

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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ANTLER RATTLES



February 2026

Brenham Lodge No. 979

400 East Germania . Brenham, Tx 77833

(979) 836-2261

EXALTED RULER

– MATT GORE

Howdy all, hope everyone has had a wonderful start to the new year. Right out of the gate we had East Texas Interlodge meeting which we hosted. We had a great turnout and had a wonderful meeting. Our state president Matt Williams was there along with his wife Renea. Thank you all for your hard work to get this event ready, it was amazing.

As you all know we will be having nominations in February, so if you are interested in being more involved with the lodge I would encourage you to attend your next meeting or let one of the lodge officers know.

On March 21 we will be having our annual crawfish boil at the lodge . If you like them mud bugs make sure you mark your calendar and come join us. There will be more updates in the next few weeks. Don't forget to come out and support your sweetheart on them Monday burger nights and the Friday night cooks for the best ribeye steaks in town. Hope to see you all down at the lodge.

Matt Gore
979-451-0644

Elks Care – Elks Share

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:

Feb 7	NO COOK
Feb 14	Board of Directors
Feb 21	Sweetheart
Feb 28	House

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

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

P.E.R. REPORT

—LONNIE TEGELER

The Past Exalted Rulers (PERs) met on January 27, 2026 for their annual meeting and steak dinner.

The following Past Exalted Rulers were present: Lonnie Tegeler, Joanne Hollingsworth-Jacob, Lila Steele, Tammy Gehovak, Clayton Wallace, Klay Beech, Paul Kendall, Sheri McCord, Scott Stewart, Jim Bernick and Calvin Landry. The meeting was called to order by the President Lonnie Tegeler and after the opening prayer and pledge of allegiance the minutes of the last meeting and financial report were read by Secretary Joanne Hollingsworth-Jacob, and approved by the members. After enjoying a steak dinner, the old business items including an update on electrical repairs of the storage room and the use of funds generated by the Sweetheart for the purchase of needed items for a young girl with serious handicaps were discussed. New business items included the annual PER Fundraiser by the East District. Each PER was given raffle tickets to sell. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 with the winning ticket receiving \$1,000. Drawing for the raffle will occur at the East District Interlodge Meeting on April 25, 2026 at the Bryan Lodge. The Past Exalted Rulers discussed the upcoming election of officers for the Brenham Lodge and discussed potential candidates for the various offices. Also discussed were plans for the first Lodge meeting in February, designated as Past Exalted Ruler's Night. Chris Helton, Leading Knight, gave the PERs an update on plans for repairs, upgrades and remodeling to the Brenham Lodge.

There will be no meeting of the Past Exalted Rulers during February with the next meeting scheduled for March 10 at 6:30 P.M.

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.



VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT

—JD WILLMS

Veterans Appreciation Dinner – March 10

The Brenham Elks Veterans Committee will host our annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner on March 10 as we honor and thank the men and women who have served our country. This special evening will bring local veterans together for a great meal, fellowship, and recognition of their service and sacrifice.

As we finalize plans for this year and begin preparing for future events, we welcome ideas and involvement from the membership. If you have suggestions for guest speakers, program ideas, or would simply like to help support our veterans, please contact JD Willms or any member of the Veterans Committee.

Working together, we can continue making a meaningful difference for veterans in our community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

—CHRIS HELTON

The Board met on Wednesday January 21, 2026. Bev Vesper was on the agenda to talk to the Board about the Grants for the Veterans as well as the Gratitude & Beacon. Under Old Business we talked about having a company come out to do a leak test on the pool to check the integrity of the pipe and be able to locate any leaks. The other talk was getting a quote to do a turn key on installing the dishwasher in the kitchen. Once quoted we will bring to the floor for a vote. First and only motion made and passed was to bring to our next lodge meeting floor a request to approve \$400 for the American Legion Board. 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 18th, 2026 at 6:30p.m. at the Elk lodge meeting room.

Our second meal for Board cooks will be on February 13, 2026 and will be beef stew.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

—LILA STEELE



All the events in January went great. Thanks to all of you that helped during these events. I took 1 boy to District Hoop Shoot! Fun was had by all. Believe I have a helper for next year getting this event going better.

February will be nominations and voting on our new officers for the coming year! Come to the 2nd and 4th Wednesday night meetings and put your two cents in on who you would like to represent this lodge.

We will be having Kid's Easter on Sunday, March 22. Bring them kids down for our easter egg hunt and of course the Easter Bunny will there.

Annual Crawfish Boil will be March so check your calendars. Don't forget Friday Night



SECRETARY REPORT

—TAMMY HELTON

MEMEBERSHIP UPDATE:

We had 3 New Candidates that were all approved for membership. They are all looking forward to Initiation in February.

DUES PAYMENTS:

If you know of a member that has not paid their 2025-2026 dues, please reach out to them and help our membership committee. Special Thanks to Bev Vesper.

There are 2 ways to pay dues: you can physically come into the lodge and pay via, CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD. 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.

SWEETHEART REPORT

—TAMMY GEHOVAK

Report not submitted.

