

**Brenham Elks Lodge No. 979**  
BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS  
*A Fraternal Organization*  
**PO Box 177 BRENHAM, TX 77833-0177**  
Return Service Requested

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BRENHAM, TEXAS  
PERMIT NO. 56



# ANTLER RATTLES

October 2025



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

## EXALTED RULER MESSAGE

Howdy,

Well this month has been slower than most. I would like to thank everyone that came out and donated blood it was a good turnout. Thank you Brett Coghlan for helping. We have a lot of exciting events coming up next month starting with the annual rib shootout on October 10th and 11th. If you think you have what it takes to win the \$2000 dollars then sign your team up.

We'll have our stag night on Monday October 20th, all you can eat shrimp, hot wings, and calf fries for \$35. Then on Tuesday, October 21st we will have the ladies shrimp dinner. Ladies get your tickets and come have fun. Tickets are \$30.

We have our gun raffle tickets on sale Tickets can be purchased at the lodge our contact Chris Helton or Lila Steele. Tickets are \$20 each.

I want to thank everyone that has been helping out at the lodge. Also, don't forget to come on down and support the sweet-heart on Monday and Friday night cooks. Till next month I hope you all have a wonderful day.

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:*

- |        |                     |
|--------|---------------------|
| Oct 3  | NO COOK             |
| Oct 10 | NO COOK             |
| Oct 17 | Sweetheart          |
| Oct 24 | NO COOK             |
| Oct 31 | Past Exalted Rulers |

**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	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



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join.elks.org

**Cornhole Tournament is  
October 12th  
all ages welcome!  
Kitchen will be open!**

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



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**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

On Saturday morning Sept 6th, our Veterans Committee had the honor of delivering care packages to veterans in nursing care around Brenham. We were able to reach 16 veterans and fulfill their wish lists, sharing a small token of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

This effort was made possible through a \$1,000 Freedom Grant, and we are deeply thankful for the support that allows us to continue serving those who served our country.

A big thank you to everyone who helped shop, assemble, and deliver the packages! Your time and effort truly make a difference.

Fraternally yours,

JD Willms

Take a look at our Veterans Committee helping Veterans in need. Those smiles say it all!





# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

—LILA STEELE

Fall has arrived with no cooler weather. Hope it gets here soon.

Homecoming event where Amy Williams and I sold Bluebell Ice Cream was a BIG SUCCESS! Good times were had by all.

The ANNUAL RANDY JACOB COOK OFF IS OCTOBER 10TH AND 11TH! The \$2000.00 is waiting for the Best Pork Ribs cookers around to pick it up. Give me a call to sign your team up!

Monday, Oct.20 is our Men's Stag Night.

Tuesday, Oct. 21 is our Ladies Shrimp and Salad Night.

Tickets are available for both events at the lodge and any members. Gun Raffle tickets as well.

Sweetheart, Tammy G, is cooking those great burgers every Monday during football season.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 7th @ 6:30. See you all there!

Any Questions feel free to call me 979-421-0008.

Until next month - Remember to Be Kind!



# SECRETARY REPORT

—TAMMY HELTON

Hello Elks.

## MEMEBERSHIP UPDATE:

Thanks to everyone who has paid their dues and encouraged new members. We had 4 good initiations and welcomed New Members to our Elk Family.

## DUES PAYMENTS:

We have received quite a few dues for 2025=2026. Special thanks to those who have already paid. If you know of a member that has not paid, 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. Another option is 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](mailto:elks979@yahoo.com) or text me at 979-421-0605, so we can get your information updated.

It has been a great 5 months of learning, meeting so many people and getting to know our Elksdom Family. I thank each and every one of you for your support and continued help during my journey.

Tammy Helton

Elks Lodge #979 Secretary

# SWEETHEART REPORT

—TAMMY GEHOVAK

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Fall has arrived, and with it comes one of our busiest and most exciting months at the Lodge! Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Sweetheart program—whether you attend burger nights, buy raffle tickets, volunteer at events, or donate to our cause, YOU are the reason we can keep helping special needs children in our community.

