

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



May 2025

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

EXALTED RULER MESSAGE

Howdy all!

Wow the first month has gone by quickly and I want to thank everyone for their support and hard work. May will be another great month with the events at the lodge. We will be having a Mother's Day luncheon so bring your Mother and enjoy the special day with her.

Now here's something that I've been waiting to share. Attention all cooks! We will be having a chef's choice challenge which will have a 500 dollar cash prize and a plaque where the winners names will be added. There will be room to add more winners for the years to come. You will still be responsible for cooking Friday night steaks as well. But you will only be scored on your chefs choice meal. Only 1 team each month will cook either on the 2nd or 4th Friday each month. That's 10 teams total so if you're interested please get ahold of myself or Lila Steele. We will have the rules on scoring posted beginning of May. Get your cook team ready and come enjoy a fun time!

I'm still looking to fill more spots on the committees for all activities at the lodge. If you are interested in helping please reach out and let me know which committee you're interested in.

I look forward to seeing everyone down at the lodge!

Fraternally Yours,
Matt Gore
979-451-0644

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:

May 2	NO COOK
May 9	Board of Directors
May 16	Sweetheart
May 23	House Committee
May 30	PERs

Elks Care — Elks Share

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 Teets	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 Teets
Esquire	JD Willms
Chaplain	Abby Gore
Inner Guard	Matt Brinkman
Tiler	Gloria Hanath

2023-2024 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

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED: A YEAR OF GIVING BACK!

It's been a busy and truly rewarding year for the Veterans Committee, and we'd like to take a moment to share a few highlights — along with some well-deserved thanks to everyone who helped make it possible.

One of our proudest accomplishments this year was securing a \$1,000 Freedom Grant from the Elks National Foundation. With those funds, we assembled and delivered care packages filled with food, hygiene essentials, and clothing to every veteran in nursing care across Brenham and Washington County. It was a simple but meaningful way to remind them they are not forgotten — and that a community of Elks will always stand behind them.

We also launched the first annual Operation Give Back — and thanks to this year's success, we hope to make it a standing tradition at the Lodge. Operation Give Back was created to give our community the opportunity to show its appreciation to local veterans, not just through words, but through action. This year's project focused on renovating the home of Mr. Oddie Carr, a 96-year-old disabled Korean War veteran. Thanks to the incredible support of volunteers and local businesses, Mr. Carr's home now has a safe, accessible walk-in shower, an updated kitchen, and fresh new flooring and cabinets.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generosity of some truly outstanding businesses and individuals who donated their time, labor, and materials. A huge thank you goes out to:

- Donald and Colton Hancock
- Dylan and JR Vasquez
- Jeremy Diehl
- McCoy's Building Supply — for their incredibly generous \$2,000 donation toward materials
- Disabled American Veterans (DAV) — for their generous \$500 contribution

And to all of our Lodge members who volunteered their time and talents: there are too many of you to name, but your selfless efforts made a world of difference and truly reflect what it means to be an Elk.

We were also proud to carry on another meaningful tradition this year: our Annual Veterans Dinner in March. It was an evening of good food, great conversations, and heartfelt appreciation for the men and women who've given so much for our country.

It's been a year full of teamwork, service, and community spirit. On behalf of the Veterans Committee, thank you all for standing with us and helping us honor and serve those who served. We look forward to making 2025 an even bigger and better year!

Fraternally,
James D. Willms
Veterans Committee



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.



Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, June 14th 5th Annual BPOE 979 Lew Keike Golf Tournament

Team & Sponsorship forms available for download at
www.elks979.com or contact

Matt Gore @ 979-451-0644 or Cindy Randermann @ 979-203-3518

Saturday, June 14th Flag Day Ceremony

Sunday, June 15th Fathers' Day

Check Facebook or our website: www.elks979.com for events and happenings at our lodge!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

—CHRIS HELTON

The Board met Wednesday March 16th, 2025. Duane Taylor was on the agenda to discuss the quotes over the roof repairs on the lodge. After much discussion and doing more research by some board members, a motion was made and passed to table the quotes until next meeting. Second discussion members made motions to nominate who will be President and Vice President of the board and was voted on. Third motion was brought up and passed about having competition with cooking teams who sign up to come in on Friday nights and have a winner at the end of the year with a prize. Fourth motion and passed was the discussion of having a Mother's Day dinner with fried pork steak and sides to bring up to the lodge floor for vote. Meeting was adjourned after that.

Our next board meeting will be held on May 21st, 2025 at 6:30p.m. at the Elk lodge meeting room.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Welcome to our new Elk year! The house committee will have a meeting on April 29th to vote on who will be the new chairman. We have a rental on May 3rd for a celebration of life and our **Mother's Day** luncheon will be **May 11th**. The ritual will start at **12:30** with lunch to follow. The meal will be fried pork steak, twice baked potatoes, green beans, salad and dessert for \$15, and kids meal of chicken tenders and french fries for \$5. Mothers will eat for free. House Committee cooks on Friday, May 23rd so hope to see everyone! Summer is coming up quick and the pools ready to go!! Here's to a great year!

P.E.R. REPORT

Meeting Tuesday, May 13th at 6:30 pm.

SECRETARY REPORT

—TAMMY HELTON

Happy Elk's New Year My Fellow Elks!

Membership Update

In 2024-2025 we initiated 25 new members, reinstated 8, and had 1 transfer for a total growth of 34 members! We also currently have 2 members awaiting initiation!

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 also still have 138 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, TX 77834.

Unfortunately, **online dues payments are no longer available.**

The new membership cards for 2025-2026 are yellow and have been mailed out to those that have paid their dues. The new cards will be active starting **4/26/2025!**

I look forward to serving as your new secretary; please feel free to contact me with any concerns and/or questions.

