



# ISEA NEWSLETTER

Idaho State Elks Association

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2024

## State Newsletter Revived!

I want to welcome all of my fellow Elks to our new digital newsletter. This is an exciting way to keep up on what's happening in Lodges around our state, what the state officers are doing, how grants are being spent and many other issues surrounding our great Idaho State Elks Association. This newsletter is about you and your Lodge! You contribute and I look forward to those contributions.

The goal is to have this newsletter quarterly. Articles for future newsletters need to be to me by the 20th of month before publication. Our next newsletter will be out in June and will contain convention highlights. That means other submissions should be in by May 20th. My email for articles is

suesturn@aol.com. If there is a Lodge activity you want included that borders on due date, just get ahold of me and we can work something out. Please be advised at times articles may need to be edited for space. Also, remember to run spell check before sending. I will try to correct any obvious errors.

Articles about upbeat, fun things that highlight our great organization, the community service we do and our fellowship are the foundation of this newsletter. Pictures of high quality are welcome. Please keep articles short and concise.

This will be completely digital. No advertisements at this time. Your Lodge will be in charge of distributing through newsletter or email.

I will be editing it, but hope Lodges will be the force behind the newsletter. Having four generations of my family belong to Elks in Idaho, I truly believe in our great programs and the need to share our accomplishments!

Dustin Roberts has agreed to put his awesome talent to work in the layout of our newsletter! I thank him for taking on this huge task!

Also, thanks for those who have offered to help as regular contributors, Chuck Roberts, Lori Marvin and Robin Moore.

Susan Ketchum, Editor ♦

## A Message From Your State Sponsor

Greetings Idaho State Elks Association. It is nice to get a Newsletter for the Idaho Elks Association again.

Most of you will remember that we use to have a Newspaper in the Spring and Fall, but due to printing and distribution costs the State had to stop the publication. This is a great means for all the Lodges in Idaho to get the word out on all the great things we do for our communities, not to mention the social gatherings that the Lodges do.

Hopefully this will also serve as a community calendar for the Lodges to help advertise their events across the State and encourage participation from other Lodges in the state to these events.



Amy and I are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Idaho State

Elks Summer Convention to be held in Nampa in June. We cannot say it enough to the Membership of Idaho, but Thank You for all the support. Both of us are looking forward to spending time with all of you.

Fraternally,  
Keith Mills,  
Idaho State Sponsor ♦

## Blackfoot Lodge Takes Helping Veterans Seriously

Last May, Blackfoot Lodge had a dinner and fundraiser to help the local Veteran's Cemetery provide a comfortable waiting area for the Honor Guard at veteran funerals. A check for \$11,195.11 was presented to Mark Weaver, Idaho State Cemetery Director. Pictured L to R are: Mark Weaver, District Veterans Chair Lori



Marvin, ISEA President Mike Marvin, and ER Scott Hall.

In addition, the Blackfoot Lodge Veterans Program donated \$3,000.00 to the residents of Pocatello Veterans Home for hair services. ♦

## State President's Travels

Welcome to the first addition of Idaho State Elks digital newsletter. I think this is a great thing that all the lodges can be involved with. It will let other Lodges know what is going on in our lodges and the communities we live in.

This last year has been a wonderful experience for not only me, but my wife as well. We recently returned from the Washington State Convention at Sea Tac, and it was unbelievable how we were treated. The lodges Lori and I visited were awesome and it was fun to learn how different lodges do different things to make their lodge successful.

The Idaho State Elks Hoop Shoot

happened recently in Blackfoot. It is always amazing to see the competitors shoot and see how they react to this great event. A big shout out to Harley and Candy Birchmier for organizing this and getting all the youth to Blackfoot. There needs to be a thank you to Travis Packer of the Blackfoot Lodge and all his helpers who helped make this event go off without a hitch. Ok, maybe there was a hitch, but they covered it up well and no one saw it. Just kidding great job to everyone who helped.



Now it's off to the Tri-Cities for regional Hoop Shoot. I hope that all of Idaho will hopefully be represented at the National Hoop Shoot in Chicago in April.