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Burton Cornhole 1 PM Kitchen & Bar Open	2 Sweetheart Burger Night Kitchen 6:30-8 PM	3	4	5	6 No Friday Night Cook	7
8 Super Bowl Watch Party Antler Room 12 PM Kickoff 5:30 PM Bring Snacks	9	10	11 Lodge Meeting 7 PM Officer Nominations	12	13 Board of Directors Cook Kitchen 6:30-8 PM	14
15	16 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30-8 PM	17 House Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	18 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	19	20 Sweetheart Friday Night Cook Kitchen 6:30-8 PM	21
22	23	24	25 Lodge Meeting 7 PM Officer Voting	26	27 House Committee Friday Night Cook Kitchen 6:30-8 PM	28

Upcoming Events

March 10: Veterans Appreciation Dinner

March 14: Officer Training at Navasota Lodge #2888

March 21: Crawfish Boil

March 22: Elks Kids Easter • 3-6 PM

Reports, articles, photos, and dates for next month's newsletter

ARE DUE *no later* than February 25th.

Please email or text them to Alyson Hancock.

— — - January Newsletter Entries — — -

House Committee January Report Happy New Year Everyone
— Bring on 2026!

First off, | want to thank the House Committee, Board of Directors and all the other members who have helped in 2025. With out all of you this lodge would not function. Love you all! Our Kids Christmas party was a big success this year. The most kiddos ever! Thank you, Brenda and Brittany, for y'all's continued help. Then there's Clayton and Tammy G — | can't even thank you two and your cooking crews for all that you do. Christmas Lunch and New Years Day lunch. You 2 are always there and | am eternally grateful. Thank you, Keith, for the fabulous stew on New Years Day as well.

We will hosting East District Interlodge on January 10th, Saturday at 9:30. I would love to have a great attendance considering we are the hosts. Come meet other Elks from our district. Matt Wiliams, our State President will be in attendance.

Other events this month are Sweethearts Chili Cook Off, January 24th, Corn Hole on Sunday, January 25th. Our District Hoop Shoot will be January 17th in Navasota. We have 5 contestants from Brenham going to compete. Don't forget Friday Night Cooks.

Until next Month- Remember to Be Kind!

Lila Steele

The Past Exalted Rulers (PERs) will resume their regular monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. The PERs continue to sell their raffle tickets for the District PER fundraiser.

Lonnie Tegeler

President, Brenham #979 Past Exalted Rulers

SECRETARY REPORT - Tammy Helton

HAPPY NEW YEARS!! MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: No new memberships to report.

DUES PAYMENTS: Continue to be so impressed at how good we are doing this year. Thanks again to Bev Vesper, and everyone who has paid their dues. There are 2 ways to pay dues" you can physically come into the lodge and pay via, CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD.

Mail a check or cash to Brenham #979 Lodge at PO Box 177, Brenham, TX 77833.

IMPORTANT: I am really wanting to update or system to make sure that everyone gets informed of what's happening at our lodge. Please email me or text me at 979-421-0605 with the following information: Full Name, Address, Phone Number, Email, and Spouse's Name.

I really want to get our Lodge Information up to date this year.

Thanks again for each and everyone of you for support and continued help during my Journey.

Howdy and Happy New Years to you all. As the season comes to and end let's remember the brothers and sisters that shall come no more. December was a slow month. The lodge had a few rentals so thank you to all that helped with them.

We will have Interlodge on Saturday January 10th and I encourage you all to attend and let's show up for our lodge. Matt Williams our state president will be here so I hope to see you all there.

As always I want to thank all the volunteers that helped with Christmas at the lodge I know the kids really enjoyed it. Thank you to all my officers and community chairs for your help. Until next time may you all have a blessed year.

Matt Gore—Exalted Ruler
979-451-0644

Brothers and Sisters, Fellow Elks, Members & Guests,
Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Thanks to your continued generosity and support, 2025 ended strong—and 2026 is already off to a great start. January brings fellowship, friendly competition, and fundraising that supports our special-needs children camp and grant programs.

January Sweetheart Burger Nights
Monday, January 12 & Monday, January 26, 2026
Kitchen Open 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Menu:

- ½ lb Hamburger or Cheeseburger Basket with Fries — \$15
- Steak Finger Basket with country gravy and mashed potatoes or French fries — \$15
- Texas Toast included with Steak Finger Basket
- 50/50 Card Raffle — \$5 per card (Cash Only)

All proceeds benefit the Brenham Elks Lodge #979 Sweetheart Program for special-needs children.

Sweetheart Chili & Bean Cook-Off

Saturday, January 24, 2026
Team Check-In & Inspection 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Chili & Beans must be cooked on site at the Lodge
Cast Iron Cornbread must be baked and submitted in cast iron

Prize Categories:

Best Chili • Best Beans • Best Cast Iron Cornbread • Best Bloody Mary

Looking for donations for Chili Cook-Off prizes and awards.
Contest rules and entry forms can be picked up in the Antler Room.

Burton Cornhole League at the Lodge

Sunday, January 25, 2026
Games Begin at 12:00 PM
Kitchen Opens at 1:00 PM

The Sweetheart Committee will be in the kitchen serving great food and fellowship while raising money for special-needs children camp and grant programs.

Come out, enjoy the competition, and share in Lodge fellowship—all for a great cause!

Charity Update

January fundraising will support:

- Texas Elks Children's Camp
- Special-Needs Children Grants & Camp Programs

Every meal purchased and donation shared helps change lives. Thank you for supporting the Sweetheart mission and helping our Lodge continue making a meaningful impact for children in our community.

Closing

We look forward to seeing you at the Lodge this month for fellowship, food, fundraising, and fun.
Let's make 2026 our best year yet!

Fraternally,
Tammy Gehovak
Lodge Sweetheart 2025–2026
Brenham Elks Lodge #979

In memory of Carolyn Campbell.