



ISEA NEWSLETTER

Idaho State Elks Association

Volume 1, Issue 2
Summer 2024

A Letter from Ed Willson



I am excited to likely represent the ISEA as President for the Fraternal year 2024/2025. My entire immediate family will be attending the Grand Lodge Convention in Austin, Texas to watch me carry out the Idaho flag, if elected. What an awesome honor.

As I begin to plan my visitations to all 21 lodges, please reach out to me if there are any events on your lodge's schedule that you would like me to attend. Kathleen and I will attempt to

make that happen.

During our summer convention you will have the chance see our new video highlighting the many investments that the Idaho Elks Rehab has made and the difference that it makes in Idahoan's ability to receive rehabilitation in their local areas. We are encouraging all lodges in the state to use this video during their new member orientation and to share this with existing members to further their understanding of what our State project is and does.

In conjunction with the video for new member orientation we will be providing purple banks to all new members to help foster a sense of giving to the

state project. Our hope is that we will collect these banks at the conventions and report the amount collected before convention ends. In future newsletters, I will try and report on some of the great things we have experienced at lodges throughout the state.

Thanks again for your confidence.

Fraternally,
Ed Willson, ISEA President Elect. ♦

Summer Convention Agenda
Introduction of Dignitaries,
Committee Reports, Election &
Installation of State Officers, State
Memorial Service

Sandpoint Lodge Golfing to Support Veterans

The 17th annual Patriotic Golf Scramble on September 15th is ramping up to make this year even bigger and more successful than the last. Over the past 16 years, the Sandpoint Lodge #1376 has been hosting this golf scramble and have contributed just shy of \$200,000 to the local Veterans organizations, American Legion, Marine Corp League, Veter-



Tom Spade, 85

ans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans of American to assist them in helping Veterans and their families in Bonner and Boundary counties.

Golfers of all abilities are encouraged to participate. We would welcome players from other Elks

Lodges in the state join in on the fun and help us support our local veterans.

You never know who you might run into up here in Sandpoint...Uncle Sam even showed his support this past year. We have been truly blessed over the years with fantastic weather and we are hopeful that streak to continue. Who knows who might show up this year.

If interested in playing, sponsoring or supporting this tournament please contact Linda Tatlock at

ltatlock55@gmail.com ♦

Caldwell Lodge Recognizes Old Timers

On March 21st Caldwell Lodge #1448 held their annual dinner recognizing members with 30+ years of membership in the Order. The approximately 50 members in attendance were served ham, scalloped potatoes and green beans along with a cobbler and ice cream for desert. Years of membership pins were awarded starting at 30 years and then every 5 years thereafter.



In attendance were two members with 68 years of membership, Bob Collins and Herb Lewis, along with Past Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills who has 35 years in the Order.

Pictured left to right are: PGER Keith Mills, Herb Lewis, Bob Collins and ER Larry Hovorka. ♦

Members and the Elks National Foundation

Elks National Foundation is our organization's charitable arm. It is a member's way to donate money to a myriad of projects that make the Elks what we are. Whether you are fond of Hoop Shoot, like reading about the national scholarship winners, or have seen what ENF grants have paid for around your community, its ENF behind the scenes. ENF helps all lodges and states in many ways.

Each year the GER sets a modest goal, a suggested per person donation. This was \$4.80 per person in 23-24. Often a lodge receives two to three times its total donation back in grants. It is a great investment. There are different grants, with focus on differing community

needs. Lodge Chairs can find all the information at [Elks.org](https://www.elks.org).

A Gratitude Grant, which can be used in different ways to help the community, so long as projects are Elks driven, is awarded only to lodges that meet the GER goal. Chairs who register themselves in Chair Challenge at [Elks.org](https://www.elks.org) and earn a certain number of points can add to that grant base the following year. There are many other ways to add dollars to Gratitude grants and ENF chairs should become familiar with possibilities at [Elks.org](https://www.elks.org).

This past lodge year, all Idaho lodges met the GER goal. We also had five lodges whose ENF Chairs scored over

500 points in the Chair Challenge. They were Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, Sandpoint and St. Maries. Special recognition to Lewiston's ENF 23-24 Chair Pam Moore, who scored 875 out of possible 1000. This is fantastic!

