



TEXAS ELKS STATE ASSOCIATION
A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

THE TESA EXPRESS

"Be the spark, fired up for Elkdom"

FALL EDITION 2025



TESA STATE PRESIDENT 2025-2026

MATT WILLIAMS

Howdy Texas,

Well it has been a busy first couple of months into being your State President. And let me tell you, it has been everything they all said it would be.

So, first. I flew to Amarillo to participate in flag day with the Borger lodge. Ralph and company hosted a beautiful presentation that was represented by most of the lodges in the "Mighty Panwest".

Then it was off to Kansas City with Rachelle. Wow, what an honor to carry the flag across the stage. It was overwhelming. The Texas Hospitality crew was the talk of the convention. Lots of other Elks had to come see what was going on.

Then I took a trip to Kerrville to visit with ER Jeff Bowman. Once again Elks around the state stepping up to assist in the flood aftermath. Hearts and prayers to all the victims and their families.

Rachelle and I started our District visits last week. We were apart of the North Central District in Arlington. What a great weekend. Let me tell you all something. If you have never had the privilege of eating chef Eddie's food, you are missing out. Truly some of the best eats ever. ER Rob Ivey and his group rolled out the red carpet for Rachelle and I.

We are looking forward to our other visits. We are both excited about upcoming "Homecoming" next month. Just a little note, Rachelle's birthday is the day before. So, I expect you all really dig deep and help her towards her goal. Looking forward to meeting you all and spending time with you. God bless you all.



TESA FIRST LADY

RACHELLE WILLIAMS

Howdy Texas Elks!

As summer ends and we begin the Fall, and Holiday Season let us keep all those less fortunate in our thoughts and prayers.

Matt and I are very excited about our visits, and love hearing so many interesting ideas for Elkdom and supporting our communities.

We are working very hard to raise money for the First Lady Project. This will involve updating/improving the pavilion at the Childrens Camp. We're hoping to put in "Big Azz" (that's their name) fans, lights, a new sound system, and possibly, misters.

I encourage everyone to come to homecoming! The First Lady's booth will have different things such as baskets, silent auction items, etc. We will also have the Presidents tshirts available. Please stop by and say hello.

Matt and I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming and Fall Conference!



TESA PRESIDENT ELECT

BILL "BILLY" BRYAN

Hello fellow Elks!

As I write this, I have just returned from North District InterLodge and it was great. The month of August was busy, having made East InterLodge in Navasota and Northeast Interlodge in Texarkana, along with North Central in Arlington (not official visit).

I cannot say enough good things about you all! The hospitality was great, the programs were great, the food was great, but the GREATEST was seeing so many involved and committed ELKS.

Been working with Matt and all the great TESA leaders, committee chairs, officers, and others to have a great Fall conference and continue our training and other efforts.

Our greatest priorities are on display for this coming month with the Veterans Retreat and our Homecoming both in Ottine.

Even if you just carpool together and have a day trip to homecoming, come see us and enjoy lunch!!

Thanks for all you do.

SPECIAL DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULER
JOHN ATWOOD

Everyone has a story, what's
yours? Here is mine..

I was asked to be a charter member of the Katy Lodge in the late '70s. I was still in the oil field traveling... overseas and stuff. My kids were all playing softball and tournament softball, so we were traveling a lot then.

In 2004, uh, Jim Wykoff, was the first ER of Katie Lodge, and his wife said lets go over and play bingo on a Thursday night. And we went over there, I met Bob Boyett. I met Grumpy Marks, I met Tiny,

I can't remember Tiny's last name. Anyway, just sitting there, I was waiting at the bar, you know, to go in and play bingo. And they didn't ice teas, so I had a coke.

And they said, "You need to come here." So, I walked over to one of the little rooms, and they were playing poker, and I said, "Can anybody play?" He said, "Yeah, if you're a member." So, I turned in application that night. Became a new member got initiated in February or end of February, '04, Learned what they were doing, went to the camp, cried like every first-time member that goes to the camp.

