

President's 2022 Year In Review

We had many challenges to overcome during 2022.

2022 started out with Covid restrictions being eased. A new executive committee was elected and sworn in; however Covid had gotten the better of some of our members. They wanted to return to in house meetings and this caused conflict within the lodge and many new executives quit. By March the lodge was in turmoil, no president, no 1st or 3rd VP, no secretary, and many committee chairs were ready to resign.

After a period of time and many discussions, we elected a new executive board where I became President around March. At this time, a member suggested that we do something to assist Ukraine. My first thought was where would we get the horses to pull this off. I suggested we contact the Ukraine community for assistance and they bought in and the word was spreading for volunteers. Many of our members and outside volunteers came together and the rest is history. We raised over \$27,000 to be given to the Ukrainian committee to distribute to the Ukraine war effort for food and supplies. This didn't put any money into our lodge but it did bring everyone together and raised our Elks profile in the community.

We joined the Chamber of Commerce in 2022. We have attended a few of their meetings, have had inquiries about our building rental, and we put a video on their web page giving a tour of our building and a history of our lodge to raise our Elks profile.

One major issue involved a visit from the LCRB and they reaffirmed the restrictions on our club license. We had to amend our policy for entering the lodge and restrictions were placed on advertising our events.

It has been a financial struggle in 2022 . We ran a deficit of \$15,000 as of 12/31/22, but 2021 was a deficit of \$50,000. I've talked to non profits elsewhere and they all have the same story. In part the deficit was due to rentals still being down , restrictions imposed in the bar, and limited bar hours.

Our building can be our saviour as we must use this facility more. For example the Hawaii Night downstairs which was advertised to the public brought in over \$3,000. We have the ability under our license to hold community events in the downstairs hall like the Hawaii Night, which was a big success for our lodge. I suggest that we do more events like that downstairs in 2023 and increase our rentals. Thus getting more use out of this building.

The lounge is where we come to celebrate who we are, a caring group who give to our community. The lodge is the entity that runs the business of the Elks. We are now on social media, Facebook, instagram , etc , just like everyone else. You can check out what is happening at the Elks, you can donate to our charities, buy tickets to our events, and pay dues all online.

We have about 120 members. Some of us do a lot of the work. There are a lot of little jobs that can be done by those not volunteering such as posting flyers, dropping off receipts from

Natures Fair, dropping food for the food bank, joining a committee, or making donations to charity.

Bob O'Keefe is busy soliciting donations from our corporate community and raising money for our charities. Everyone should be out there spreading the word or giving names to Bob of corporate entities that you may know.

I believe with a few more rentals, like Line Dancing which starts on January 11, and some successful in-house events we can have a profitable 2023. However to do this I will need more volunteer hours from our members to help support their club. I will be forming a phone committee asking for assistance. Please let your friends and family know that the Elks has facilities available for rent.

I want to thank - Ray, Judy, Jaki, Sherry, Shirley, Raywyn, Cheryl, Bob, Don, Lauryn, and Lynda - for the support and hard work throughout the year.

I thank you for making the lodge a success.

Al Burns
President
White Rock Elks 431