

**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



June 2025

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

## EXALTED RULER MESSAGE

Howdy my fellow Elks! It's been a busy month and it's not going to slow down anytime soon. I want to first congratulate last year's sweetheart Alyson Hancock on winning our district. She did an amazing job and will be representing East district for state. We had an amazing turnout for our Mother's Day celebration. Thank you all that attended and to everyone that came to help put it on.

The chef's choice challenge will start in June so don't forget to sign your team up only 1 team a month, so if you think you have what it takes then let's see what you got. The 5th annual Lew Kieke Golf Tournament is June 14th, and the deadline to sign up is June 9th, and we can guarantee a spot after that date. So please get those signup sheets turned in. We will also have our flag day ceremony this same day at 6 pm, so please come and support.

Our lodge will celebrate our 120th anniversary on July 13th. We are planning a party on Saturday, July 12th. Please watch for more details on our Facebook page and flyers around the lodge. We hope you all can join us in celebrating this momentous occasion!

The pool is open and ready for all members to come enjoy. We really could use some more help on the pool committee, so if you're interested, please let me know. As always, I hope to see you all at the lodge and hope you all have a blessed day!

Fraternally Yours,  
Matt Gore  
979-451-0644

Follow us on Facebook @



**Elks Lodge Brenham**

Check out our website  
[www.elks979.com](http://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:*

June 6	NO COOK
June 13	Board of Directors
June 20	Sweetheart
June 27	House Committee

### 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Joanne Hollingsworth-Jacob	1-Year Trustee
Robert Weiss	2-Year Trustee
James Grimm	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](mailto:elks979@yahoo.com) to make that request.



## VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT

—JD WILLMS

### Veterans Committee Report – Serving Those Who Served Us

The Brenham Elks Lodge Veterans Committee invites both veterans and civilians to join our efforts in supporting our local veterans and their families. Whether you have military experience or simply a passion for service, we welcome all who want to make a difference in the lives of those who've served us.

This year, the committee is continuing successful projects like Operation Give Back, which focuses on home repairs for veterans in need, and providing Care Packages to veterans in local nursing care (funded through the Freedom Grant). We encourage anyone interested in contributing to these initiatives to reach out to JD Willms at (979) 203-6959.

Our first meeting of the year will take place in June (date TBD), following the completion of Mr. Oddie Carr's home repairs. During this meeting, we will discuss new projects, fundraising efforts, and additional ways we can support our veterans and their families.

We look forward to your participation in this vital mission. Let's come together to serve those who have given so much for our country!!!



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 12th!

Join us on June 14th for our Annual Lew Kieke Memorial Golf Tournament!

Last day to Sign up is June 9th!



Join us on June 14th for our Flag Day Ceremony at 6 pm!



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

—CHRIS HELTON

The Board met Wednesday May 21st, 2025. Donald Hancock was on the agenda to answer any questions on the quote he did over the roof repairs on the lodge. After much discussion a motion was made and passed to table the quotes until next meeting to search out for possible grants. Alyson Hancock was also on the agenda to bring up possible water filter to install in the bar area to provide cleaner water. First motion made and passed to bring to the lodge floor to vote on the water filter installment in the bar. Second motion was brought up and passed to bring to the floor and vote on buying Brenham Elks 979 Anniversary pins to sell. Third motion made and passed was to allow Sandy Hill 4H club to have a pool party on July 3rd which they will provide their own lifeguard. Last motion made and passed was to adjourn.

Our next board meeting will be held on June 18th, 2025 at 6:30p.m. at the Elk lodge meeting room.

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

—LILA STEELE

Hello Elk Friends - May was a great month for us since we got to do our Mother's Day Service. We all love our mothers present and the ones that protect us up in heaven.

We didn't have much spring weather so get ready for the hot days and evenings and I have the perfect place to cool off - Elk's Lodge Pool! It's ready so bring the family and enjoy!

June has arrived and we have a few events this month. The 5th Annual BPOE 979 Lew Keike Golf Tournament will be Saturday, June 14th at the Brenham Country Club Our Flag Day Ceremony will be at 6:00 at the lodge on June 14th as well. Every year our Boy Scouts do a great job presenting our flags. Come enjoy some good American Hot Dogs after the ceremony!

I want to thank the new house committee for all the help that you have done and I know will keep doing. Our next meeting will be June 3rd at 6:30. Hope to see y'all all there.

Until next month - Be Kind!

# P.E.R. REPORT

—LILA STEELE

The PER'S had a meeting on April 29th and we discussed getting an electrician down to do our lighting in the storage building by the pool. Hopefully we will finish soon. Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 26th at 6:30. We will be electing a new president for our upcoming year. Our Friday night cook went well. Thank you Robert, James and Sherman for coming down and helping out. Thank you Barbara Tegeler for your wonderful Mexican Casserole. We have a new PER that transferred to our lodge from Katy Lodge. Carla, we are happy to have you aboard and making that twinkie cake for the cook.

Until next month - Be Kind!

# SECRETARY REPORT

—TAMMY HELTON

Hello Fellow Elks! Hard to believe we are already in month 3 of our Elk Year.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

This year is already starting out strong: so far this year we have 4 new applicates, 3 voted in and 1 new.

