairs immeasurable gratitude by establishing the groundwork for reaching our FUTURE ELKS; THEY form the backbone of our youth, and this “little” Americanism program is a four-year program that can go hand-in-hand with the Hoop Shoot, the Drug Awareness Program, and could lead to the Most Valuable Student Program and more of our activity programs. A number of these named programs share the same tools which only requires sharing what we have in this committee with our other programs. Our target populations are identical.

At this writing, all lodges are in the process of evaluating the entries they have received and should forward the top-rated entries to the District Chairs, by **Wednesday, January 31, 2024**. The District Chairs will follow the same evaluation process for the lodges within their district, and forward the first, second, and third best scoring entries for each of the four divisions to the State Chair by **Thursday, February 29, 2023**.



Americanism continued...

The State Judging committee is repeating their invitation for interested judges. If you will be in town, we are holding the State judging in the Tacoma Elks Lodge #174 on **Friday, March 15, 2024.**

The top three scoring entries from State will be forwarded to the Grand Lodge Contest Administrator by **Monday, April 1, 2024.** The winners will be announced at Grand Lodge on **Tuesday, July 2, 2024,** in Austin, Texas.

INCOMING ER CONVENTION WORK SESSION - MEMBERSHIP DRIVES

The Membership & Marketing Team will present a workshop for all incoming Exalted Rulers at the Mid-Winter Convention sharing the membership drive process and resources available. We will assist with implementing a lodge Membership Drive calendar with each attendee. This process will allow you to start your year off with a plan in place, support from the Membership and Marketing Committee and a good knowledge of what it takes to have a successful membership drive!

Membership & Marketing Tools and Support Available to all Lodges

By Nancy Oakes, PER
Membership and Marketing Chairperson

The year is quickly coming to an end. Come March and April, new leadership will be sworn into each lodge. We want to take this opportunity to congratulate all the current Exalter Rulers and officers for all the efforts they have made this year towards improving their membership and working so hard to bring new members into their lodge. You have embraced our Membership Drive Guidelines; you have worked with the Membership Team and used their

Delinquency Toolkits to help reduce your delinquency numbers. And, you have been very open to working with all the committee members of Membership & Marketing.



We are changing things up a little for the 2023-2024 year. We will be holding a special training session on Friday for the incoming ER's, Leading Knights and new committee chairs. During that session we hope to build a relationship with you and our Team so that we can better serve your lodge needs in the coming year.

STATE MAJOR PROJECT

WASHINGTON ELKS THERAPY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN, INC.

Welcome 2024 and Welcome all Elks and Friends to the Winter Convention of the Washington State Elks Association. I always look forward to writing this article in hopes of conveying some meaningful content to those who take the time to read it.

Do you know what 2024 is? Yes, you are correct if you thought “it is the year before 2025” and yes you would be correct again if you said, “it is the year after 2023”.

DID YOU KNOW THAT IT IS ALSO THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE MAJOR PROJECT.

That’s right, the State Major Project began in 1954 with a single therapist providing services throughout the state. 70 years later in 2024 there are now 15 therapy units throughout the state providing Occupational and Physical Therapy services. Be on the lookout for Anniversary information and activities to celebrate this amazing milestone with us.

I have often been asked how much of each dollar donated goes towards the program. It is with great pride that I can tell you over 90% of each dollar goes directly to “Our Kids”. I think we all know that there are 501(c)(3) organizations that don’t even come close to that so again, I am proud to share this information. Our State Major Project is run with the utmost attention to spending. If you think I am kidding, ask your local therapist one day how many times they have re-used a client folder instead of buying new ones...I bet the answer will surprise you. This is just one example of the ways that we try to keep costs low. Since I am writing about costs, can you guess how much money your email addresses have saved us in 2023? Please make sure you are sitting down for this....pause 😊.... Using email addresses for receipts in 2023 saved the program over \$3,275.00.

