

# Washington State Elks Association Newsletter



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Informing, Educating, and Communicating with WSEA Members

April 2026

## Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady to attend Washington State Elks Summer Convention



It is my great pleasure and privilege to announce that Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan R. Klatt and First Lady Susan Klatt will be joining us at the Washington State Elks Association Summer Convention in Pasco, Washington this June.

Grand Exalted Ruler Klatt, a proud member of DeKalb, Illinois Lodge No. 765, has dedicated over four decades to our great Order. He has served in virtually every capacity at both the state and national levels, including as Grand Secretary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks from July 2008 through July 2025—the longest-serving Grand Secretary in our Order’s modern history. His tireless commitment to Elkdom and his passionate advocacy for our mission make this visit truly special for our state.

Bryan and Susan are traveling throughout America this year under their theme, “Be the Difference,” encouraging all Elks to make a meaningful impact in their communities. Their visit to our convention is a tremendous honor for Washington State, and I encourage every lodge to be well represented for this occasion.

The Washington State Elks Association Summer Convention will be held June 17–20, 2026, in Pasco, Washington. This is a truly exciting opportunity for our members to meet the leader of our great Order face to face — to shake his hand, share a conversation, and experience firsthand the energy and inspiration that Bryan and Susan bring to every community they visit. Moments like these remind us of the strength and spirit that unite Elks across the country, and they are ones our members will long remember. I encourage every lodge to be well represented and to bring as many members as possible to Pasco this June.

On behalf of the Washington State Elks Association, I extend our warmest welcome to Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan R. Klatt and First Lady Susan Klatt. We look forward to an unforgettable convention in Pasco this summer.

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## WSEA President Message



It is a New Fraternal Year, start off Strong!

Congratulations to all the newly installed officers.

A BIG thank you as well to last year's officers, whether you are continuing in your role or moving on. Your dedication and hard work in supporting your lodges are truly appreciated.

Exalted Rulers; now is the time to set your plans in motion, if you haven't already. Successful events begin with thoughtful planning months in advance. Be sure to delegate responsibilities to your officers, establish clear timelines, and follow up to ensure tasks are completed.



If you find yourself needing guidance or support, WSEA is here to help. We offer a wide range of programs, materials, and ideas to assist you in making your events successful. However, please don't wait until the last minute, early communication allows us to better plan and provide the support each lodge deserves. Get your questions in early so we can help you effectively.



Don't forget to utilize your District and State Committee Chairs. They are valuable resources and are here to support you. If they are unable to provide

the assistance you need, please reach out to your District Liaison (Vice President), who will connect with the appropriate WSEA Chairperson to ensure you receive the help you need.



Looking ahead, several important events are coming up:

- Registration for WSEA Summer and Grand Lodge Conventions!
- District Deputy Clinics
- WSEA Quarterly Mtg & Officer Training (April 17–18 at Lakewood Lodge)
- Youth Week (first week of May)
- Membership drives, Parades, Festivals, and much more!

As the weather improves and people begin to venture out, now is the perfect opportunity to offer engaging events at your lodge. Give your members and community something to look forward to and enjoy.



Have a wonderful spring—I look forward to seeing you soon!

Fraternally,

Scott Rainey  
WSEA President

## WSEA President Elect Message

By Ben Braden

### The Power of Connection: Building Membership



Over the past several months, we've talked about the importance of Lodge Activities, Government Relations, Public Relations, and Membership (LGP&M). Each committee is vital on its own, but unstoppable when they work together with purpose.

This unified approach we call the LGP Triangle, alongside a strong Membership committee, is the foundation for the Washington State Elks Association's success moving forward.

The idea is simple:

- Lodge Activities create experiences that make members feel connected.
- Government Relations captures and reports the impact of those activities.
- Public Relations tells the story, shining the light of Elkdom into our communities.
- Membership harnesses that triangle of energy to grow, retain, and re-engage members.

When these committees communicate and collaborate, membership growth stops being a struggle. Rather, it becomes a natural result of an active, visible, and proud lodge.

We've seen it work. Successful lodges live this model. A collaboration where committees talk, share, and plan together towards one common purpose. These are the lodge's seeing consistent growth, energy, and renewed

excitement. It's not solely about more membership drives, although those need to happen; it's about creating meaning, connection, and pride to build upon that.