The next year, I was appointed to the TEEI board by Bubba Goode. I became Loyal Knight, and then Leading Knight, and then ER.

Then I was on the trustees, and then we transferred from Katy Lodge to Houston Lodge, and the reality was to play poker.



TESA STATE SECRETARY
MIKE CLARK

FROM THE (VIRTUAL) TESA SECRETARY'S DESK

For those TESA Chairs that have any questions on expense reimbursement policy or process, feel free to contact me for answers (hopefully the right ones!). There are some updated voucher documents, one of which helps keep track of multiple trips in one spreadsheet instead of multiple files.

For those members with updates or changes to TESA Directory information, feel free to contact me with those changes so that I can add them to the periodic e-blasts so that everyone can note the changes in their copies.

For those who have questions on how to win the lottery or do a tune-up on a car newer than a 1979 F-150, I hear that ChatGPT is the latest thing!

TESA Directory Updates

OFFICER CHANGES

Area Special Representative - East District
[Sheri McCord](#)

District Leader - East District
[Renay Bennett](#)
srbennett1964@gmail.com
(c) 713-8923-7955

Vice President, East District
[Larry Baughman](#)

Secretary, Tyler Lodge No. 215
[Laurie Manuele](#)

Exalted Ruler, Garland Lodge No. 1984
Brandon Ramsey
btr.cantontcarpets@outlook.com

GARLAND LODGE Exalted Ruler
[Brandon Ramsey](#)
903-910-7977
Btw.cantontcarpets@outlook.com

GRAPEVINE LODGE Secretary
[Dan Hawe](#)
918-629-0962
Danhawe7@gmail.com

EMAIL and PHONE CHANGES and
CORRECTIONS

Barry Hohlfelder, Exalted Ruler
Frisco No. 2890
[1221 Isabella Lane](#)

Staci Foix, Exalted Ruler
Lubbock No. 1348
[Staci Foix](#)

Roland Martinez, Exalted Ruler
Fort Worth Lodge No. 124
Rpmart56@gmail.com

Amy Schrumpf, Secretary
Garland Lodge No. 1984
Glodge1984@Verizon.net

Donna Byrd, Exalted Ruler
Huntsville Lodge No. 1981
d1m_martin@yahoo.com

Brian Nicholson, Exalted Ruler
Texarkana Lodge No. 2771
nicholsonbrian31@gmail.com

Stacy Hydrick
Frisco Lodge No. 2890
stacy.hydrick1963@outlook.com

Iris Solomon
Isolo.qcbusiness@gmail.com
(c) 903-748-9112



TESA Fall Conference 2025 Information

JIM STANSBURY

Fall Conference will be held at the San Antonio Marriott Airport hotel. The hotel is located at 77 NE Loop 410, San Antonio, TX. The hotel reservation and the Conference registration links are available at www.texaselks.org/Conventions.

The Honorable Carl Seibert, Grand Secretary, and his wife Theresa, past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler from Florida will be our special guests during the conference. This will be a great time to meet our new Grand Secretary.

Board meetings will be held on Friday, 24 October. Opening ceremony will start at 8 PM Friday evening. The first business session will start at 8:30 AM Saturday morning with reports being provided by various State Committees. Lunch will be available on Saturday at Noon, with workshops and ritual competition being held in the afternoon. The banquet will be held Saturday evening, with the just announced theme of Saturday Night Fever. More information about the entertainment will be coming out via Eblasts. The final business session starts at 9 AM Sunday morning, with the final State Committee reports being given. The complete and (mostly) finalized agenda will be available in early September.

TEXAS ELKS

2025 Fall Conference

to be held at the
San Antonio Airport Marriott
24 - 26 October

Conference registration and Hotel reservations
The link is up and running
<https://texaselks.org/conventions>
under Fall Conference.

TESA President Matt Williams
and
President-Elect Billy Bryan
Both are working hard on the agenda,
it will be ready SOON!!