Our Annual Fundraising letter was sent out mid-November and the response has already been superb. Something to note about these donations, there are so many folks that take the time to write a note of Thanks for what we do or apologize because they wish they could give more. Each of these notes is read and each donation -No matter the size- is appreciated greatly.

Though we have COVID-19 mostly in our rear-view our Therapy staff remains vigilant. Some of our families have welcomed us back into their homes with open arms and others still prefer to be cautious and continue telehealth visits. The therapists have done a tremendous job navigating this ever-changing tide. As long as I am writing about our therapy staff, do you know how many therapists have been on staff over 10 years?

The answer is 8! Sarah -32, Ray -28, Becky -27, Sheila -24, Rebecca, and Lila -20 this year, Carris -15 and Lori -13. Less than 10 you ask? The answer is 7! Kate -9, Katie -6, Pam and Noam -5, Renee -3, Heather and Steph - 1.

Thank you to everyone who donates time and money to “Our Kids”. You make all the difference.

Fraternally,

Lee Frankie

State Major Project Chairman

Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children, Inc.





State Major Project Fundraisers already planned for 2024

THE BELOW INFORMATION IS JUST A TASTE OF WHAT IS TO COME IN 2024 –
STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!!!

LYNNWOOD #2171 – JANUARY 27TH COINBOX DINNER STARTING AT 4PM

SHORELINE #1800 – FEBRUARY 2ND COINBOX DINNER 5PM – 8PM

OLYMPIA #186 – APRIL 21ST COINBOX DINNER 6PM

PUYALLUP #1450 – APRIL 28TH TEA PARTY

COLVILLE #1753 – AUGUST 3RD GOLF TOURNAMENT – 8AM START

TACOMA #174/ ALLENMORE GOLF COURSE –

GARLAND FAMILY GOLF TOURNAMENT – JULY 27TH

SEATTLE #92 – TRIVIA 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

PUYALLUP #1450 – COINBOX DINNER SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER EACH YEAR



LYNNWOOD ELKS

LODGE #2171

Annual Coin Box

Dinner

**MEMBERS & GUESTS -- COME JOIN US AND
LEARN HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE USED TO
HELP, "OUR KIDS"
IN NEED OF CRITICAL THERAPY CARE!**

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Social Hour 4pm -- Dinner 5pm

Meat or Vegetable Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

Cost \$15 or Full Coin Box

Children's Therapy Demonstration 6pm

**Sign-up at the Lodge by January 24th with number attending or
Call Lodge at 425-776-2171 to RSVP**



Colville Elks 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Colville Elks Lodge 1753 is hosting our 5th annual charity golf tournament to raise funds for the **OUR KIDS - Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children, Inc. Our State Major Project**. Funds are used to provide their services to the children of our communities. We are holding the tournament Saturday, August 3, 2024 with an 8 am shotgun start.

The tournament is a 4-man scramble format will be used at a cost of \$75.00 per person. Colville Elks Lodge 1753 and Dominion Meadow Golf Course have agreed there will be no **additional cost** for green fees. This will enable us to donate \$40.00 per person to the charitable fund. Lunch is included in the registration fees. If you are interested in playing in this event. Please see the registration packet for more information. Cart rental is separate from the registration fee.

If you are interested in supporting this great cause, we will accept any donations, services and/or merchandise. These items will be used for awards during the tournament or to raise additional funds for this charity. Additionally, if your interested in sponsoring a specific award, one of the 18 holes for donations of \$100.00 dollars or one of the "hazards" for \$50.00. We will include a sign advertising your sponsorship on the day of the tournament.