Respectfully,
Tammy Helton

SWEETHEART REPORT

—TAMMY GEHOVAK

Dear Members,

Before we look forward, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank **Alyson Hancock** for her incredible dedication this past year. **Alyson, you set a goal, reached it, and then reached another one!** Your commitment to the Sweetheart program, your passion for helping others, and your determination to go above and beyond have truly inspired us all. I am proud of you **-we all are.** I am honored to continue the path you've set in motion.

Now, let's go win district on April 26th!

As I begin my journey as your **Lodge Sweetheart**, I do so in honor of someone who meant the world to me- **Carolyn Campbell.** Carolyn was my biggest supporter, and her kindness and encouragement inspired me every step of the way. It is with her spirit in my heart that I take on this role committed to making a difference in the lives of special needs children.

Serving as **Exalted Ruler** this past year was an incredible experience, and I am deeply grateful for the friendships, teamwork, and accomplishments we achieved together. As I transition into the **Sweetheart role**, I will focus on continuing

Carolyn's legacy of support and generosity.

Through our Sweetheart program, we will raise funds to **help special needs children thrive-** providing resources, opportunities, and experiences that make a lasting impact. We have some **exciting events** coming up to support our Sweetheart program. Check out our lodge calendar, Facebook page, or **elks979.com** for the latest updates and details!

How You Can Help:

Donate Raffle items- Your contributions help make our fundraisers successful.

Spread the Word: Invite friends and family to join.

Volunteer- Lend a hand at our events and be part of something special.

I invite you to **join me in honoring her memory** by supporting our Sweetheart program in any way you can-whether through donations, attending events, or volunteering. Since writing this newsletter we held our annual Ladies Salad with great success on the raffle items. Thank you to all that donated and came out to support. We held our first Friday Night Cook and have the Queen of hearts rolling again. We look forward to seeing everyone at our events! If you have any ideas or would like to get involved, please reach out.

I would love to hear from you!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Tammy Gehovak

Outgoing Exalted Ruler & Incoming Lodge Sweetheart

979.777.4534 tgehovak@gmail.com



SWEETHEART BURGER NIGHT

**MONDAY, MAY 5
6:30-8:00 PM**

Join us as we kick off a new season of Monday nights—raising money for our Sweetheart Program benefiting special needs children. Bring your friends, bring your appetite, and bring your Elk spirit!

SUPPORT THE CAUSE!

**BREHAM ELKS LODGE
400 E GERMANIA**



SWEETHEART MEMORIAL DAY POOL PARTY

**MONDAY, MAY 26 | 2-5 PM
BREHAM ELKS LODGE • 400 E GERMANIA**

★ Come celebrate Memorial Day with us!
★ Enjoy swimming, music, hamburgers, and hot dogs — fun for the whole family. We'd love to see you there

★  ★

All proceeds benefit special needs children

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND EXALTED RULER

Douglas A. Schiefer

Keep in mind 4 important observances this month

Elkdom's Heart for America has significance in May as we think about Elks National Youth Week, Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, and Mother's Day.

The first week of May is Elks National Youth Week. Honor the youth in your community at the end of their school year. A variety of certificates are available online, including ones for Student/Teenager of the Year/Month and the Elks JROTC Awards Program.

Memorial Day is Monday, May 26. It is a wonderful time when we can recognize and commemorate the men and women of all services for their sacrifices and hard work that kept our country safe and prosperous. Elks have a heart for remembering our departed service members.

Please find ways to acknowledge them by attending or participating in a Memorial Day parade, working at a cemetery ceremony to put flags at service members' graves, or planning a memorial ceremony at your Lodge. Memorial Day is not the only day that honors veterans.

Many of us may not automatically think of Armed Forces Day, which honors those currently serving in the U.S. military, held this year on Saturday, May 17. It was designated as a day for the unification of the armed forces to be celebrated together instead of celebrating each branch individually. God bless our troops who served throughout the history of our country.

Happy Mother's Day to the important ladies in our lives. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11. We need to extend our heartfelt thanks to all mothers, the women who have made our world a better place. Find a way to honor the mothers in your life and plan a Lodge activity to let them know how much they mean to us.

Our Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City is just around the corner and we hope that you are able to attend. There's nothing like being together and finding out that we are all one powerful family who loves the Elks.

God bless you, God bless our troops, and God bless America!

CHARITY, JUSTICE, BROTHERLY LOVE, and FIDELITY

MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 27 Cornhole Tournament Kitchen Open @ 1 p.m.	April 28	April 29 House Committee Meeting Pool Closed for Cleaning	April 30	1	2 NO Friday Night Cook	3 Private Rental
4	5 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m. <i>E l k s</i>	6 Pool Closed for Cleaning <i>N a t i o n a l</i>	7 <i>Y o u t h</i>	8	9 Steak Night Board of Directors Cook <i>W e e k</i>	10
11 Mother's Day Luncheon 12:30 p.m.	12	13 PER Meeting 6:30 p.m. Pool Closed for Cleaning	14 Lodge Meeting 7 p.m.	15	16 Steak Night House Committee Cooks	17 <i>Armed Forces Day</i>
18	19	20 <i>Reports & Articles DUE for June newsletter</i> Pool Closed for Cleaning	21 Board of Directors Meeting 7 p.m.	22	23 Steak Night Sweetheart Cooks	24
25	26 Sweetheart Memorial Day Pool Party 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	27 Pool Closed for Cleaning	28 Lodge Meeting 7 p.m.	29	30 Steak Night House Committee Cooks	31
June 1	June 2	June 3 Pool Closed for Cleaning	June 4	June 5	June 6 NO Friday Night Cook	June 7



Articles for next month's newsletter

ARE DUE no later than MAY 20th

Please email or text Alyson Hancock with Calendar Info & Reports