Under this unified initiative, the Membership Committee will utilize the opportunities created by the Lodge Activities



Committee, Government Relations Committee, and Public Relations Committee to create a multifaceted effort that focuses not only on bringing in new members, but also on keeping and reactivating the ones we already have.

When members are excited to attend events, proud to serve their community and see their lodge in the public eye, they stay, they return, and they invite others.

Membership growth doesn't happen in isolation, it thrives when a foundation of Activities, Public Relations, and Community Engagement happen together.

The Membership Committee's focus becomes not just on signing up new members, but on helping build meaningful connections that keep every Elk engaged, inspired, and proud to belong.

By embracing and working alongside the LGP Triangle approach, the Membership Committee becomes a driving force behind a stronger, more united Washington State Elks Association.

As we move forward towards another great year of Elkdom, commit to working together under the LGP Triangle model. Because when our committees unite, our lodges thrive. When our lodges thrive, our light shines brighter than ever.



**An active lodge is a growing lodge.**

**Keep it that way.**

## WSEA Vice President East Message



As we welcome the month of April, we're reminded that spring is a season of renewal, growth, and fresh energy,

values that reflect the spirit of our Lodge and its members at this time of year.

Over the past several months, we've witnessed incredible dedication from so many of our members. A sincere thank you to all the officers of 2025-2026 who helped us close out the Lodge year on such a strong note. Whether it was taking the time to initiate waiting candidates into our ranks, recognizing and celebrating those who made the year successful, or participating in the installation of the officers who will carry that momentum forward.



Whether you've volunteered your time, supported our events, or simply shown up with a willingness to help or a friendly smile, your contributions are what keep our lodges strong, vibrant, and moving forward.

April brings with it new opportunities to get involved. Your lodge is always looking for volunteers to help with an event, chair a committee, or contributing in any way you can.

If you are interested in helping at the State level, reach out to the Executive Board representative in your district.

I encourage each of you to take part, not only to support our mission, but to strengthen the friendships and connections that make this organization so meaningful.

This is also a great time to reach out to fellow members you haven't seen in a while. A simple check-in can go a long way in keeping our community close and supportive.

As Vice President, soon to be President Elect (wow, time flies), I am honored to work alongside such a committed and compassionate group. Thank you for all you do. Let's carry this momentum forward into the coming months and continue making a positive impact in our Lodges and in our communities.

Wishing you all a wonderful Spring filled with warmth, growth, and fellowship.



Fraternally,

Lana Davick  
WSEA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



## WSEA Vice President Central Message



Spring signals new beginnings, and with that comes a fresh lodge year and newly elected officers. Congratulations to everyone stepping into these roles! I encourage all members to actively support the officers so we can make this year outstanding. Plan your calendars now, let everyone know what is coming up so they can plan to be there.

To kick things off, Officer Training will be held at Lakewood Lodge on April 18th. You don't need to be an officer to attend; anyone interested in learning how their lodge operates is welcome. Just call the Lakewood Lodge to register.



Well done to the lodges who achieved a plus one in membership last year—your hard work truly paid off. We can all take pride in our organization and the impact we have and sharing that enthusiasm helps us grow. Retaining members is just as important as recruiting them. Keeping everyone engaged through events, whether social or community service-oriented, makes

a difference. People join for fun and friendships, but also because of the meaningful work we do. Hosting a fundraising event for Veterans or participating in the Welcome Home kit program are great ways to give back. If you'd like guidance, reach out to State Veterans Chairman Liz Johnston.



Don't forget about our Therapy Program for Children—it deserves ongoing promotion. There are plenty of fun activities your lodge can host but consider teaming up with your district Therapy Action Committee member for a district-wide fundraiser. Ideas include a golf tournament or bowling tournament to support the cause.

Fundraising for the Charitable trust can also be a great activity for your Lodge. Don't forget that there are also Grants that you can apply for from the Charitable Trust to help with supporting Veterans, or working with the Child ID program, or the Drug Awareness program or Americanism. You have until May 15<sup>th</sup> to apply. You can find all the information on our State website.



Once again, Congratulations to all new Officers. I wish you well in your year.