For additional information follow us on the MyElks Phone App - Lodge 1753, or contact the Lodge Secretary by email at 1753bulletin@gmail.com, or the Pro Shop by phone at (509) 684-5508 for cart rental.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

State Major Project Donation Summary Report

| NOVEMBER 2023 Donation Summary | MBRS | DIV | # of | Dollars | # of | Dollars | Per MBR | Overall Rank | Div Rank | % of Goal |
|-----------------------------------|------|-----|---------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | | Gifts | | Gifts | | | | | |
| | | | Current Month | | Year to Date | | | | | |
| Colville Elks #1753 | 211 | 1 | 15 | \$4,985.00 | 84 | \$7,814.75 | 37.0367 | 1 | 1 | 185% |
| Tri-Cities #2755 | 189 | 1 | 7 | \$917.98 | 58 | \$3,666.89 | 19.4015 | 6 | 2 | 97% |
| Shoreline #1800 | 275 | 1 | 17 | \$894.91 | 121 | \$5,296.67 | 19.2606 | 7 | 3 | 96% |
| Gig Harbor #2560 | 176 | 1 | 4 | \$198.00 | 124 | \$3,315.05 | 18.8355 | 8 | 4 | 94% |
| Walla Walla #287 | 220 | 1 | 10 | \$966.50 | 53 | \$3,376.00 | 15.3455 | 11 | 5 | 77% |
| Olympia #186 | 246 | 1 | 14 | \$855.00 | 43 | \$2,347.50 | 9.5427 | 21 | 6 | 48% |
| Bellingham #194 | 212 | 1 | 4 | \$270.00 | 68 | \$1,426.76 | 6.7300 | 24 | 7 | 34% |
| Greater Spokane #228 | 223 | 1 | 8 | \$390.00 | 33 | \$1,295.75 | 5.8105 | 29 | 8 | 29% |
| Omak Elks #1742 | 238 | 1 | 3 | \$90.00 | 5 | \$692.50 | 2.9097 | 33 | 9 | 15% |
| Oak Harbor #2362 | 340 | 2 | 34 | \$2,075.50 | 220 | \$8,410.86 | 24.7378 | 3 | 1 | 124% |
| Puyallup #1450 | 361 | 2 | 29 | \$2,353.71 | 185 | \$8,212.94 | 22.7505 | 4 | 2 | 114% |
| Raymond #1292 | 483 | 2 | 7 | \$440.00 | 174 | \$9,970.48 | 20.6428 | 5 | 3 | 103% |
| Ocean Shores #2581 | 427 | 2 | 11 | \$1,020.60 | 110 | \$6,078.15 | 14.2345 | 12 | 4 | 71% |
| Anacortes #1204 | 381 | 2 | 12 | \$691.50 | 79 | \$5,042.33 | 13.2345 | 13 | 5 | 66% |
| Lynnwood #2171 | 382 | 2 | 18 | \$1,075.75 | 117 | \$4,362.08 | 11.4191 | 15 | 6 | 57% |
| Forks #2524 | 303 | 2 | 2 | \$125.00 | 71 | \$3,306.60 | 10.9129 | 16 | 7 | 55% |
| Mt Adams #1868 | 363 | 2 | 9 | \$502.03 | 83 | \$3,934.98 | 10.8402 | 17 | 8 | 54% |
| Burien #2143 | 314 | 2 | 14 | \$671.35 | 27 | \$3,377.65 | 10.7568 | 18 | 9 | 54% |
| Mt Vernon #1604 | 440 | 2 | 5 | \$246.50 | 61 | \$2,957.26 | 6.7210 | 25 | 10 | 34% |
| Aberdeen #593 | 451 | 2 | 7 | \$325.75 | 13 | \$2,762.43 | 6.1251 | 28 | 11 | 31% |
| Seattle #92 | 491 | 2 | 10 | \$527.02 | 90 | \$2,588.81 | 5.2725 | 30 | 12 | 26% |
| Hoquiam #1082 | 379 | 2 | 2 | \$270.00 | 10 | \$1,936.85 | 5.1104 | 31 | 13 | 26% |
| Lakewood #2388 | 311 | 2 | 5 | \$225.00 | 7 | \$713.75 | 2.2950 | 34 | 14 | 11% |
| Naval #353 | 523 | 3 | 13 | \$1,555.35 | 83 | \$9,639.37 | 18.4309 | 9 | 1 | 92% |
| Vancouver #823 | 696 | 3 | 21 | \$1,985.30 | 102 | \$6,418.66 | 9.2222 | 22 | 2 | 46% |
| Sequim #2642 | 556 | 3 | 9 | \$560.00 | 77 | \$3,437.95 | 6.1834 | 26 | 3 | 31% |
| Everett #479 | 738 | 4 | 16 | \$1,836.80 | 84 | \$20,133.19 | 27.2807 | 2 | 1 | 136% |
| Kelso-Longview #1482 | 1033 | 4 | 20 | \$1,095.00 | 315 | \$17,705.54 | 17.1399 | 10 | 2 | 86% |
| Tacoma #174 | 848 | 4 | 48 | \$2,927.23 | 273 | \$10,567.48 | 12.4617 | 14 | 3 | 62% |
| Bremerton #1181 | 883 | 4 | 15 | \$841.65 | 135 | \$9,468.86 | 10.7235 | 19 | 4 | 54% |
| Port Townsend #317 | 703 | 4 | 18 | \$1,346.00 | 49 | \$5,300.58 | 7.5399 | 23 | 5 | 38% |
| Yakima #318 | 956 | 4 | 13 | \$834.76 | 194 | \$5,911.26 | 6.1833 | 27 | 6 | 31% |
| Long Beach #1937 | 795 | 4 | 9 | \$405.00 | 20 | \$2,318.75 | 2.9167 | 32 | 7 | 15% |
| Ballard #827 | 2727 | 6 | 36 | \$2,162.10 | 391 | \$29,034.96 | 10.6472 | 20 | 1 | 53% |