We all be able to gather again in Nampa, in June, for the summer convention but before that I am working on visiting all the lodges in Idaho. If there is something coming up at your Lodge, please get it out and hopefully Lori and I will be able to attend.

I would like to thank all of you, as well, for allowing me to represent Idaho as your president. It has been an experience I will not forget.

Mike Marvin, ISEA President ♦

## A Brief History of Idaho Elks Rehab

In the next few months my role with the blessing of the attendees at our upcoming Summer Convention will change to State President. I am beyond excited to be the spokesperson for the Idaho State Elks Association and to support our state project: "Idaho Elks Rehab".

For those of you that were not able to attend my presentation at the Winter



Convention held in Lewiston, the presentation began by looking back to the beginnings of the Rehab Hospital. It all began in 1943 when the state purchased the former home of Dr. Collister located in Boise.

When the home was ready to accept patients in 1948 the immediate need had changed to become a convalescence home for children with polio. Over the next decades the state purchased additional property and built the new facility that we now know as the Idaho State Elks Rehab Hospital. While we no longer pro-

vide in person care we continue to support the hospital owned by ISEA and run by St. Lukes.

Our mission has changed, but our focus on helping the residents of Idaho with funding local projects throughout the state has made a big difference in rural areas to help provide Physical Rehabilitation.

There will be more to share in the coming months with new educational products to better understand where we have made a difference.

Ed Willson, Vice President South ♦

## Why should your friends and family join the Elks?

To meet and cultivate lifelong friendships. Network within the community. The Elks Lodge affords you the opportunity to join your neighbors, friends and take a

prominent role in improving our community life. To promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; To quicken the spirit of American patriotism

and good fellowship.

Lori J. Marvin

Membership & Marketing Chairman ♦

## Mountain Home Thanks Hoop Shoot Volunteers

One of BPOE's biggest youth activities happens at the local lodge, district and state level. This is, of course, Hoop Shoot. A chance for youth to show off their free-throw shooting skills. It is an opportunity for participants to shine in their communities and possibly on the national level.

Last year (2023) Idaho had two youth qualify for nationals. This year the Hoop Shoot National Finals will be held

April 18-21, 2024 in Chicago, IL.

As with all our programs, they don't happen without volunteers. Every lodge depends on the members who give their time. They all deserve thanks and Mountain Home Lodge #2276 sends a big thank you to their Hoop Shoot volunteers. ♦



L to R: Guy DiTortice, Christine Negri, John Cristobol, Jacci Cristobol, Aaron Hobbs, Mattie Bennett (coordinator) and Jimmie Bennett.

## Strengthening Our Community, One Hour at a Time

Idaho Elks inspire me with their dedication to service and fellowship. We positively impact our communities and the lives of those we serve. Small acts have big impacts. I want to encourage all members to consider dedicating one hour a month to their Lodge. This hour could include simple tasks such as organizing a storage closet, vacuuming floors, watering plants, or bussing tables. Many hands make light work. If all the Lodge members



donated 1 hour a month, on average each Lodge would have 300 hours of volunteer work a month. Imagine what your Lodge could do with all of this extra help!

Here are some ways you can motivate your members to volunteer their time:

Share stories of small time contributions that have made a difference in your Lodge and/or community. People are more likely to get involved when they see the tangible results of their efforts.

Provide a variety of volunteer opportunities with flexible schedules. This way, members can choose activities that align with their interests and availability.

Recognize and appreciate members who consistently dedicate their time. A little acknowledgment can go a long way in inspiring others to follow suit.

We are more than just an organization. We are a team of individuals committed to improving the world. By inspiring even a single hour of volunteerism each month, we will continue to strengthen our bonds, deepen our impact, and ensure a bright future for our Lodges.

Thank you for your dedication and passion for our cause. Together, we achieve great things every day!

Fraternally,

Sera White, Vice President North ♦

## Boise Lodge #310 Honors Law Enforcement Officers

During a February Awards Ceremony, Boise Elks Lodge honored four local law enforcement officers for their exceptional service. Honored were Boise Police Officers Chris Dance and Jason Shofner for

their actions during a shooting at Boise Town Square Mall, Star Police Officer Ashley Turner for her investigative techniques involving crimes against children and Eagle Deputy Ryan Vail who was

awarded The Life Saving Medal for rushing into a dangerous scene.