Scott Knight  
Central District VP  
Washington State Elks Association

## WSEA Vice President South Message



Hello April!

Spring is here—and with it comes the excitement of a new Elk year! Across Washington and throughout the country, lodges are welcoming newly installed officers who are ready to Be the Difference in their communities. There's

something truly special about this time of year: a fresh start, renewed energy, and a shared commitment to service.

I feel incredibly fortunate to have attended all of the South District lodge installations. Being able to participate in three of the five ceremonies was an honor, and a meaningful reminder of the traditions that connect us all. Congratulations to each and every new officer across Washington State; you are stepping into an important role, and your leadership matters!

Looking ahead, I'm excited to see many of you at the All-Officer Training at Lakewood Lodge on Saturday, April 18. This is a fantastic opportunity to kick off your year with confidence, gain valuable insights, and connect with fellow officers from lodges across the state. These connections make us stronger together.



Behind the scenes, our lodge Secretaries have been hard at work processing dues and issuing membership cards. This is one of their busiest seasons, and their dedication

keeps everything running smoothly. If you get a chance, please take a moment to thank them, their efforts truly make a difference. And as

dues continue to come in for the 2026–2027 year, their work carries on!

Be sure to mark your calendars for Ritual Training at Burien Lodge on May 16–17, led by Area 8 Ritual Chairman Richard Shipley. Whether you're a participant, coach, or judge, this is an incredible opportunity to grow and strengthen your Ritual performance. New officers especially - this is your chance to set the tone for excellence this year!

As you begin planning your lodge events, don't forget to share them on the WSEA Event Calendar, even a simple "save the date" can go a long way. One of the greatest joys of being an Elk is visiting other lodges, supporting their events, and building lasting friendships. Let's make it easy for one another to stay connected and involved!

And finally, our Summer Convention is just around the corner. This year holds special significance as we honor our State Sponsor, Rodger True, PGER, as he retires from this role. His contributions, leadership, and innovation have left a lasting impact not only in Washington, but across the nation. Join us as we come together to celebrate his legacy, because a simple "thank you" hardly feels like enough.



Here's to a season of growth, connection, and making a difference - together.

Fraternally,  
Caroline Bradwell  
WSEA 3rd Vice President



## WSEA Veterans Chair Recognized for Service

By Roger R. True, PGER/State Sponsor

Congratulations to Elizabeth “Lizzie” Johnston for receiving a national-level civilian recognition from Pete Hegseth, Secretary of the United States Department of War.



Chosen through a competitive process, Johnston’s recognition highlights her dedication and exceptional service supporting service members, veterans, and their families. Her work continues to reflect the very best of the Elks’ commitment to our nation’s heroes. She truly stands by her motto “Serving those who’ve Served” and grateful to BPOE for their commitment.



Lizzie became State Veterans Chair in 2005 and has never slowed down in her efforts to support our National Heros. Elizabeth will be giving a presentation at the June Convention detailing what we can do to help our veterans and service men and women. Hope to see you there to celebrate the important work of our State Veterans Chair Lizzie Johnston.

## Attention WSEA State Committee Chairpersons:

The Fraternal Year ends on March 31, 2026, not when the State Year concludes at the Summer Convention.

All End-of-Fraternal-Year committee charity reports must be submitted to the State Office by **March 31**. Please ensure your reports are turned in to WSEA Secretary Steve by this deadline.

## 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

Additionally, a reminder that Quarterly Committee Reports are due to your Executive Committee liaison by April 15, in preparation for the Quarterly Meeting on April 17 at the Lakewood Lodge.

Thank You

Thank each and every one of you for your dedication and service to our members and communities. You truly are a one-of-a-kind team, and your efforts do not go unnoticed

Fraternally,  
Scott Rainey  
WSEA President

## Ritual Committee Report



**Ritual Committee**  
Carrie Massey  
Chairperson  
Kelso-Longview Lodge #1482  
360-355-6664  
carriemelks1482@gmail.com

**Can you believe it is already April!!**

**Welcome New ER's and Officers for another exciting year.**

Ritual is a part of the Officers' training, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Lakewood. It will be nice to see and meet you.

Ritual this year will be having 2 trainings.