It's time to make your Hotel reservations.
They need to be made by **1 October 2025**

See Ya'll at the Conference!!!
Texas Elks State Association
Convention Committee

TEXAS ELKS

2025 Fall Conference

to be held at the
San Antonio Airport Marriott
24 - 26 October

Conference registration and Hotel reservations
go to <https://texaselks.org/conventions>

The Banquet theme is
Saturday Night FEVER

Music by
George BITZER
who played with the Bee Gees

We are honored to have the
Grand Lodge Secretary,
Carl Seibert
and his wife **Theresa**
attending Fall Conference

The Convention Committee is aware that the Fall Conference hotel is charging a higher rate than advertised for at least Thursday night (October 23). We are actively working to expand the number of rooms available for that night and to resolve any related issues that may affect the other conference dates. Once the room block has been increased and the contract modification is finalized, we will send another e-blast to update the membership.

If you have any questions, or issues, contact Jim Stansbury at jim.stansbury52@gmail.com or 325-374-4541.



TESA HOOPSHOOT

KEITH STANLEY

It's Hoop Shoot Time

It's Hoop Shoot season again so let's all get on board with every Lodge hosting a contest that gives kids an avenue to work towards a goal, develop grit, and succeed through a Drug free environment.

Ensure we are talking to our schools, rec centers, community centers, churches, or wherever you can find kids. This could be your kids, friends, family, or grandkids. If this sounds like fun to you, which it is. Contact your local Hoop Shoot Chair and volunteer for an Elk program that has been working with kids and developing GRIT for more than 50 years.

Be The Difference, Get Fired Up for Elkdom!





TESA YOUTH ACTIVITIES BRENDA FULLER

The Scholarship applications are on the TESA WEBSITE.

District Chairs will be emailed the Judging Manuals after Fall Conference (late November/Early December). District Chairs are responsible for making sure your local Scholarship Chairs receive this information.

January 30th is the deadline for all TESA Scholarships to be given to the local lodge Scholarship Chair.

February 23rd (Monday) is the deadline for Scholarship Chairs to send the scholarship selections to the State Chairs. (Some scholarships will ask that EVERY scholarship is sent, but the Judging Manual will give you the details).

I want to thank each and every one of you for impacting the students in your community on these scholarships. We gave away \$216,000 in June. Also, I want to give a special thanks to Kyle Mantel for converting this to powerpoint for us. If you have a question, please email me or for a quicker response text me at 972-742-8751.



TESA STATE VETERAN CHAIR NIKKI GREEN

Greetings fellow Elks,

The past few months have been eventful, featuring experiences at Grand Lodge and comprehensive veterans training, as well as presentations at Inner Lodge. I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity. This year marks the 12th Texas Elks Veterans Retreat, an initiative that originated when Eric Stansbury asked why veterans could not also use the camp that TECSI hosts for children in June and July. Jim and Chris Stansbury advanced this idea to the honorable Wayne Christopher, and after extensive planning, the first retreat was successfully held from October 4-6, 2019, hosting 14 veterans. As of May 2025, the retreat has welcomed more than 208 veterans.

For the upcoming Ottine retreat on October 3-5, 2025, there is still availability for additional veterans; we can accommodate 10 more males, six more females, and several first-time volunteers. We are currently requesting candy donations for the "Come and Take It" parade. Donations may be left with any committee member listed below during Homecoming—we kindly request no chocolate.

Committee members are Sheri McCord, Keith Stanley, Beth Stanley, Corey Basquez, Vicki Vaughn, Al Olmos, Kendra Hart, Mike Cropp, Despi Scott and myself.



TESA MEMBERSHIP LOWELL NEINAST

Greetings From the Membership Committee! If you had an opportunity to attend the National Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City, you may have noticed that the Texas delegation was seated close to the front. Did you know that where we sit as a state delegation at Grand Lodge is based on membership growth? Texas Elks did an outstanding job last year as we placed 6th in the nation for total gain in membership. Texas was also 10th in the nation for percentage gain in membership. With our numbers last year, we were able to sit close to the stage, which, in my opinion, makes for a much more entertaining conference. This year, 2025-2026, we celebrate the 100th Year Anniversary of the Elks National Memorial and Headquarters building in Chicago, Illinois. It just so happens that the Grand Lodge Convention, which will be held in July of 2026, is taking place in Chicago Illinois, the Headquarters of Elkdom. How cool would it be to show our Texas Pride by once again being one of the top states in membership gain at this convention. Imagine sitting up in front of a convention which will surely celebrate the significant impact Elks have had in our nation over the past several decades. We can be a big part of that celebration representing the Great State of Texas and showing our Texas Pride.