## ■ Monday Night Burger Nights

Join us each **Monday from 6:30–8:00 PM** for **Sweetheart Burger Night**. - Dine in or carry out

- **50/50 Card Raffle – \$5 per card (cash only)**

- Winner takes home **half the pot!**

■ Special thanks to **Lucas Roach**, who generously donated a portion of his 50/50 winnings back to the Sweetheart Program at Burger Night. Your kindness helps us continue making a difference!

## ■ Annual Ladies' Shrimp Night

Mark your calendars—**Tuesday, October 21st** is our **Ladies' Shrimp Night!** - Delicious shrimp, salads, and gumbo

- Raffles, raffle baskets, and a **50/50 drawing**

- All proceeds benefit the Sweetheart Program for special needs children

This is one of our most beloved fundraisers of the year, so don't miss out! Bring your friends for a wonderful night of food, fun, and fellowship.

## ■ Sweetheart Friday Night Cook

Join us for a **Sweetheart Friday Night Cook on October 17th!**

Come hungry, enjoy a great meal, and stay for the fun while supporting the Sweetheart Program.

## ■ Queen of Hearts

The **Queen of Hearts** was found on **Friday, September 12th** by **KP**. In a beautiful act of generosity, he and another wonderful anonymous member **donated \$2,000 back to the Sweetheart Program**. ■ Thank you both for your incredible kindness and support!. The **Queen of Hearts drawing will continue back up on Friday, September 27th**. So come on down to the Lodge and try your shot at finding her!

## ■ Homecoming at Texas Elks Children's Camp

We went down to **Homecoming at the Texas Elks Children's Camp** to raise money for special needs kids. It was a wonderful time raising money for the program and catching up with all our Elk family—though boy was it hot! ■■ Thank you to everyone who came out and supported.

## ■ Special Thanks

The Sweetheart Committee would like to give a heartfelt **thank-you to Paul and Sarah Goessler** for donating items to the kitchen for use at our Sweetheart events. Your generosity keeps our fundraisers running smoothly and successfully!

## ■ Sweetheart's Big Goal

Sweetheart has a big goal this year—and at the rate we're going, we just might surpass it! ■ Thank you all for your generosity and dedication. We couldn't do it without each and every one of you.

## ■ Closing Thoughts

Our Sweetheart Program is in **honor of Carolyn Campbell**, whose love and dedication inspire us to continue this work. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of children who need us most.

Thank you all for your support and dedication. I love each and every one of you, and I am proud to be part of such a caring community.

With gratitude,  
**Tammy Gehovak**  
Sweetheart 2025





**ELKS**  
Honor Veterans  
WITH RESPECT, ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE



**THANK YOU**  
*For your service and bravery!*

"WE DON'T KNOW THEM ALL, BUT WE OWE THEM ALL"

Community • Friendship • Charity  
elks.org



**ELKS**  
*Support Kids!*



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Lila Steele, Matt Brinkman, and Amy Williams at Ottine. This special place will put a huge smile on your face, the proof is in the picture!

**ELKS**  
Breast Cancer Awareness Month

**GOT PINK?**

Elks Care. Elks Share. *Think Pink in October!*

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**Dream of a Better World**  
Investing in America's youth since 1868.



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**Brenham Elks Lodge 979 Presents  
Annual Randy Jacob  
BBQ Cookoff & \$2,000 Rib Shootout**

**October 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**For Details and Registration Packet  
Contact Matt Gore (979) 451-0644,  
Abby Gore (979) 451-0287, or  
Chris Helton (979) 203-0790**

**BBQ Cook Off Packets also  
available at the Lodge.**

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*Ladies Shrimp Dinner*

Tuesday October 21, 2025

Brenham Elks Lodge  
400 E Germania St. - Brenham

Doors Open @ 5:30 pm  
Meal Served at 6:30 pm  
Meal consists of boiled shrimp, gumbo,  
multiple salads and desserts!