The first one will be a 2-day training, May 16-17th at the Burien Lodge and Richard Shipley will be leading this great training, Performers, Coaches and Judges. We are looking for more judges so come check this training out and you may become a judge if this is something that interests you. There will be plenty of time for questions. **Please RSVP to [Carriemelks1482@gmail.com](mailto:Carriemelks1482@gmail.com)**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> training date is TBA

The District Ritual Competition dates are TBA

Keep reading your Newsletters for the Dates and Places

**I am looking forward to being your WSEA Ritual Committee Chair again this upcoming year.**

If you have any questions or if your upcoming teams would like to have one on one help please feel free to reach out to myself or to your your District Ritual Committee. **The Ritual Committee is here for you all.**

East District- Lana Davick Yakima Lodge #318

North District- Richard Seeder Lynnwood Lodge #2171

Central District- Bob Walker Burien Lodge #2143

West District- Jeanna Snell Forks Lodge #2524

South District- Mark Massey Kelso-Longview #1482

Carrie Massey

WSEA Ritual Committee Chair

## WSEA OFFICER TEAM



The Washington State Elks Association, Founded in 1905, is made up of the state subordinate lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America. It currently has 36 member Lodges within Washington State and more than 20,000 members. Its purpose is to unite all Elks in closer bonds of fraternity, to promote the interests of the Order, exchange items beneficial to member Lodges, foster the virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity and to further patriotic devotion to the principles of the United States of America.

**President:**

Scott Rainey

**President Elect:**

Benjamin Braden

**Vice President/East:**

Lana Davick

**Vice President/Central:**

Scott Knight

**Vice President/South**

Caroline Bradwell

**Secretary:**

Steve Scholz

**Treasurer:**

Robert Finley

**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 Leavit

### Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children

Since 1954, the Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children, Inc. has provided home-based occupational or physical therapy to children with developmental delays or physical disabilities. Services are provided at no cost to the family served.

### Childrens Hospital



The Elks for Children's Hospital partnership between Seattle Children's Hospital and the Washington State Elks Association began in 1926 and continues today. The bond of these two entities and the care of the Elks have given hope to children in our region for more than 99 years.

# ONE ELK. 2,650 MILES. ONE PURPOSE.

## Beginning this March!

Washington State Tri-Cities Elks Lodge #2755 Past Exalted Ruler John Kristofzski begins a 2,650 mile hike on the Pacific Crest Trail. Hiking from the Mexican border to the Canadian border to raise awareness of the Elks and support for what we do as Elks.

As he hikes through California, Oregon, and Washington every mile supports:

- Children with disabilities
- Pediatric vision care
- Home-based therapy programs
- Veterans Services
- Scholarships & Community Grants

### Benefiting:

- California-Hawaii Elks Major Project
- Oregon Elks Major Project
- Washington Elks Major Project
- Elks National Foundation

**FOLLOW THE JOURNEY • SUPPORT THE MISSION • MAKE EVERY MILE MATTER**

## ElkJourney.org

Donate here • Pledge Per Mile  
Pledge a Particular Mile  
Pledge a Particular Day



Scan to Follow



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

April 5



April 7

Membership Drive  
Kelso-Longview Lodge

April 11

East District DD Clinic  
Moses Lake Elks

April 12

West District DD Clinic  
Location TBD

April 17-19

WSEA Quarterly Business Meeting/All Officer Training  
Lakewood Lodge

April 26

North District DD Clinic  
Lynnwood Lodge

May 2

Central District DD Clinic  
Burien Lodge

May 16

Ritual Training  
Burien Lodge

# Elks Care - Elks Share



## News from your State Major Project: The Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children, Inc.

Dear Members,

I am full of emotions as I approach my final days before my retirement. Reflecting on nearly 30 years of service with the Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children, Inc. I feel great pride in having provided occupational therapy, on your behalf, to children and families in Washington! So many amazing children with challenges to deal with and parents who needed support, education, and guidance about how to help their child be the best they could be. Because I worked for your State Major Project, I was able to provide them with occupational therapy sessions tailored to their needs, for an hour each week in their home. The families were so thankful that they did not have to travel to take their child to a clinic for service, and thanks to YOU, the Members of the Washington State Elks, this therapy was provided at no charge! I am forever grateful to you for the support you have given to the Washington Elks Therapy Program! I hope that you feel very proud to have served children in Washington for 72 years! Together you have created a true legacy!!

