

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

"And They're Off..."

This famous phrase marks the beginning of a horse race, a favorite sport for centuries.

Whether it's the run for the roses in the Kentucky Derby or the thrill of winning the Triple Crown at the Belmont, here's your chance to win it all for Eastern Star.

My goal this year is to raise \$60,000 to be split between two worthy causes:

Shriner's Children's Hospital in Spokane and Brigadoon Service Dogs. To raise funds for these worthy endeavors, we will be having a yearlong 'Race to Greatness.'

The Shriner's Children's Hospital has two wish list items that would be of significant benefit: a Ventilator at a cost of \$17,566.00 and a Bladder Scanner at a cost of \$11,663.00. With the ventilator, patients would be able to be moved through multiple departments on one machine and is designed to make breathing more comfortable. The bladder scanner can consistently detect and define bladder location, size & shape across all pediatric patient types and anatomies. It would lower the risk of infection.

Brigadoon Service Dogs in Bellingham. It takes approximately two years to raise and train a service dog through graduation. It costs more than \$40,000.00. The service dogs benefit veterans, children, and adults with physical, developmental, and behavior health disabilities. Service dogs promote a more independent and enriched life. Their goal is to never ask any client to pay.

How YOU can make a difference: All OES members are encouraged to join in the fun and train their own 'horse' and compete in our 'Race to Greatness.'

How it will work:

Form a team and decide on your 'horse's' name then enter the horse in the race.

(Registration form attached)

You can enter solo or with a few others. You can enter as a Chapter (Lackamas, for example) or a group (such as Wrangler Deputy Instructors) or even a region (Central Washington)!

Once you have entered your horse, then its off to the races!

Every dollar you raise for your 'horse' represents one length (in horse racing terms that's about 8 to 9 feet) which will be added to your horse's total. The winner will be the horse with the most lengths at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 30, 2025. Our team is working on prizes for the top three horses. Stay tuned.

How Do I Raise Money? You can start right away by planning and putting on a fundraising event in your community. Be creative! Host a Bunco, Cheese, and Wine event and invite not only chapter members but friends and family. Have a booth at a community fair and sell crafts or home-baked goods to support your horse. Make plans to participate in the 'slug crawl' event which will be held once again this year.

Be sure to visit WashingtonOES.org AND the Washington OES Facebook page for more ideas on what you can do for our 'Race to Greatness.'

Dreamcatcher Love,

Eileen Winstead, Worthy Grand Matron