

Brenham Elks Lodge No. 979
 BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS
A Fraternal Organization
 PO Box 177 BRENHAM, TX 77833-0177
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 BRENHAM, TEXAS
 PERMIT NO. 56



ANTLER RATTLES



December 2025

Brenham Lodge No. 979 400 East Germania . Brenham, Tx 77833 (979) 836-2261

Follow us on Facebook @



Elks Lodge Brenham

Check out our website
www.elks979.com and our
 Facebook page for calendar
 updates, tickets for upcoming
 events, and other information.

The Lodge is Open

Monday thru Friday

5:30 pm - 9 pm

Saturday and Sunday

Noon - 9 pm

**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT
 Dinner @ the Lodge**
6:30 — 8 p.m.
Invite Your Family and Friends!

Cooks for the month are:

- Dec 5 NO COOK
- Dec 12 Board of Directors
- Dec 19 NO COOK
- Dec 26 NO COOK
- Jan 2 NO COOK

BRENHAM ELKS LODGE 979
 — INVITES MEMBERS & GUESTS —

*As We Honor the Memory
 of Our Recently
 Departed Members*

Unite with us – and with Elks across the Nation
 as we pay respect to our Departed Members

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT
 — 1 PM —

Snacks will be provided following the service.



EXALTED RULER MESSAGE

Howdy all, so this month has been slower than most.

I would like to extend my gratitude to my officers and community members for their hard work. It is appreciated from myself and our members. This month has been hard on a lot of us. We lost some very good members that will be missed by us all.

The veterans committee has been busy this month helping out our veterans in the community. Thank you to the men for helping remove a tree for him. If you know of a veteran in need please get ahold of JD Willms.

If you know of a family in need in our community for Christmas please let myself know or Chris Helton.

Happy Holidays from my family to yours and prayers to our families in need. To our absent members!

Matt Gore
 979-451-0644

Elks Care — Elks Share

VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT

—JD WILLMS

The Veterans Committee has had a very busy and productive month. We recently met to establish a seasonal schedule for the remainder of this Lodge year, into 2026, and hopefully beyond. Our goal is to build a consistent annual rhythm of veteran outreach that the Lodge can rely on each year.

Annual Veterans Committee Schedule

- Spring (February): Veterans Appreciation Dinner
- Summer (July–August): Veterans Goodie Bags Project
- Fall (November 11, beginning 2026): Potential hosting of the Veterans Day Lunch on behalf of the Washington County Veterans Association, with all proceeds benefiting the Association
- Winter (December): Lodge donation and participation in Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America Donation

We are pleased to share that the Lodge approved a \$250 donation to Wreaths Across America this year. Thank you to the membership for supporting this important national tribute honoring those who served.

Recent Service for Local Veteran

The Committee also completed two service efforts for local veteran Mr. Long, a 76-year-old disabled Vietnam Veteran:

- Men In Chaps generously provided tree-cutting and yard-safety work.
- KP secured a much-needed refrigerator to replace his failing appliance.

We are sincerely grateful for their generosity and community spirit.

Future Partnership with WCVA

We have also begun discussions with the Washington County Veterans Association about the possibility of the Lodge hosting their annual Veterans Day Celebration Lunch beginning in 2026. This would be a meaningful way for the Lodge to further serve veterans throughout the county, and we are working through the proper channels to explore it.

Get Involved

If you'd like to participate or share ideas for upcoming outreach, please reach out to JD Willms or any member of the Veterans Committee. Your involvement strengthens every project we take on.

“So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”



2025-2026 Committee Chairmen

Auditing & Accounting	Brett Coghlan
Activities	Chris Helton
Community Projects and Activities	Chris Helton
Youth Activities	Amy Williams
Hoop Shoot®	Lila Steele
Drug Awareness	Rory Archibald
Fraternal	Joanne Hollingsworth-Jacob
Elks National Foundation	Joanne Hollingsworth-Jacob
Flag Day	Lila Steele
Elks Memorial Day	Tammy Gehovak
Membership	Beverly Vesper
Veterans Services	JD Willms
Accident Prevention	Scott Sonnenburg
PER Association	Lonnie Tegeler
Public Relations	Alyson Hancock
Government Relations	Amy Williams
State Major Project	Clayton Wallace
Scholarship	Amy Williams
By-Laws Coordinator	Kenneth Beach
Grants	Beverly Vesper