For the past 20 years, I have been the Therapy Supervisor for your State Major Project. I am so very proud of the 17 occupational and physical therapists that we have on our team! Because of their dedication and commitment, children across the great state of Washington are receiving therapy services to improve the quality of their lives.

I am profoundly grateful to the Elks who have provided leadership for the Washington Elks Therapy Program through the years. I have been invited to present about the Therapy Program at your Lodges, or Summer/Winter conventions of the Washington State Elks Association. One of my favorite ways to show the importance and value of your Therapy Program is to bring a child and family for a Therapy Demonstration. These sessions give you the opportunity to see exactly what your Therapy Program is all about and ask questions. Know that what you witness at those events is being replicated across the state and serving hundreds of children daily. Given 72 years of therapy services, YOU have improved the lives of thousands of children!!

I hope that you all continue to have great pride in your Therapy Program and State Major Project. I'm counting on you to STAND TALL in support of "Our Kids" for many years to come.

With gratitude,

*Becky Gibson*, OTR/L Washington Elks Therapy Supervisor

**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 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND BE THERE!**

## Discover Elks and the Moran Family: Where Service Meets the Starting Line



Some stories don't begin in a lodge room; they begin in the rumble of a short-track pit road.

A couple of years ago, the Discover Elks Group set out with a simple idea: meet families where they already are. Find young leaders with grit. Show what service looks like in real life.

That search led straight to a Washington brother and sister who grew up under the lights of racetracks across the Northwest.

Kaidyn Moran had been wrenching and racing since she could reach the pedals. Her brother Madex was just starting to make a name for himself in Super Late Models. Their family, they represent something familiar to every Elk: hard work, loyalty, long weekends, and a belief that you show up for your people. They represent generations of service to the Elks and their community.

From a handshake in the pits came the #05 Discover Elks sponsored Super Late Model. More than a race car, it was a moving invitation. An invitation to see what the Elks are about. An invitation to belong to the most charitable and patriotic volunteer organization this country has ever known.

In 2024, Madex charged from deep in the field to finish sixth in his first ever Mission Valley Super Oval Montana 200. An effort that turned heads and proved he belonged on the big stage. But what mattered more than this finish was what happened around it throughout the 2024 season.



Kids lined up at the track and lodge car shows to have Madex sign hero cards on the hood. Families stopped by Elks booths on race nights. Child ID kits were completed under pop-up canopies while engines warmed in the background. A Back-to-School Auto Extravaganza rolled right alongside a Discover Elks Child ID event featuring Madex Moran. This is the Elks at our best, community service woven right into the fabric of everyday life.

By 2025, the partnership had grown into a rhythm. Lodge night on Friday. Racing under the lights on Saturday. Conversations on Sunday about how to join.

Across the summer, whether at the track or a lodge around the country, Elk's members showed up. They came not just to watch a race, but to engage each other, tell stories, and introduce friends and families to what it means to be part of something bigger, to see the Elks on a big stage.

The spotlight widened at the 160th Elks Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City in June 2025. Discover Elks presented a seminar on modern outreach and youth engagement featuring, you guessed it, 17-year-old Madex Moran. Both by name in the program and in person behind the podium. He wasn't there as a novelty. He was there as proof.

Proof that youth leadership still matters, that families are looking for connection, that when Elks meet people where they gather, they respond.

Later that season, the #05 Discover Elks car rolled into the Colorado National Speedway for its CARS Tour West debut in August of 2025. By October, Madex climbed into the Discover Elks entry



at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway Bullring, one of the premier short tracks in the country. Those weren't just races.

They were statements. Statements that The Elks are here, that we are proud and that we are making a difference. Now, the horizon stretches even farther.

For 2026, Discover Elks and Madex Moran Motorsports are expanding their partnership with a fully wrapped Discover Elks race hauler traveling highways across Washington, Idaho, and Colorado. Thousands of motorists will see that message rolling down the interstate. Thousands of race fans will see it pull through the gates.