"Our Kids"

Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children, Inc. State Major Project since 1954



Celeste was born March 2019, four weeks early, to a family prepared for a baby to be born with I-Cell Disorder. I-Cell is an inherited metabolic lysosomal storage disorder. It affects many parts of the body, leading to small, weak muscle tone and compromised organs especially heart and lungs. The children stop growing in their second year of life. They present with delayed motor and language skills. Most kids do not develop the ability to walk independently.

Celeste is the star of her household. She brings a smile and charm and knows how to get what she wants, without using words. She has two siblings, an older brother and sister. She loves interacting with them, going on walks outside. Recently, she and her family were able to take a travel trailer to visit family and camp with her. They are making memories with her, for sure.

The Elks Therapy Program began working with Celeste in the Fall of 2022, to help her family identify strategies and toys to aide Celeste's learning and development. She is always curious and creative in her play, giving us a good laugh and amazement at her skills. She remains non-speaking and is on a waiting list for speech therapy. She is receiving physical therapy, learning to use her walker and is being prepared for a wheelchair, in the near future, to increase the number of places she can go.

We are grateful to the Elks of Washington for this home-based therapy program. Given Celeste's fragility last year, she would not have been able to go to a clinic or group program. Her mother is especially proud of the fact, early on, she and her other family members learned to help Celeste participate in all their activities and they communicate with her throughout the activities they do. She has benefited from all these interactions, as is evident wherever she goes.



Membership & Marketing Tools **Continued...**

Membership Drives are a critical part of membership building and they need to be choreographed'. We design the drive specifically to your demographics and lodge structure. The budget is another factor and we look to help you decide what kind of monies you will need for the coming year.

Marketing today's lodges is unique given our extensive social media capabilities. That is another element that our Team brings to your table. We have Team members who are proficient in many facets of Information Technology, as well as some of the best graphics people in the state.

Aside from knowledge, the relationship is the most important factor. We need you to know how much we support you and just how ready we are to serve you and your lodge.

Please plan on joining us at our second session on Friday. We will also have your new lodge program banners to take back to your lodge for use in the coming year..

Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children



We would like you to meet Luke! Our son Luke was born with a class 4 lip and tongue tie. At 4.5 months old we had a procedure done to revise his lip and tongue tie which changed our lives. He went from only drinking a 2 or 3 oz bottle per feeding and screaming constantly between feedings, to drinking 6+ ounces each feeding and became a happy baby.