Tickets - \$30.00

For more information contact:  
Brenda Prestwood 979-203-4548  
Lila Steele 979-421-0008





**Stag Night**

**Monday October 20, 2025**

**Brenham Elks Lodge  
400 E Germania St. - Brenham**

**Doors Open @ 5:30 pm  
Meal Served @ 6:30 pm**

**Meal consists of calf fries, boiled shrimp,  
chicken wings and french fries.**

**Tickets - \$35.00**

**For more information contact:  
Matt Gore (979) 451-0644 or Clayton Wallace 979-530-2092**



## P.E.R. REPORT

—LONNIE TEGELER

The Past Exalted Rulers (PERs) met on September 9, 2025 with seven members present. Scott Sonnenberg and Lila Steele conducted the meeting in the absence of the President, Lonnie Tegeler. Items discussed were the blood drive scheduled at the lodge on September 13 and the status of several projects. The stainless steel salad bar has been ordered and delivery is expected within the next two weeks. Paul Kendall volunteered to repair the electrical lighting in the outdoor storage room and lighting for the newly built trophy case was also discussed.

The PERs will be responsible for the Friday night steak night on October 31 and in addition to rib eye steaks, it was agreed that pork steaks with vegetable side dishes will also be served.


The next PER Meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Lonnie Tegeler

President, Brenham #979 Past Exalted Rulers

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT —CHRIS HELTON

The Board met Wednesday September 17th, 2025. First motion made and passed to give \$400 for the Hoop Shoot. Second motion made and passed was to give reimbursement up to \$500 for the Elks Ottine Cookoff. Prior to next meeting at 3:00 on Sunday, October 5th we will do inventory on the lodge. Last motion was made and passed was to adjourned. Our next board meeting will be held on October 15th, 2025 at 6:30p.m. at the Elk lodge meeting room.



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.*



**We shall never forget.  
The chimes will ring at  
11 o'clock!**

**Volunteers are ALWAYS needed!**

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



# MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND EXALTED RULER

## Elks fundraising, donations aid communities

Can you Be The Difference in the most important program in our Order, the Elks National Foundation? Our goal for the 2025–2026 fraternal year is \$5.15 per Member—the monetary support we provide makes the Foundation’s work possible.

This year, the Foundation has an approved budget of \$48.2 million to make a difference in the U.S., including \$18 million for Lodge Community Investments Program grants.

This grant program allows our Lodges to do more for your communities. I also encourage all Lodges to seriously consider forming an ENF committee to educate themselves on the various grants to assist their communities. You can make an impact, and when united with our fellow Elks across the nation, we can Be The Difference.

Also, make use of the fundraising program through the Foundation’s Fidelity Club. Any Member can sign up at [elks.org](https://elks.org) to make automatic recurring donations for as little as \$5 per month. I encourage you to consider joining. This is once again a way for you to show your communities that “Elks Care—Elks Share.”

Another important program we must focus our attention on is Red Ribbon Week. This is our nation’s oldest and largest drug prevention program, held annually from October 23-31.

There are many ways to celebrate. Have your local elected officials issue a proclamation declaring Red Ribbon Week. Pass out red ribbons to your local school administrators, government officials, and members of law enforcement.

When we wear a red ribbon, it means we are looking to take a stand against the horrible ramifications that drugs can have on our communities. Standing together will have a positive impact on the citizens where you live. The Elks will always lead the charge against the devastation that drugs have on families.

By now, school is in full swing. It’s a good time to introduce the Americanism Essay Contest to your local schools. The deadline for submissions is mid-December. There is complete essay information on the Elks website in the GL Fraternal Committee section under Forms and Contests. It’s time to let our youth express themselves about respecting patriotism and our country’s heritage. Students who win the essay contest should be recognized by your Local Lodge.

Hold an event for them and give these students recognition certificates to administer to the schools. I am always amazed at the wisdom and knowledge that students can express. All Americans would benefit from reading these essays.

In closing, Be The Difference by promoting “Elks Care—Elks Share.”

Bryan R. Klatt—Grand Exalted Ruler

CHARITY, JUSTICE, BROTHERLY LOVE, and FIDELITY

# OCTOBER 2025

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

Reports, articles, photos, and dates for next month’s newsletter  
ARE DUE no later than October 23rd.  
Please email or text them to Alyson Hancock.