2025-2026 Board of Directors

Joanne Hollingsworth-Jacob	1-Year Trustee
Robert Weiss	2-Year Trustee
Tammy Gehovak	3-Year Trustee
Lila Steele	4-Year Trustee
Clayton Wallace	5-Year Trustee
Matt Gore	Exalted Ruler
Chris Helton	Est. Leading Knight
Lydia Engelke	Est. Loyal Knight
Darin Teetes	Est. Lecturing Knight
Secretary	Tammy Helton
Treasurer	Rory Taylor

2025-2026 Lodge Officers

Exalted Ruler	Matt Gore
Est. Leading Knight	Chris Helton
Est. Loyal Knight	Lydia Engelke
Est. Lecturing Knight	Darin Teetes
Esquire	JD Willms
Chaplain	Abby Gore
Inner Guard	Matt Brinkman
Tiler	Gloria Hanath

Get **ANTLER RATTLES** via email!

If you would like to get our monthly newsletter, **ANTLER RATTLES**, emailed to you each month, please send an email to elks979@yahoo.com to make that request.



Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org

Cornhole Tournament is postponed until January

The only Friday Night Cook
Steak Night is **December 12th!**

Don't Miss It!



Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org

P.E.R. REPORT

—LONNIE TEGELER

The November Meeting of the Past Exalted Ruler was rescheduled for Tuesday, November 25 at 6:30 P.M. Information from this meeting will be included in the January Newsletter. The East District PER Association is again conducting a raffle fundraiser. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing for the winner will be conducted at the East District Meeting which will be held on April 25, 2026 at Bryan Lodge No. 859 with the winner receiving \$1,000.00. Tickets are available from any Past Exalted Ruler or the Antler Room.

SWEETHEART REPORT

—TAMMY GEHOVAK

As we wrap up 2025, I want to thank each one of you for supporting our Sweetheart Program throughout the year. From burger nights to raffles, Friday night cooks, and special events, your efforts made a tremendous difference for our special needs children.

Your heart and dedication keep this program shining.

A big congratulations to Tammy Helton and Tammy Gehovak for finding the Queen of Hearts on Friday, November 21! A new Queen of Hearts board will be going up soon — stay tuned!

There will be no Sweetheart Friday Night Cook in December.

Your Sweetheart Committee will still be busy supporting Lodge holiday events and preparing for a strong 2026.

Coming Up in January

Sweetheart Chili/Bean Cook-Off & Cast Iron Dessert
Saturday, January 24, 2026

Start forming your teams for: Chili, Beans, and Cast Iron Dessert Rules, entry fees, and judging information will be released soon.

We have a big Sweetheart goal ahead in 2026, and together we can reach it.

Please consider helping by: Volunteering, Donating raffle items, Supporting, Lodge events, Bringing friends and family, Buying raffle tickets and meals

Every bit helps our special needs children.

Thank you for supporting the Brenham Elks Lodge #979 Sweetheart Program throughout 2025.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, joyful holidays, and a strong start to 2026!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

—CHRIS HELTON

The Board met on Wednesday November 19th, 2025. JD Willms was on the agenda to talk to the Board about the work Veterans committee has been organizing to help a local Vietnam Vet with getting a tree cut to prevent falling on house and help provide a refrigerator that went out for the gentlemen. After the discussion a motion was made and passed to partially pay for a new refrigerator with factory warranty that a fellow Elk member had helped attain. Second

motion made and passed was to pay for advertisement on local KWHI radio station thanking the company who donated their time and money to cut the tree down for the Vietnam Vet.

Third motion made and passed was to bring to our next lodge meeting floor a request to purchase a new computer for our Lodge Secretary to conduct work without any more possible crashes. No other voting came about in new business so only motion was the last motion made and passed to adjourned.

Our next board meeting will be held on December 17th, 2025 at 6:30p.m. at the Elk lodge meeting room.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

—LILA STEELE

Hello Fellow Elk's - I hope that you all are ready for the Holiday Season!

In December we have a few festivities going on.

Our Lady Lions will be having their annual Christmas party on Dec. 8th. These ladies just have the most fun and we enjoy serving them some great food.

Our **Annual Kid's Christmas** will be Sunday, Dec. 14th from 2 to 5. Santa Claus always comes and brings goodies for the kids. So, get the names, ages and gender of the kids and things that they may like to Lila 979-421-0008 or Brenda 979-203-4548. Hope to see lots of kids there!