We were put in touch with an occupational therapist who works on oral motor therapy through the Elks of Washington by the doctor who performed the lip and tongue tie procedure. The therapist came to our home once a week and worked with Luke to teach him to latch properly to the bottle and to help him not have developmental delays. Our therapist was so knowledgeable and informative. He taught me new things to work with Luke on my own each week. Luke is now a 1-year- old and he is thriving! Our therapist didn't just stop after Luke was latching well to the bottle. He helped us transition to solid foods, assisted Luke with crawling and standing up. Luke's sister Harper and brother Jaxon have enjoyed being able to interact with our therapist during the visits, and I find them doing little things the therapist is doing to try to help Luke learn. You always hear "it takes a village", and we are so blessed that we were able to have someone help us with Luke for so long.

Thank you to the Elks of Washington for having a program like this available.



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



January 18-20
[WSEA Mid-Winter
Convention at
Doubletree/Seatac](#)

January 7
[South District Hoop Shoot](#)

January 10
[Drug Awareness Program
Contests Due to Lodges](#)

January 27
[West District Hoop Shoot](#)

January 27
[WSEA Hoop Shoot](#)

April 20
[Spring Quarterly Meeting](#)

June 12-16
[WSEA Summer Convention](#)



Come Represent Your Lodge at the Washington State
11 O'clock Toast and Flag Charge Contests at the
Washington State Elks Association Winter Convention
on 19 January 2024!

Any Elk can participate in the contest; however, we can only send a winning Exalted Ruler or Past Exalted Ruler to represent Washington at the National Convention. Leading Knights, this means you could be one of the winners!

We are hoping to get participation from every Lodge this year, come on out and support this event. Even if you don't compete, stop by and listen to the renditions of these two amazing parts of our Elk tradition.



Check the WSEA Convention Schedule for Time and Location or contact WSEA Ritual Chair Skip Barnes (barnes2390@q.com) or WSEA Ritual Working Committee Member Heather Beal (heather.1181elks@gmail.com) for more information.

Central:

District Deputies for 2023-2024

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Ernest Bodoh

Esquire: Scott Knight

Auditor: Peter Schultz

East:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Greg Balint

Esquire: Marc Allen

Auditor: Richard Shull

Assistant to the Auditor: John Dabney

North:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: James Henry

Esquire: Dave Richcreek

Auditor: Mike Campbell

Assistant to the Auditor: Arnold Smith

South:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Rob Dahl

Esquire: Virginia Basil

Auditor: Michele Jenkins

West:

Grand Exalted Ruler District Deputy: Evan Boyd

Esquire: Dean McCoy

Auditor: Brandi Wallace

Assistant to the Auditor: Patricia Staley



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.



The Elks for Children's Hospital partnership between Seattle Children's Hospital and the Washington State Elks Association began in 1926 and continues today. The bond of these two entities and the care of the Elks has given hope to children in our region for more than 93 years.



To My Elks Brothers and Sisters,

As we start a new year, I am happy to see all of you here at the Washington State Elks Mid Winter Convention.

At this convention we will be voting on some new State Officers. I am running for VP from the Central District and I hope I can count on your support.

I have been a member of Burien #2143 for 18 years. I served as House Committee Chairman, Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight, Esquire, Chairman of the Board for 3 years and 2 years as ER.

On the State Level, I have been a DLO/PA, State Tiler, State Inner Guard, Asst. Sgt of Arms and State Sgt of Arms as well as a financial trustee. I am currently the Esquire to the DD for the Central District.

If elected, I look forward to working with the current state officers and continuing the amazing work that the State is accomplishing. I would like to see even more interaction between Lodges and Lodges joining together to get our name out in the community serving our veterans and our youth.

I believe in the Elks and everything our obligation represents. I believe in the family of Elks and cherish the relationships I have built with my Brother and Sister Elks. I believe that when we work together we can accomplish anything, at the lodge level, the district level and the state level.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Fraternally,

Scott Knight

Esquire to District Deputy Central District

SCOTT KNIGHT
FOR
VP CENTRAL

Elks Care — **Elks** Share