The Northwest Pro Late Model Cars Tour West schedule will carry that message to:

- April 11 – Tri-City Raceway, West Richland, WA
- April 25 – Wenatchee Super Oval, Wenatchee, WA
- June 13 – Stateline Speedway, Post Falls, ID
- June 27 – Evergreen Speedway, Monroe, WA
- July 18 – Stateline Speedway, Post Falls, ID
- August 1 – Colorado National Speedway, Dacono, CO
- August 14 – Evergreen Speedway, Monroe, WA
- September 5 – Tri-City Raceway, West Richland, WA
- September 19 – Wenatchee Valley Super Oval, Wenatchee, WA

But the real story isn't the schedule.

It's the family behind the wheel. It's a sister who understands the craft and stands shoulder to shoulder in the pits. It's parents who haul, prepare, and believe. It's a young driver who straps in not just to compete, but to represent something amazing.

The ideals of the racing community: discipline, respect, teamwork, and heart, they mirror the ideals of the Elks. On the track, you rely on your crew. In the Lodge, you rely on your fellow members. On the track, you stand for a prayer and our national anthem before things start. In the Elks, you do the same.

Every lap turned by the #05 Discover Elks car is a reminder that our Order is not stuck in the past. It is alive. It is moving. It is willing to stand in new places and say, "You belong here."

This partnership was never just about decals on race cars. It is about connection. It is about building bridges between generations. It is about showing that the Elks are not just in Lodge rooms. We are in grandstands, in pit lanes, in communities, and on highways across the Northwest.

When you see that Discover Elks hauler rolling down the road in 2026, remember what it represents.



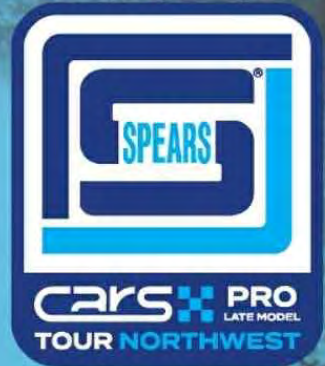
It represents a family who believes in hard work and service. It represents young people who still want to lead. It represents Elks who are willing to meet the next generation where they are.


And maybe most importantly, it represents you. Because at the heart of this story isn't just a race car. It's a shared belief that when you put youth, family, and service in the same lane, you don't just build fans. You build community, you build the Elks.

That is something worth racing for.

# CARS TOUR NORTHWEST

## 2026 PRO LATE MODEL SCHEDULE



PRESENTED BY  HOOSIER



**APPLE CUP / TRI-CITY RACEWAY**  
WEST RICHLAND, WASH.

**APRIL 11**

**LEONARD EVANS MEM. / WENATCHEE VALLEY SUPER OVAL**  
WENATCHEE, WASH.

**APRIL 25**

**ROAD TO 200 / STATELINE SPEEDWAY**  
POST FALLS, IDAHO

**JUNE 13**

**MARK GALLOWAY SHOOTOUT / EVERGREEN SPEEDWAY**  
MONROE, WASH.

**JUNE 27**

**IDAHO 200 / STATELINE SPEEDWAY**  
POST FALLS, IDAHO

**JULY 18**

**SUMMER NATIONALS / COLORADO NATIONAL SPEEDWAY**  
DACONO, COLO.

**AUG. 2**

**SUMMER SHOWDOWN / EVERGREEN SPEEDWAY**  
MONROE, WASH.

**AUG. 14**

**LABOR DAY SPECTACULAR / TRI-CITY RACEWAY**  
WEST RICHLAND, WASH.

**SEPT. 5**

**JERRY BERSCHAUER 125 / WENATCHEE VALLEY SUPER OVAL**  
WENATCHEE, WASH.

**SEPT. 19**



## Elizabeth Johnston

### Who is your State Veterans Chair?

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WSEA Veterans Chair & Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service Chair**

**Email: [Elks4vets@gmail.com](mailto:Elks4vets@gmail.com) Cell 360-430-6682**



**WA State Elks Association**

## News of the 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!

### Raymond Elks Lodge #1292

Raymond Elks hosted the Annual Community Baby Shower, funded by the ENF Gratitude Grant. The Ladies of Elks auxiliary purchased thousands of diapers, wipes, baby hygiene items, and books available and provided robot-inspired snacks for the children. Shown are first-time dad Ryan, Lecturing Knight Vickie Jenkins, and member Sasha Bigtas holding 9-month-old Maison, enjoying his book.