Holiday hours will be:

Christmas Eve the Antler Room will open at 5:30.

Christmas Day the Antler Room will open at 12:30.

New Years Eve the Antler Room will open at 5:30. ****We will not be having a party this year.****

New Year's Day & Eleven a Clock Toast: Antler Room will open at 10:00 A.M. We will be serving Beef Stew, Cabbage, Black Eyed Peas and Cornbread. Come and bring the new year in with your fellow members.

The House Committee would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year! Here we come 2026!

Until next Month- Remember to Be Kind!

SECRETARY REPORT

—TAMMY HELTON

I am already 7 months into my Secretary Journey. Had an amazing zoom call this much with a lot of great information and training. I have had the pleasure of meeting lots of other Elks Secretaries and learning lots from them.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

We had 1 New Membership and 2 Reinstatements this month be read on the floor.

DUES PAYMENTS:

I'm so impressed with how many have paid their dues for 2025-2026. If you know a member that hasn't, please reach out to them and help our membership committee.

Special Thanks to Bev Vespar.

There are 2 ways to pay dues: you can physically come into the lodge and pay via, CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD or Mail a check or cash to:

Brenham #979 Lodge at PO Box 177, Brenham TX 77833.

IMPORTANT:

If you have a change of information, please either email elks979@yahoo.com or text me at 979-421-0605, so we can get your information updated.

I thank each and everyone of you for your support and continued help during my journey.

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND EXALTED RULER

BRYAN R.KLATT

The Order of the Elks has designated November as Veterans Remembrance Month. Every Elk should know our solemn pledge of “So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.” Veterans are our heroes! Please find a way to honor veterans in your Lodge and in your community. Some ways to say you care would be by hosting a veterans dinner at your Local Lodge, distributing care packages, and attending local events that coincide with your community’s recognition of veterans. Our organization led the way in 1917 to fund and later establish the first veterans’ hospital. Currently, we have more than 700 Elks assigned to more than 400 VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes, clinics, and housing facilities across the country. Our volunteers visit these facilities 2.5 times per month on average and provide entertainment such as bingo, art classes, and dinners. They also donate hygiene items and clothing, each making sure that the veterans are a priority. The Order is committed to ending veterans homelessness. One way is by supplying Welcome Home Kits to newly housed veterans. This past year there were 4,252 kits distributed. The kits could include a bed, dishes, small furniture, and appliances like a microwave and coffeemaker. Another way is our partnership with VA social workers, who provided us with the names of 558 veterans who needed emergency financial assistance to become or remain housed. The average amount of assistance was \$1,659. As a follow-up to last month, make sure your local schools received information for the Americanism Essay Contest. Essays should be submitted for judging by December 15. November also marks the need for us to be active citizens by voting in the election. Election Day is always held on the first Tuesday of November. In closing, Sue and I wish you and your family a bountiful and relaxing Thanksgiving, always keeping in mind that you can Be The Difference by promoting “Elks Care—Elks Share.”

CHARITY, JUSTICE, BROTHERLY LOVE, and FIDELITY

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 30	1 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	2 Pool Closed for Cleaning	3	4	5 NO Friday Night Cook	6
7 Elk Memorial Service @ 1 p.m.	8 No Burgers - Private Event Antler Room Open @ 5:30	9 Pool Closed for Cleaning	10 Lodge Meeting 7 p.m.	11	12 Steak Night Board of Directors Cook	13
14 Annual Members Kids Christmas 2-5 p.m.	15 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	16 Pool Closed for Cleaning	17 Board of Directors Dinner 6:30 p.m.	18	19 NO Friday Night Cook	20
21	22 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	23 Pool Closed for Cleaning	24 Antler Room Opens @ 5:30	25 Antler Room Opens @ 12:30 <i>Reports/Articles Dates & Photos DUE for Nov. newsletter</i>	26 NO Friday Night Cook	27
28	29 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	30 Pool Closed for Cleaning	31 Antler Room Opens @ 5:30 NO NYE EVENT	Jan 1 Antler Room Opens @ 10 A.M.	Jan 2 NO Friday Night Cook	Jan 3
Jan 4	Jan 5 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	Jan 6 Pool Closed for Cleaning	Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9 Steak Night Board of Directors Cook	Jan 10

**Reports, articles, photos, and dates for next month’s newsletter
ARE DUE no later than December 25th.
Please email or text them to Alyson Hancock.**