District Chairs can help ENF Lodge Chairs get started. North District is Donna Lloyd, Couer d'Alene Lodge, South District is Chuck Roberts, PSP, Caldwell Lodge and East District is Becky Penn, PER, Rupert Lodge.

Let's see what great things lodges do this year with ENF funds!

Susan Ketchum, PER
ISEA ENF Chair ♦

Blackfoot Lodge Hosts Community Dinner Table

For six years Blackfoot Lodge #1416 has been showing how Elks care by regularly helping feed those in need around their community. They host the Community Dinner Table (CDT) meal each week. CDT is a local food program in the Blackfoot area.

The help doesn't stop with the dinners. On March 26, 2024 the lodge presented CDT with a check for \$6500. As it happens, this amount will be

matched by another organization, The Hall Foundation. Elks working with other groups to help those in need is what makes our order great.

The \$6500 will be used towards not only the weekly dinners, but to stock the Community Food Pantry. Thus allowing those in need to have options for good food in their homes.

Idaho State Elks President, Mike Marvin, was in attendance to help

Exalted Ruler, Scott Hall, with presentation of the check. ♦



Boise Lodge Helps Local High School JROTC Program

Boise Lodge #310 used an Elks National Foundation Grant to purchase sweatshirts for Borah High School's JROTC Program. JROTC participants were also involved with Boise Lodge by helping with a Flag Retirement

Ceremony, respectfully retiring worn flags following U.S. Flag Code.

The advisor for the program, Hugo Manzo, Major U.S. Army (retired) said the lodge's support, "...has made a real difference and I'm grateful for

everything you've done".

This Lodge involvement with the school community is truly indicative of the Elks community involvement at all levels. ♦

Preston Lodge Activities with Veterans



Volunteers from Preston Lodge #1670 play Pinochle every Friday with veterans from the Pocatello Veterans Home. All abilities are welcome as the volunteers provide instruction and assistance to beginners.

Some of the volunteers are Lois

Mendoza, Exalted Ruler, Ralph West, Susan West and Lori West among others. Elks care about Veterans and providing a welcomed activity on Friday evenings. ♦

Boise Lodge Supports Meals on Wheels Program

Boise Lodge #310 made a \$4,500 donation to Meals on Wheels Metro Boise. That translates to nearly 1,000 hot, nutritious meals for seniors in the Boise area.

During a Lodge membership meeting, Kim Miller, then Exalted Ruler, presented Metro CEO Grant Jones with the check. Several members of the Lodge, including Kim Miller, immediate Past Exalted Ruler and Geri Scaglione,



Pictured: Joe - Meals on Wheels Driver, Kim Miller - PER, Geri Scaglione - PER

PER, delivered meals, too!

Meals on Wheels Metro Boise delivers and serves more than 2,000 meals each weekday throughout Ada County, Emmett, Middleton, Marsing, Caldwell, and McCall. Meals on Wheels is more than just a meal to seniors – it also means a daily safety check, socialization, and enables them to remain independent at home, and often with their pets. ♦

Idaho Falls Lodge Utilizes ENF Grant for Backpacks

The Idaho Falls Lodge #1087 received the '23-24 ENF Gratitude Grant. With these funds the Lodge was able to purchase 96 backpacks and many different supplies to fill each pack up.

Exalted Ruler Sherree Engelstad was responsible for this idea and execution. It wouldn't have happened

without the help of others; several volunteers from the Elks came together and filled the backpacks!

The fully loaded backpacks were presented to 9 different schools. The Elks Lodge enlisted the assistance of several students from the Career Technical Educational Center in Idaho Falls

School District 91 to help with distribution! We received great feedback from the schools; they were so thankful and very appreciative!

Those who assisted in this effort thoroughly enjoyed it and were filled with gratitude for the opportunity of being involved. ♦

Key Activities of the State Trustees

Your Idaho State Elks Association (ISEA) Trustees, together with the ISEA Board of Directors and Keith Mills continue to work to provide resources to Idaho Lodges to help ensure their success in their on-the-ground efforts to support their community investments, and mission to develop fellowship, friendship, volunteerism, youth services, veterans services, and charity.

