

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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ORGANIZATION
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BRENHAM, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 56



ANTLER RATTLES

September 2025



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

EXALTED RULER MESSAGE

Howdy all, I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. With school starting and everyone is getting busier, I appreciate you all supporting our lodge sweetheart.

We will be having a blood drive on 9-13-2025 so if you would like to donate blood please come down and support. I hope everyone that came out to support the skeet shoot had a great time. Our lodge won't have a lot of activity going in September with homecoming on September 19-20.

We will be having our lodge rib shootout on October 10th and 11th so be on the lookout for the entry forms to win that \$2000 for the best ribs.

We will also be having stag night on October 20th followed by lady shrimp on the October 21st. Tickets are available for sale at the lodge or with your officers. We will be having our gun raffle on stag night. Tickets will be available to purchase at the lodge or any lodge officer as well.

I hope you all are doing well and have enjoyed our Friday night dinners. Please make sure to come down and support our sweetheart with queen of hearts as well as her Monday night burger nights. May you all be blessed and I'll talk to you all next month, cheers.

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:

Sept 5	NO FNC
Sept 12	Sweetheart
Sept 19	NO FNC
Sept 26	Sweetheart

Elks Care — Elks Share

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND EXALTED RULER

It’s up to you to Be The Difference this year

Bryan R. Klatt - GER

After nearly 40 years as an Elks Member and 17 years serving as Grand Secretary, I am honored to now represent our Order as Grand Exalted Ruler for 2025-26. I first want to thank my wife, Susan. Her dedication and support make this journey possible. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our friends, family, and fellow Elks. We thank you all for everything. My theme is “Be The Difference.” Keep it in mind all year—and beyond. Be The Difference... in a veteran’s life. Be it by helping them out of homelessness, providing Welcome Home Kits, visiting them in their home or retirement center, or mailing them a birthday or holiday card. Be The Difference... in a student’s life. Be it by organizing clothing and school supply drives, holding Hoop Shoot or Soccer Shoot contests, championing Drug Awareness, and promoting the many scholarships offered by the Grand Lodge programs and State Associations. Be The Difference... in your Lodge. Be it by volunteering, getting involved, and using the many available grants to help those who need it most. In other words, we need you to Be The Difference for our Order to grow. Susan and I are embarking on a year of travel, promoting our many Elks programs administered by our Grand Lodge committees. All our Order’s endeavors strive to give back to and improve our communities. Furthering our commitment to charity will make our Lodges even stronger. It will deepen the camaraderie among the Members of our Lodges as we work toward a common goal. As we succeed, upstanding members of the public will see our impact and will be motivated to join us. Working hard, sharing a vision, and staying true to our principles will bolster the spirit of Elkdom. I am confident sustained membership growth will follow. The Elks National Foundation, the “Great Heart of Elkdom,” is a catalyst for the many things we do. The Community Investments Program, a series of grants that meet specific local needs, turns 20 years old in 2025-26. The grant allocation total has been boosted to \$17.6 million. It will allow the Elks to be a major difference in our communities. Members have repeatedly proven their commitment to meeting our annual per capita donation goal, which will be set at \$5.15 per Member in 2025-26. It will go a long way, so thank you for all your efforts.

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 31	1	2 Pool Closed for Cleaning	3	4 NFL Starts! Sweetheart Watch Party & Food	5 NO Friday Night Cook	6
7	8 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	9 P.E.R. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Pool Closed for Cleaning	10 Lodge Meeting 7 pm	11	12 Steak Night Sweetheart Cooks	13 Blood Drive 10 am - 2:30 pm
14	15 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	16 House Committee Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. Pool Closed for Cleaning	17 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 p.m.	18	19 NO Friday Night Cook Sweetheart Homecoming Ottine - Gonzales, Texas	20
21	22 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	23 Reports, Articles, & Calendar Dates DUE for Oct. newsletter Pool Closed for Cleaning	24 Lodge Meeting 7 pm	25	26 Steak Night Sweetheart Cooks	27
28 Private Rental 12 pm - 4 pm	29 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	30 Pool Closed for Cleaning	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3 NO Friday Night Cook	Oct 4
Oct 5	Oct 6 Sweetheart Burger Night 6:30 p.m.	Oct 7 Pool Closed for Cleaning	Oct 8 Lodge Meeting 7 p.m.	Oct 9	Oct 10 Steak Night Board of Directors Cook ANNUAL RIB SHOOT OUT	Oct 11

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Stag Night: Monday, October 20th @ 5:30 pm

Ladies Shrimp: Tuesday, October 21st @ 5:30 pm

SWEETHEART FOOTBALL SEASON OPENER WATCH PARTY

Thursday, September 4

ANTLER ROOM OPENS 6:30 PM

FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE 6:30 - TILL END OF HALFTIME

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM COLORS
KICKOFF AT 7:20 PM



DALLAS
COWBOYS



PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES

P.E.R. REPORT

—LONNIE TEGELER

The Past Exalted Rulers (PERs) met on August 12, 2025 with eight members present. President Lila Steele conducted the meeting and reviewed the status of the various projects for the Lodge. Lonnie Tegeler was elected as President of the Past Exalted Rulers and everyone in attendance thanked Lila Steele for the outstanding job she has done in leading the PERs during the past several years. Joanne Hollingsworth Jacob agreed to continue her role as Secretary. Plans were made for the Friday Steak Night on August 29 as the PERs will be responsible for this function. A discussion was held regarding purchasing a stainless steel salad serving table with additional information to be provided prior to making a decision. The next PER Meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Lonnie Tegeler