A Community Baby Shower with an early learning initiative that establishes the foundation for parents to raise healthy, active readers. The remaining 25 diaper sets and

books were donated to the Early Learning Center's Diaper Bank.



### Everett Elks Lodge #479

Everett Elks were busy in the month of March delivering Welcome Home Packages to three Veterans who were able to access stable housing. The Welcome Home Packages all included household basics for kitchen, bathroom and bedroom, a microwave and coffee maker. Two of them included a new bed for the Veteran. In addition to the household items the veterans were provided cleaning supplies, laundry detergent and fabric softener.



## Forks Lodge #2524

Forks Elks donated \$4,000 to the Forks Food Bank, a local charitable nonprofit, on March 5, 2026.



On the left is Nicole King, Leading Knight for 2026-2027, Lodge #2524, and on the right is Forks Food Bank Operations Manager Sena Engeseth. Nicole is one of the many members of Lodge #2524 that volunteers at the Food Bank weekly and is on its Board. Sena is also a member of our Lodge.

## Oak Harbor Elks Lodge #2462

Oak Harbor Elks Support Local Veterans with a Charitable Trust Grant. On Thursday, February 26, volunteers from Oak Harbor Elks Lodge #2462 proudly partnered with the Washington State Elks Association Charitable Trust to support veterans in need in Island County.

Through a Charitable Trust Grant, the lodge provided essential assistance to the Opportunity Council Island County Veterans Center. The project delivered 24 pairs of sweatpants and 15 Safeway gift cards valued at \$25 each, helping veterans access both warm clothing and groceries during the winter season.

The total project cost was \$752.13, funded primarily through a \$750 Washington State Elks Charitable Trust Grant, with the small remaining amount covered by Oak Harbor Elks veterans committee donations.



The items were formally presented by Oak Harbor Veterans Chair Brent Hundley, representing the many lodge volunteers who helped organize and deliver the effort.



## Oak Harbor Lodge News Continued...

This project highlights how the Washington State Elks Charitable Trust Grant program empowers local lodges to make a direct difference in their communities. With the support of the grant and the dedication of Oak Harbor Elks volunteers, meaningful assistance reached veterans who need it most.

Together, these efforts reflect the Elks' long-standing commitment of serving those who served our country, living our Elks pledge: So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them

## Moses Lake Elks Lodge #2892

To help eliminate the use and abuse of drugs the Moses Lake Elks lodge participated in the Moses Lake Business Expo. Take a look at the great pictures. Elroy the Elk joined lodge members to visit with the community and spread this important message.



The Elks National Drug Awareness Program is the largest volunteer drug awareness initiative in the United States.

The Elks are committed to eliminating the use and abuse of illegal drugs by all members of society and believe that to ensure a bright

future for our country, it is essential that our children be raised in a drug-free environment.

Our goals are:

- To educate all ages on the dangers of drug and alcohol use.
- To provide opportunities for students to educate peers.
- Promote Red Ribbon Week to honor the memory of DEA agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena
- Provide contests with a new theme each year in the areas of essay, poster, and video promoting drug awareness.
- Provide an Enrique Camarena award each year to recognize an individual for their work in promoting drug awareness.



# ELKS

## HOW TO? Access your Digital Membership Card

You must carry your Elks membership card with you at all times.

*Leave your card at home? No problem!*

- 1 Go to [Elks.org](https://Elks.org) and click on “login”
- 2 Create an account or login
- 3 Click on [Digital Membership Card](#)

Community • Friendship • Charity  
[elks.org](https://elks.org)



# NEW!

## YOUR ONE-STOP HUB FOR ALL BALLARD 827 TICKETED EVENTS.

Click through to our  
Zeffy page to browse  
upcoming events  
and buy your tickets.



# Easter Sunday

April 5th



All You Can Eat  
**\$5 Pancakes!**

**10 A.M.**



Easter Hunt  
Promptly at **12:01!**

Come join us for the  
festivities!