We need your help! As a state we need to work together to accomplish this goal. We need to work our delinquents on a regular basis to keep the good Elks we have. At the same time, we need to continue to bring in new members at a record-breaking pace. It takes an entire lodge working together to accomplish goals. Let's make this happen in Texas! As we "Strive for Five" consecutive years of membership gain, never forget to ask yourself, why you became an Elk? Share your story with others and "Be the Spark" who gets your lodge Fired Up for Elkdom.



HOMECOMING



Greetings Elks!

Homecoming will be here before we know it! The website has been updated with information about the events and schedule. Please visit our website to get all the details and feel free to call us if you have any other questions!

Homecoming - Texas Elks Camp

Pool Time -The First Lady will be selling pool wrist bands!



Full Schedule of Events



TEXAS ELKS CAMP ON TEXOMA KELLY MCDERMOTT

TECOT - Texas Elks Camp on Texoma

Things are popping at TECOT. Our JOLT (Junior Outdoor Living on Texoma) program is kicking off for the fall. We are going to have school districts coming in for outdoor education. The JOLT program allows kids to learn about their environment. They learn about trees, plants and animal tracks. They also get to learn about snakes and rock formations. Our high ropes course is a challenge to those who are afraid of heights. The kids are awesome and really like the challenge of the 40’ rock wall. We have our pontoon boats on boat lifts now and our red pontoon is on Boatsetters.com at a 25% discount of what the going rate on Lake Texoma is.

Fishing on Lake Texoma is starting to get hot. Starting off in the mornings with top water and switching to live bait in the later in the day, so if you want to plan a fishing trip, contact Sandi at the camp and she can set you up with accommodations in the Eagles Nest which can sleep up to 12. Individual motel rooms are also available or for very large groups you can reserve one of the dorms. We would love to see you there. Check out our website, and if you have any questions, contact any of the board members or Sandi or Steve Weatherly and we will be happy to answer them.



TESA RED PIG/INTERLODGE CHAIR KIM MCDERMOTT

Homecoming is swiftly approaching. Do you have your raffle baskets, games, silent auction and live auction items ready? Be creative with your items. Each Sweetheart will receive (1) 6 foot table with 2 chairs under the pavilion. Tables are on a first come basis beginning Thursday night.

Sweethearts may begin selling at Noon on Friday. Booth hours are Friday 12:00 to 5:00 and Saturday 9:00 to 2:00. No alcohol can sold by the drink. Only bottles of liquor or wine can be sold. Check the website for more details and information. I look forward to seeing all lodges and representatives there. Let’s have fun raising money for the kids.





Helping veterans, kids and community
with grants and scholarships



TRIPP'S HARLEY DAVIDSON
OF AMARILLO, TEXAS



FUNDRAISER

ELKS NATIONAL
FOUNDATION

2024
Harley-Davidson
BREAKOUT 117

CUSTOM
LOYAL
KNIGHT
JUSTICE BIKE

WINNER RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL APPLICABLE
TAXES, TITLE FEES AND LICENSE REQUIREMENTS.



DONATION:
TICKETS ARE
\$10 EACH OR
3 FOR \$25

SPEAK TO YOUR
LODGE ENF CHAIR
OR CONTACT
TEXAS STATE
ENF CHAIR
DAVID ZINT
FOR TICKETS

DRAWING TO BE HELD
OCTOBER 25TH, 2025

EAST DISTRICT #8520

CROCKETT #1729



Crockett Elks 1729 participated in the Crockett ISD Extravaganza on Thursday, Aug. 7th. Our table was set up with information for ALL TO KNOW WHAT ELKS DO FOR OUR COMMUNITY!! Louise Humes, President handed out small basketballs to kids, who were interested in our Annual HOOP SHOOT and information on Scholarships, our Sweetheart Program, and Summer Camp, etc. Candy was available and went FAST!! We had a Great Time.