President, Brenham #979 Past Exalted Rulers

B.O.D. REPORT

—CHRIS HELTON

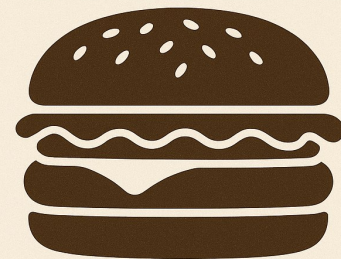
Board met Wednesday August 20th. First motion made and past was to donate \$100 to the Burton and Brenham Booster Club. Second motion and past was to donate Burton and Brenham High School \$2000 each for D.A.R.E. and another \$2000 to Blessing Spotlight. Third motion made and past was to bring present the TPO of \$60,000 to the Grand Lodge for Quotes on the Elk roof quote we received, Fourth motion brought up and passed was to bring to the Elks lodge meeting floor to vote for Secretary & Treasurer to move their monthly salary to \$600 starting Sept 1. Fifth Motion made and passed was to adjourn. Special note: prior to this meeting the board had to make an emergency vote to replace the pool pump for the amount of \$2500 to get it back and running.



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

Volunteers are ALWAYS needed!

Sweetheart MONDAY NIGHT BURGERS



Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29

50/50 CARD RAFFLE

CASH ONLY

DRAWING TO BE HELD AT 8:00 PM

WINNER TAKES 1/2 THE POT!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITTING

SWEETHEART PROGRAM

RAISING MONEY FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

**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



HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

—LILA STEELE

Hope everyone has surviving the heat of August. Pool has been busy and the is the sure way to cool off.

There a lot of events coming up in the next few months, so please check calendar for them.

October is the Annual Cook Off and Men's Stag night as well as the Ladies Shrimp night.

Sweetheart, Tammy G, will be cooking Burgers every Monday when football starts up in September.

We will be closing the lodge for Friday night cook on September 19th due to Homecoming in Ottine. Sweethearts from all over Texas will be there to sell their goods to help the Elk's Camp. All about the children. I'll be there selling Blue Bell Ice Cream in memory of Leon and Anita Beach. Always a great time is had.

Queen of Hearts is going strong on our Friday steak nights. Come on down enjoy some fabulous food and drink.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 16th @ 6:30. See you all there!

Until next month - Remember to Be Kind!

SECRETARY REPORT

—TAMMY HELTON

Hello Fellow Elks.

MEMEBERSHIP UPDATE:

Thanks to everyone who has paid their dues and encouraged new members. We are going to have a big month. We have 7 New Applicants and 6 Reinstatements this month. Way to Go Elks Family!

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.

SWEETHEART REPORT

—TAMMY GEHOVAK

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As summer winds down and football season kicks off, our Sweetheart program is going strong thanks to your continued support. Every burger night, raffle ticket, and event you attend makes a difference for our special needs children.

Burger Nights

Sweetheart Burger Nights continue on Monday evenings from 6:30–8:00 PM. Dine in or carry out, and don't forget about the 50/50 card raffle. Winner takes half the pot, and every dollar raised helps our cause.

Football Season Opener

Join us Thursday, September 4th, for our Sweetheart Football Season Opener Watch Party.

- Dallas Cowboys vs. Philadelphia Eagles
- Food available for purchase from 6:30 PM till halftime ends
- Kickoff at 7:20 PM
- Wear your favorite team colors and bring your team spirit!

Red Pig Contest

Thank you to everyone who adopted and decorated pigs! Winners for Best Name, Best Decorated, and Most Money Raised were announced in August. The competition was a huge success, and we appreciate every penny you helped us collect.

We will have another adoption at the beginning of the year, so get ready for more fun and creativity!

Fundraising Updates

- Burger Nights and raffles are adding up beautifully toward our Sweetheart goal.
- The Sweetheart Committee is still in need of spirits that will be used for our fundraising event at Homecoming in Ottine this September. Donations of bottles or monetary contributions are greatly appreciated.
- Thank you to everyone who has already donated raffle baskets, spirits, or gift cards — your generosity makes our events possible.
- The Queen of Hearts continues every Friday night — come flip a card for your chance at half the pot!

Looking Ahead

- Our favorite fundraiser is right around the corner — the Annual Ladies' Shrimp Night on Tuesday, October 21st. Where has the year gone? Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more details coming soon!
- We are also looking for donations for Ladies' Shrimp Night. Raffle baskets, gift cards, and other contributions are welcome and will help make this event another success.

Special Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to all of the volunteers who cook, serve, clean, and donate. You are the heartbeat of our program, and we couldn't do it without you.

Let's keep the momentum going strong into the fall! I look forward to seeing you all at the lodge this September.

With gratitude,

Tammy Gehovak

Lodge Sweetheart

In honor of Carolyn Campbell