Congratulations to all the officers! ♦

## A Rewarding Use of ENF Grant Money

This year, Coeur d'Alene Lodge #1254 combined the Beacon and Spotlight grants for a total of \$6,000. This grant was awarded to Special Needs Recreation (SNR), a non-profit offering adult daycare and children's summer camp. They cater to individuals with special needs including but not limited to those with autism, emotional, physical and intellectual needs.

Director Lindsay Patterson suggested that Elks members could put on a cooking

class. We are working with their class schedule to do this. We are excited at this opportunity to interact with such a welcoming group of people. ♦



### Reminder!

ENF donations must be received by Grand Lodge no later than March 27th

## Busy Lodge Helps Many in Community

What a year it's been for Pocatello Lodge #674!

We applied and received several ENF grants and have been able to get that funding back out to community. One of the recipients, for the past few years, has been Valley Mission. They are working to renovate a



building in downtown Pocatello for homeless rehabilitation. In addition they distribute food from the Idaho Food Bank and local businesses each week.

We were also able to help the Veterans Home, located in Pocatello, with donations each month of fresh fruits and toiletries.

Our monthly bingo night continues to grow and we have donated proceeds throughout the community, including to the Senior Citizen Center.

Pocatello Lodge was once again able to have a float in the annual Veterans Parade, handing out candy and drug awareness ribbons to young onlookers.

We try to live up to the motto coined by Grand Exalted Ruler, Randy Shook, "We Are The Elks!" ♦

## Idaho State Elks Association

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# IDAHO

STATE *Elks* ASSOCIATION

Community | Friendship | Charity

A publication of The Idaho State Elks Association

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### 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](mailto:suesturn@aol.com)

## SPOTLIGHT ON ELKS

**Mike and Kay of Coeur d'Alene Lodge #1254** for the past 3 years have been driving an 84 year-old veteran to all his doctors appointments in Spokane and taking him to lunch several times a week. This allows him to get out and get good meals that he otherwise wouldn't be able to enjoy.

**Ron Fry, PER of Mt. Home Lodge #2276** was informed that a long-time Elk needed a ride to the hospital. Even though it was fairly late, he jumped in his car, drove across town, took the fellow Elk to the hospital and waited until they were transported to Boise. When informed of a fellow Elk who had lost his previous ride to a regular monthly eye appointment, Mr. Fry stepped up to drive that Elk to the appointments.

## State Major Project

Ten years after ceasing operation of the rehab hospital, there still remains some confusion or uncertainty about what our state project is. Simply, our state project, Idaho Elks Rehab, advances community rehab across the state by funding rehab through partnerships with providers.

The impact of our state project over the last decade is nothing short of phenomenal. The footprint of Idaho Elks Rehab funding continues to stretch further and further across the state, from Bonners Ferry in the far north to Preston in the extreme south, and everywhere in between. Idaho Elks Rehab-funded projects and efforts are found in communities large and small – Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint, Post Falls, Wallace, St. Maries, Orofino, Lewiston, Moscow, Grangeville, Silverton, Salmon, Idaho Falls, Blackfoot, Pocatello, American

Falls, Preston, Twin Falls, Mountain Home, Caldwell, Weiser, Marsing, and Boise.

Over the years, we have funded 26 Local Lodge Grants at \$1,000 each and 27 Community Rehab Grants totaling

\$278,200. In addition to grants, we have also committed funds to several large projects, such as Idaho Elks Children's Pavilion in Boise, Valley Vista in St. Maries, and Franklin County Medical Center in Preston.

Idaho Elks members can help fund grants by investing in our state project in a number of ways, including general donations, memorials, "Change for Rehab" campaign, C-Notes, "If Every Idahoan Gave \$1" campaign, and bricks. Also, including Idaho Elks Rehab in your will presents an opportunity to create a lasting legacy with your state project.

For more information about your state project, visit our redesigned website, [IdahoElksRehab.org](http://IdahoElksRehab.org), or contact Grant Jones at 208-724-3458 or [grant@IdahoElksRehab.org](mailto:grant@IdahoElksRehab.org) ♦

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**ELKS**  
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