GULF COAST #8560

EL CAMPO #1749



El Campo Elks Lodge #1749 Spotlight Grant donation to Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church “Labor of Love”.

The El Campo Elks Lodge donated \$2,000 to assist The Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church “Labor of Love” food pantry. This donation was for monetary needs of The Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church “Labor of Love”. The Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church “Labor of Love” program was created in 2005 to assist local families with food needs.

Pictured in the photo
(front row, l to r): · Andrea Bagwell, Lodge Officer, Percilla Howray, PRBC “Labor of Love” Director, Margarita Garza, Lodge Officer, · Sheryl Brown, PRBC Volunteer, Rosalind Taylor, PRBC Volunteer, Alma Castellanos, Lodge Member & PRBC Volunteer
(back row, l to r): Moose Rodriguez, Lodge Officer, Jackie Henderson, PRBC Volunteer, Wilma Miller, PRBC Volunteer



Freedom Grant donation
The El Campo Elks Lodge made a donation of \$1,000 to Everyday Heroes to assist them in their efforts to Veterans.
In Photo (L to R): ER Tracy Oldag, Everyday Heroes Board Member, Mike Ryan, Lodge Trustee Anthony Perez.

The El Campo Lodge holds an “Open Call” event on the 1st Monday of each month. All attending Veterans receive a complimentary meal. It is an event to allow Veterans the opportunity for fellowship and entertainment if they desire to play dominoes, cards or just visit. The Lodge Veterans Chair, Anthony Twardowski, Jr., is in charge.

PANWEST #8720

DALHART #2390



I am the President of It’s All About Kids. We make backpacks and hand them out to kids in our area. We have Involved the Dalhart Elks Lodge the last four years to make the backpacks there. Me and many Elks work on making them and handing them out. We mad 750 backpacks this year.
Karen Lang
District Sweetheart

PANWEST # 8720 CONT.

AMARILLO #923



Fourth of July at the Amarillo VA... Amarillo Elks Veterans Chair Rob Weems coordinated with troop 89 to serve Veterans burgers at a cook out.... With our Americanism Trailer

Meanwhile.. Amarillo Antlers 923 were in a July 4th annual parade in Canyon ... with the Drug Awareness Trailer

NORTHEAST DISTRICT #8680

MARSHALL #683



Marshall Elk Lodge's Back To School Bash was featured on front page of the local news paper! What an awesome day!

Another Back to School Bash is in the books and 400 + kids received backpacks, school supplies, uniforms, socks, snacks, free lunch and haircuts during event.

Many youth and charity organizations, churches and businesses partnered with us to help kids from Marshall and surrounding areas.

We are thankful for our Elk volunteers, family members, friends and all who showed up and pitched in.

SWEETHEART HOMECOMING LIVE AUCTION

GALVESTON ELKS LODGE #126



"His" and "Her" Pistols
(and liquor bottles)

- RUGER LCP – lightweight compact pistol: Model 3701
 - o Factory-Supplied Locking Device
 - o 380 Auto magazine – six round
 - o Holster

The Ruger LCP is a compact, single strike double action, magazine-fed, recoil-operated pistol chambered for the 380 Auto cartridge. Pistols are compatible with standard factory ammunition including hollow-point loads loaded in brass or aluminum cases.

When the magazine is loaded, Do not touch the trigger. The pistol is ready for instant use when the trigger is pulled, once the slide moves fully forward.

Be careful!

\$600 value (beginning bid: \$250)



We might also have a Taurus Judge in our live auction items.

We don't know until Sep 16.

