

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

July 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:

July 4	NO COOK
July 11	Board of Directors
July 18	Sweetheart
July 25	House Committee

EXALTED RULER MESSAGE

Howdy All,

Wow it has been a really busy month of June so far. I want to first thank everyone that helped with the Lew Kieke golf tournament. It was a very successful turnout again this year and we were able to award 5 scholarships total to our members relatives: Savannah Teetes, daughter of Darin Teetes, Riley Stokes, granddaughter to Karen Lauter, Ella White granddaughter to Lonnie & Barbara Tegeler, Greenlee Abeja, daughter to Amy Williams and Savanna Gajeske, daughter to John Gajeske. This wouldn't be possible if not for our members and community, thank you all! Our Flag Day Ceremony was also a great success, and we thank the Boy Scouts for helping us remember our country's flag history.

As Abby and I get ready to head to Kansas City for the National convention there are a few things that are coming up that I want to make sure your aware of. On July 13th the lodge will be 120 years in the making so on July 19th we will be celebrating this at the lodge. That day we will have a pin ceremony for our members to celebrate how many years they have been part of the lodge. There will be a letter sent to you if you will be receiving one of these pins and information on the celebration. There will be food, music and who knows what else to celebrate our 120-year anniversary, so please keep an eye out for more information.

So, if you have been down at the lodge lately you might have noticed that we have a collection box in the big bar that says teddy bears, and I want to give you a little information about this project. We are collecting stuffed animals for the childrens' camp so that the kids that are coming there can have a camp buddy for them to keep to help with the transitions of being away from home a little easier. This is being lead by the East district lodges and I think its a great idea for the kids. If you would like to help out please stop by and drop off some stuffed animals.

I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing 4th of July. The pool is looking wonderful and hope everyone comes and enjoys it. As always if you'd like to help or be part of any one of the lodges committies it would be appreciated for sure. I hope to see you all down at the lodge soon and come enjoy some of the great food on Friday nights.

Fraternally Yours,
Matt Gore

PS. Im looking for volunteers for the first elks lodge "Let it Fly Skeet Shoot: at the end of August. Please let me know if your interested.

Elks Care — Elks Share

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	Lila Steele
Public Relations	Alyson Hancock
Government Relations	Amy Williams
State Major Project	Clayton Wallace
Scholarship	Amy Williams
By-Laws Coordinator	Kenneth Beach
Grants	Beverly Vesper

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

The Operation Give Back home repairs for Mr. Carr, a 96-year-old disabled Korean War veteran, are almost complete! This project was made possible by a small group of extremely committed individuals and generous community partners who stepped up without hesitation. Their actions reflect a simple truth: real impact comes from action, not empty platitudes. Special thanks go to A1 Plumbing, H&H Construction, W Squared Electric, McCoy's Building Supply, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and Eric Posern, Veterans Service Officer, for their in-kind contributions, support, and partnership throughout this effort.

We also recently extended an invitation to a local PTSD support group, which they gratefully accepted. They held their first meeting at the Lodge in June and will now meet monthly. If you see them around, don't be shy, please say hello and help make them feel welcome.

In the coming weeks, the Veterans Committee will begin delivering care packages to veterans in nursing care facilities throughout Brenham. We are honored and proud to carry this mission forward for another year.

Fraternally,
James D. Willms

Veterans Committee Chair



Join us for our Friday Night Cook
“Steak Night” the 2nd, 3rd, 4th,
& 5th Friday Nights!



Mark your calendars for our
Lodge's 120th Anniversary
Celebration July 19th!

The Antler Room will
open at Noon on
4th of July!



Cornhole Tournament is
July 20th
all ages welcome!
Kitchen will be open!



HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

—LILA STEELE

Hello Elk Friends - June was another successful month at the lodge.

Golf Tournament was a little wet but managed to be a success.

There were 5 scholarships given.

The Boy Scouts did a great job as always for the Flag Day Ceremony.

July has arrived and the National convention will be in Kansas City this year. I'm sure Matt and Abby will have a wonderful time with many new elk friends and stories to tell.

Safe travels to y'all!

July 4th the antler room will open at 12:00. Come down and cool off at the pool!

Our lodge is having its 120th Anniversary July 13th . We will be having a celebration on July 19th . Check calendar for more info. We will be having a pin ceremony as well that day!

Don't forget our Fabulous Steak nights every Friday except the 1st Friday. Queen of hearts is going strong.

Until next month - Remember to Be Kind!

SECRETARY REPORT

—TAMMY HELTON

Hello Fellow Elks! Summer is on its way and we have started it with a bang!!

MEMEBERSHIP UPDATE:

This year started out strong and is continuing. Thanks to everyone who has paid their dues and encouraged new members. We have 14 new applicants this month. We also had one of the largest initiations that we have had in a while on 6/25/25. On 7/9/25, we will welcome 5 more.

DUES PAYMENTS:

We have already received quite a few dues for 2025=2026. Special thanks to those who have already paid. If you know a member that hasn't, please reach out to them and help our membership committee.

There are 2 ways to pay dues: you can physically come into the lodge and pay via, CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD. Also by mailing 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 just want to thank everyone for welcoming me this year as Elks #979 Secretary. It's been such a learning but yet extremely fun and rewarding experience!

SWEETHEART REPORT

—TAMMY GEHOVAK

Serving with Heart | Supporting Special Needs Children

Dear Elk Family,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well and enjoying the summer! July is full of sunshine, good food, and great fellowship, and I want to thank each of you for continuing to support the Sweetheart program. Your generosity is helping us make a meaningful difference in the lives of special needs children.

Upcoming Events

Sweetheart Burger Nights – Monday, July 14 & Monday, July 28

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Join us for a fun evening of burgers and fellowship—all for a great cause!