ISEA chairs several state committees focused on specific areas, includ-

ing Accident Prevention, Americanism, Business Practices, Drug Awareness, Training, Government Relations, Hoop Shoot, Idaho State Elks Youth, Inc. (ISEY), Insurance Risk Management, Internet Administration, Major Project and Administration, Membership and Marketing, National Foundation, and more. These committees are a resource for Lodges to help meet goals in each area.

Most recently, the Trustees attended a joint meeting with the board

of our state major project, Idaho Elks Rehab, which is advancing physical rehab in Idaho, supporting not-for-profit physical rehabilitation, educators and researchers throughout the state. Assuring the ongoing financial health and viability of the state major project and assisting local lodges with special projects is a key goal of the Trustees.

Ron Niemi, Trustee North ♦

Idaho Falls Lodge Helps Feed Community

The Idaho Falls Lodge #1087 held our 4th Annual Community Food project on March 9th. This event is the brainchild of PER Julie French and her desire, commitment, and passion to serve the community of Idaho Falls, ID which is still recovering from the devastating effects of COVID-19.

An event this large would not be possible without the assistance of vol-

unteers within our Lodge; it took many hours of preparation for this event as well as the manpower required for the day of distribution. Food donations not only came from local businesses and agricultural companies, including Potanodon, Potato Products of Idaho (PPI), Idahoan, Idaho Environmental Coalition, Idaho Building Trades and SMART, Kroger, Merle Norman Cosmetics and

Johnson Brothers. Additionally, we received numerous monetary and food donations from individual parties.

Last year we were able to provide 2 boxes of groceries for 200 families. Our goal this year was to provide for 300 families, however because of the escalating cost of groceries our funds allowed us to provide for only 270 families. ♦

Idaho State Elks Association

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We're on the web!
Idahoelks.org

IDAHO
STATE *Elks* ASSOCIATION

Community | Friendship | Charity

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SPOTLIGHT ON ELKS

Coeur D'Alene Lodge #1254 would like to recognize members Richard Lawson, Gene McCloskey and Lynn Bokks for taking time out of their lives to spend a week each in Seattle with a fellow member, Cliff Shove, who needed 24 hour care after intensive medical treatment in Seattle.

Boise Lodge #310 submitted three members for this honor. Robert Apa, who volunteers at St. Vincent DePaul Charity; Michael Knickerbocker, who volunteers at River of Life Men's Shelter which serves homeless men, some are veterans; Patricia Truden, who volunteers at Boise Veteran's Medical Center.

Someone you want to nominate?

Email their name, Lodge, title of office and a brief description of their service supporting other Elks or Veterans to suesturn@aol.com

Stepping Up to Lead: A Note of Gratitude and Responsibility

I want to express my profound appreciation to each of you who have taken on a role on a committee or stepped up to lead your Lodge. Your contributions are invaluable to the functioning of our organization. While the tasks may not always be glamorous and can sometimes be challenging, they are crucial.



Remember the driving force that led you to accept your role and harness that motivation when you encounter difficulties. Leadership is multifaceted, and you may find yourself in situations where you must collaborate with indi-

viduals you may not necessarily align with.

For example, I chose leadership in the Elks because I deeply care about our Lodges' work in our communities and the people who make up my Lodge. We are all necessary, and our work is important. When I feel frustrated, I remind myself of the reason I chose to lead. Reminding myself of my purpose usually motivates me to overcome obstacles and move forward.

Please be mindful of your capacities and limitations. Taking on more than you can handle jeopardizes your well-being and risks the smooth functioning of your Lodge and the quality of service we provide to our community. If you feel overwhelmed, consider your current roles and eliminate some in

which you are not integral.

Should the need arise for you to step down from your role, please consider a graceful transition. Offer the Lodge an opportunity to transition your role to another capable individual. Always be on the lookout for individuals you feel possess the passion, dedication, and skills necessary to fulfill your responsibilities, and begin mentoring them immediately. Having an exit strategy will help ensure continuity and stability within your Lodge, safeguarding your legacy of service to your Lodge.

I sincerely appreciate each of you for your unwavering dedication to our cause. Our organization's strength lies in its collective spirit.

Fraternally,
Sera White, Vice President North ♦