**Puyallup 1450!**





**BREMERTON ELKS LODGE**



# **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**AGES 3 TO 10  
OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC  
FREE EVENT**

**HOP ON OVER FOR OUR ANNUAL EASTER EGG  
HUNT! WE'RE HIDING 6,000 EGGS, INCLUDING  
"SPECIAL PRIZE" GOLDEN EGGS! THERE WILL  
BE A SPECIAL VISIT BY THE EASTER BUNNY.  
DON'T FORGET YOUR BASKETS!**

**APRIL 5, 2026 | 1:30PM**  
SHARP!

**AT BREMERTON ELKS LODGE**

4131 Pine Road NE, Bremerton 98310  
360-479-1181



PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
SEATTLE ELKS #92 • 2026-27

# *Officer Installation*

## SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH

Doors Open 3:30pm  
Installation Ceremony 4:30pm

**FOLLOWED BY:**

**Social Hour & Dinner**  
*from our delicious menu*

**Queen of the Hill Drawing 7:00pm**

**Eleventh Hour Toast 11:00pm**

Lodge Officers installed by *North District Deputy Arnold Smith*  
along with Past Exalted Rulers from the North District.



**OFFICERS TO BE INSTALLED:**

Exalted Ruler – *John Fry*  
Esteemed Leading Knight – *Tara Espinoza*  
Esteemed Loyal Knight – *Kenneth Lyons*  
Lodge Secretary – *Brian Marshall*  
Lodge Treasurer – *Susan Allen*  
Lodge Esquire – *Sean Erickson*  
Lodge Chaplain – *Patrick Nolan*  
Lodge Trustee – *Sabina Mueller*  
Lodge Trustee – *John Aldaya*



**11  
APRIL**

**09  
AM**



**FREE  
TO ALL  
VETERANS**

**HONORING  
THOSE  
WHO HAVE  
SERVED**



★ ★ ★ **VETERANS** ★ ★ ★

**BREAKFAST BUFFET**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**BREAKFAST: 9AM – 11AM**

**YAKIMA ELKS LODGE #318**

**318 GOLF COURSE LOOP ROAD, SELAH WA 98942**



# VETERANS STAND DOWN

*Honoring all who served*

**Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Puyallup Elks Lodge**

**314 27<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Puyallup, WA**

- ★ Health and wellness screenings
- ★ Employment resources
- ★ Free haircuts, clothing and food
- ★ Community resources
- ★ VA benefit information
- ★ Financial resources
- ★ Housing support and referrals
- ★ Legal assistance



For more information contact:

Victor DeHerrera

253-302-7789

vicdeha@yahoo.com

Veterans Chair

**Transportation provided  
from these pick-up locations  
starting at 9:00 am:**

**VAN Route 1:**

Tacoma Rescue Mission (TRM)

Stability Site

Nativity house

38<sup>th</sup> & Pacific

**VAN Route 2:**

Family Promise

Oasis

Aspen Court



**ELKS  
DAHLIA TUBER  
SALE**

**ALL TUBERS \$5 EACH**

Friday & Saturday

April 17 & 18, 2026

10 AM-5 PM

Bremerton Elks Lodge

4131 Pine RD

Bremerton, WA 98310

in the RV Shelter



# *Italian Summer* **PAINT & SIP**

Join us for a fun afternoon of painting  
& sipping at Everett Elks 479!  
All supplies included.

- Saturday April 18th - 4:00pm
- Choose from Lemons or Oranges
- Italian Dinner included
- Available to Members & their guests
- **\$50.00 per person**

Tickets available March 5th  
from Jessica Mumm



**Everett Elks 479**

# KENTUCKY DERBY & HORSE RACES

17  
AT THE EVERETT ELKS



**SATURDAY, MAY 2ND, 2026**

**WATCH THE RACE AT 3:57PM PST!**  
**Horse Races Start at 5:30PM!**



**Best Dressed  
Prize!**



**Best Hat  
Prize!**



**Best Jockey  
Prize!**

**JOIN US FOR A FAST & FUN TIME!**





# ELKS RITUAL TRAINING

*For Performers, Coaches & Judges*

**Dates:** Saturday, May 16th & Sunday May 17th, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Location:** Burien Elks Lodge #2143

14006 1st Ave S, Burien, WA 98168

**Lunch Cost:** TBD

Join us for focused ritual instruction, skill development, and collaborative training designed to strengthen performance and uphold the traditions of Elkdom.

All Performers, Coaches, and Judges are encouraged to attend.