## DUES PAYMENTS

We have already received quite a few dues payments for 2025-2026, and we thank those of you that have already paid! With that being said, we still have 100 delinquent members! There are 2 ways to pay your dues...you can physically come by the lodge and pay via cash, credit, or check... or you can mail your payment to PO Box 177 Brenham, TX77834. Unfortunately, online dues payments are no longer available. Important: If you have a change of address, phone number or email address, please send me the updated information to [elks979@yahoo.com](mailto:elks979@yahoo.com).

Coming in as the New Secretary has been a learning experience. But I am enjoying meeting everyone and putting a face with a name. Special thanks to Melissa Glenewinkel and Bev Vasper for all of their help and support. I couldn't have done this without you both!

To all members, Thanks to you all for all of your patience as I continue to learn my role.

Respectfully, Tammy Helton

# SWEETHEART REPORT

—TAMMY GEHOVAK

Dear Members and Friends,

Summer is heating up, and so is our Sweetheart spirit! June is the perfect time to come together, cool off, and make a difference for the special needs children we support through our Sweetheart Program.

## Burger Nights – Let's Talk Schedule

We kicked off our Monday Night Burger Nights strong in May, but we noticed attendance dipped on the last one. To keep the momentum going while giving our volunteers a break, we're looking at moving Burger Nights to every other week or possibly once a month. Stay tuned for updates and come out when you can – your support really makes a difference! Check out [elkslodge979.com](http://elkslodge979.com) for the monthly calendar for any and all events

## Adopt a Red Pig

Adoptions will take place on Friday, May 30 during Friday Night Cook. Come pick your pig, give it a name, and start decorating!

Turn-in date for all pigs will be Monday, August 11.

Prizes will be awarded on Friday, August 15 during our Sweetheart Friday Night Cook for:

- Most Money Raised
- Best Decorated Pig
- Most Creative Name

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars! The Sweetheart Committee will host the Burton Cornhole Tournament on Sunday, June 1, 2025.

- Doors open at 12:00 PM
- Bags fly at 1:00 PM
- The kitchen will be open – come hungry!
- Grab your bags and come have some fun while supporting a great cause!

## Friday Night Cook – June 20

The Sweetheart Committee will be cooking on Friday, June 20! If there's something you'd love to see as the Chef's Choice, let me know—I'd love to hear your suggestions!

## How You Can Help

We're always looking for raffle items, monetary donations, and volunteers. Whether you cook, decorate, sell tickets, or just bring a friend, every effort helps us reach our goals.

Homecoming will be here before you know it! The Sweetheart Committee is already collecting raffle items and bottles of spirits. If you'd like to donate, please reach out—we'd love your support.

Let's make June one of our best months yet. Your heart, your hands, and your energy are what make our lodge shine.

With Sweetheart Spirit,

Tammy Gehovak

2025 Sweetheart – Brenham Elks Lodge 979

# MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND EXALTED RULER

Douglas A. Schiefer

It's Grand Lodge Convention time! We will be getting together from June 29 to July 2 in Kansas City, Missouri. I hope to see you at the convention. Please take advantage of all the wonderful seminars, meetings, and ceremonies. Visit the exhibit halls and booths and spend time with other states' gatherings and events to meet Elks from across America. States come together to discuss and swap their best ideas. Elks Care — Elks Share is our motto. Flag Day on Saturday, June 14, is an important mandatory service for Elks. It's a great way to involve local Scout groups and JROTC teams to participate in your ceremony. Invite veterans to attend and participate during the ceremony. Pass out flag pins. Our flag is precious to us as Elks, and we need to display it with reverence and dignity. Our fathers are also precious to us. Father's Day is on Sunday, June 15. My father and my grandfathers were Elks, and they started the legacy for me and my son and sons-in-law. I am proud to say that I got my dedication to service from what I saw my father and grandfathers do. Thank the dads in your life. It's been an amazing honor and privilege to serve you and our great Order as Grand Exalted Ruler for 2024-2025. Thank you all. God bless you, God bless our troops, and God bless America!

**CHARITY, JUSTICE, BROTHERLY LOVE, and FIDELITY**

## JUNE 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Cornhole Tournament Noon KITCHEN OPEN @ 1 p.m.	2	3 House Committee Meeting @ 6:30  Pool Closed for Cleaning	4	5	6 NO Friday Night Cook	7
8	9 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	10  Pool Closed for Cleaning	11 Lodge Meeting 7 p.m.	12	13 Steak Night Board of Directors Cook	14 Lew Kieke Golf Tournament  Flag Day Ceremony 6 p.m.
15 Father's Day	16	17  Pool Closed for Cleaning	18 Board of Directors Meeting 7 p.m.	19	20 Steak Night Sweetheart Cooks	21 <i>Reports &amp; Articles DUE for June newsletter</i>
22	23 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	24  Pool Closed for Cleaning	25 Lodge Meeting 7 p.m.	26 PER Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.	27 Steak Night House Committee Cooks	28
29	30	July 1  Pool Closed for Cleaning	July 2	July 3	July 4 NO Friday Night Cook	July 5
July 6	July 7	July 8  Pool Closed for Cleaning	July 9	July 10	July 11 Steak Night Board of Directors Cook	July 12 120th Lodge Anniversary



**Articles for next month's newsletter**

**ARE DUE no later than MAY 20th**

**Please email or text Alyson Hancock with Calendar Info & Reports**