Queen of Hearts Continues!

Our Queen of Hearts drawing is going strong every Friday night!

The pot is growing each week—don't miss your chance to win!

Drawing held at 8:15 PM

Every ticket purchased supports the Sweetheart Fund.

Adopt-A-Pig Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who has adopted a red pig! Turn-in date is Monday, August 11. Please turn in pigs to Tammy Gehovak Prizes for: Best Name, Best Decorated, and Most Money Collected Prizes will be awarded on Friday, August 18. Get creative and help us reach our fundraising goal in a fun way!

A Heartfelt Thank You

A special thank you to the volunteers of the Sweetheart committee who continued Burger Night while I was in the hospital. You guys had an epic Burger Night—I truly appreciate your hard work and dedication!

To all our volunteers, chefs, and supporters—you are the heart of this program. Your kindness, time, and donations mean everything to our mission.

Wishing you all a joyful July filled with kindness, laughter, and love.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Tammy Gehovak

Lodge Sweetheart – 2025

State Convention



Our '24-'25 Sweetheart Alyson Hancock and husband Donald (pictured), our Exalted Ruler Matt Gore and wife Abby (pictured), Bev Vesper, and Sherri McCord and husband Doug represented Brenham Lodge #979 and East District at the TESA (Texas Elks State Association) Convention. Valuable insights were gained for grants available to us and fresh perspectives were acquired to help us grow Elkdom!

Flag Day Ceremony

June 14, 2025



Boy Scout Troop #577 did an honorable job of representing our country's colors and flags! Thank you to the troop, their leaders, their parents, our Board & Trustees, and members for upholding this tradition and making it a success.



Low Kieke Memorial Annual Golf Tournament

June 14, 2025



← SECOND PLACE
THIRD PLACE →



Scholarship Awards





Sweetheart is in need of alcohol for Ottine

Can be any type of alcohol.
Small bottles or big.



For a fundraiser event at homecoming. Drop off at the Lodge to Tammy Gehovak or Tammy Helton

Or we can take monetary donations and purchase for a good cause

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

—CHRIS HELTON

The Board met Wednesday June 18th, 2025. Abby Gore was on the agenda to answer any questions on the notes she took while at State Convention on the procedures we need to go by if we should submit quotes on our 979 Elk Building projects to the FTET. JD Williams was also on the agenda to discuss about the Veteran Committee items. First motion made and passed was to get quotes for the vent system on the new dishwasher prior to installment. Last motion was made and passed was to adjourned. Our next board meeting will be held on July 16th, 2025 at 6:30p.m. at the Elk lodge meeting room.



ELKS

To Our Absent Members

May they never be forgotten.

Community • Friendship • Charity

elks.org



We shall never forget.

The chimes will ring at 11 o'clock!


Volunteers are ALWAYS needed!

P.E.R. REPORT

—LILA STEELE

Hello Fellow Elks - PER'S haven't been up to much lately. We didn't have a meeting last month. Our golf game that we purchased is doing great. You golfers are tearing it up. We will have a meeting Thursday, July 17th at 6:30. We will then be electing our new president for 2025 -2026 year. We would like to wish everyone a Safe 4th of July!

Until next month - Be Kind!



Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A.
A Fraternal Organization

Mission Statement

To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that *Elks Care and Elks Share.*

A GREAT WAY TO SHOW SUPPORT:
WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS!



Elks Never Forget

We wear red on Fridays until they all come home.

Community • Friendship • Charity

join.elks.org



MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND EXALTED RULER

Douglas A. Schiefer

Happy Independence Day, the Fourth of July. We live in the greatest country on the face of the earth. We, as proud Elks, want to uphold the virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity in order to honor our great nation. This is the perfect time for me to reflect on this amazing year of travel to meet all of you. We could never in our wildest dreams have thought that we would have this great honor. We want to thank each and every one of you for your love, hospitality, and support in fulfilling our year as Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady. It was easy to stay enthused by visiting each unique state convention. But there truly was a common bond in all of our visits: Heart. Everyone has to serve others to show what the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks are truly about. You are the reason we are 800,000 Members strong. You are the reason that we have more than 1,800 successful Lodges. You are the reason that Net new Members with online invites we are the greatest charitable organization in the United States of America. We are strong, mighty, and blessed to be citizens in our great country, and I want to express my gratitude for your service to others. We would like to thank our family. We truly missed them during our travels, but they were always gracious and encouraging when we missed special events. We are so thankful for having such a loving family. God bless our family, the Elks, and God bless the United States of America. I believe that my motto, “Elkdom’s Heart for America” will live on for many years to come. Remember we are 157 years young!

CHARITY, JUSTICE, BROTHERLY LOVE, and FIDELITY

JULY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 Pool Closed for Cleaning	2	3	4 Antler Room opens @ Noon NO Friday Night Cook	5
6	7	8 House Committee Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. Pool Closed for Cleaning	9	10	11 Steak Night Board of Directors Cook	12
13	14 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	15 Pool Closed for Cleaning	16 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 p.m.	17 PER Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.	18 Steak Night Sweetheart Cooks	19 120th Lodge Anniversary
20 Cornhole Tournament Noon KITCHEN OPEN @ 1 p.m.	21 Reports & Articles DUE for June newsletter	22 Pool Closed for Cleaning	23 Lodge Meeting 7 p.m.	24	25 Steak Night House Committee Cooks	26
27	28 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	29 Pool Closed for Cleaning	30	31	August 1 NO Friday Night Cook	August 2
August 3	August 4	August 5 Pool Closed for Cleaning	August 6	August 7	August 8 Steak Night Board of Directors Cook	August 9



Articles for next month’s newsletter

ARE DUE no later than July 21st!

Please email or text Alyson Hancock with Calendar Info & Reports