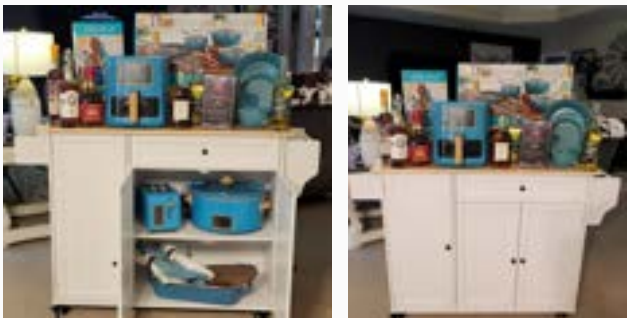
Value \$450

A decade ago, Taurus broke barriers with the introduction of the "Judge." Since its arrival, this merging of centerfire pistol cartridges, and .410 shotgun shells in a single, five-round revolver has revolutionized the world of self-defense handguns. Now available in a wide array of 14 different models, the Judge has lived up to its reputation as a viable, high-powered revolver, able to compete well against semi-automatic pistols.

Available calibers - .410 gauge, .454 Casull, .45 Long Colt, .45 Schofield

Sweetheart: Mary Scott 361-571-3932

NAVASOTA ELKS LODGE #2888



Rolling cart, has a extension on it to make wider, pan set, dish set, knife set, wooden utensils not pictured, sandwich maker not pictured, air fryer, crock pot, toaster, broiler pan, towels, cutting board, several spirits not all pictured.

BEAUMONT ELKS LODGE #311



Booze cart

BORGER ELKS LODGE #1581



I am so excited to get to come to Homecoming for the first time! The chest I am bringing was made by Bob Tiffany~ It was bought at auction and given back 3 times so we have raised good for the kids. Sue White donated it last. We are making it a pirates chest. We do not have all our liquor or all our other items in it in the picture but you can get an idea.

GREENVILLE ELKS LODGE #703



Elk quilt with each of the chairs in it's place, with a handsome elk in the center ready to hang in your lodge or lay on your queen size bed.


Calling all Texas Sweethearts!
♥ **HOMECOMING** ♥
Sept 19-20, 2025
Texas Elks Camp ♥ Otline, Texas

FIRST LADY AUCTION ITEMS

THIS IS ONE ITEM THE FIRST LADY WILL HAVE.....

Shhhhh, it's a secret! A special hand-made big keepsake item that involved the campers from the Texas Elks Camp summer sessions.

2ND ITEM

Flat top gas grill

AT TEXAS ELKS CAMP HAVING A DIFFERENCE, DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

TESA MEMBERSHIP MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING

The monthly Membership meeting for September will be held on **Monday, September 8, 2025, at 7:00 PM**. Have a happy and safe Labor Day weekend.

Here's the link for the Monthly Zoom Meeting:

The TESA Membership Chair is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: State Membership Meeting

Time: September 8th, 2025 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the First Mon, until Apr 6, 2026, 13 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZwtdOqvrTsjE9Si4-lwlQ59Hk0IRCFh0fWz/ics?icsToken=DNphHrd9uOJp22GCAQAALAAAAOoGRcUtuH3ty3j5V7Z48kKviAzeICBrS NkarKwtPITqIpndgDa3K-CUGHGOS7NtBaT5BJ5264ysg-UP3jAwMDAwMQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/88033730990?pwd=NmNFUUNDLzh4L25OY2txSVRGOXIBZz09)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88033730990?pwd=NmNFUUNDLzh4L25OY2txSVRGOXIBZz09>

Meeting ID: 880 3373 0990

Passcode: ElksGrow



TESA EXPRESS EDITOR SHERI McCORD

Thank you to everyone submitting items for the TESA Newsletter.

Brag about your Lodge with the whole state. Send me a couple of pics and an article.

Also, include Lodge name and number. "BE THE SPARK, FIRED UP FOR ELKDOM!"

Deadline for articles to be submitted for the winter newsletter will be **DECEMBER 20, 2025**. Email articles to sherimc@sbcglobal.net

If you do not see your pics in the newsletter then they were not emailed to me. When submitting a item for the newsletter please tell me what lodge and a brief write up and a few pics.

Items to submit..... Your lodge involved in youth activities, veterans activities, drug awareness, & community activities.

