



THE TESA EXPRESS

"Be the spark, fired up for Elkdom"

TEXAS ELKS STATE ASSOCIATION
A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

SUMMER EDITION 2025



TESA STATE PRESIDENT 2025-2026 MATT WILLIAMS

Greetings all,

Wow, what a great state convention. I first want to congratulate Renea Oswald on a GREAT Elk year. It was truly a pleasure that Rachelle and I worked with them.

We are both so excited about our Elk year. We are looking forward to visiting the state and meeting our Elk family. I have already made a trip to the Borger lodge in the "Mighty Panwest". It was truly an exciting visit. We are both anticipating our trip to Kansas City for Grand Lodge. I am so honored to represent Texas carrying our flag for the opening ceremony. If you did not make it to State, Rachelle and I have T shirts for sale. If you did not get one. We will have them for sale in the Texas hospitality room.

Our slogan for the year is "BE THE SPARK, FIRED UP FOR ELKDOM"!!!! We have a second slogan. Which is "EVERY ELK HAS A STORY, WHATS YOURS" !!!! I believe there are Elks out there that have lost the spark. So how can they find it again. By going back and remembering what brought them to Elkdom. To find that spark again. I honestly believe that if we all have that spark, together we can reach heights that for years have been unattainable.

I also talked about healing America and Elkdom. People don't mistake someone's differences for refusing to work with them. We have got to stop the fighting and bickering and work together towards a common goal of making Texas Elkdom great. The most important thing that brought me to Elkdom was the numerous programs Elks have, and the different people that are a part of this organization. I believe that with all our different backgrounds and love for certain programs make this organization truly stronger. But there are Elks out there that are missing the most important thing. Because someone else doesn't think or act like you, they should not be a part of Elkdom. To those Elks, I say, I disagree with you. I believe differences is what makes us stronger and more unique. So, to those out there that believe they can't think with those members, you have a foundation, a common goal. You were all drawn to e

Elkdom for a certain program or reason. So, use that to build off. Start there, and together we can heal Texas and possibly America. Please, stop and take a moment to think back and reflect on the moment you first became an Elk. Use that enthusiasm to heal yourself and those around you. Let us begin working with our brother and sister even if they don't think like you or look at Elkdom differently than you do. I assure you It will make our local lodges stronger, our districts stronger, our state stronger, and lastly, our Nation stronger. May God bless you all in the coming year, and may God bless the Texas Elks!!!!



TESA FIRST LADY RACHELLE WILLIAMS

Howdy Elks!

Matt and I are very excited about this upcoming year! During our travels we'll be able to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. We're, of course, looking forward to Grand Lodge in Kansas City. I would like to let you all know that the First Lady Project, this year, will involve a bit of updating the pavilion at the kids camp in Ottine. We'd like to put new, large fans, upgrade the lighting, and a new sound system, to name a few items. We hope to see you all at Homecoming! Sincerely,



TESA PAST STATE PRESIDENT 2024-2025 RENEA OSWALT

It was a true honor to serve as Texas Elks State President for the 2024-2025 term. I am grateful to all Texas Elks and supporters for your diligent efforts over the past year and congratulate you on an extraordinary year. I am particularly grateful to my Vice Presidents Team and Committee Chairs for their exemplary leadership, which is reflected in the targets we achieved and our statewide accomplishments. My appointed officer team played a significant role during state events, and we surpassed many of our goals this year due to everyone's dedication and loyalty to this great organization.

The memories from our travels across the state, the friendships established with newer members and the visits with longtime friends are the things I will always cherish the most. I can't wait to see the advancements we will make in the coming years. With everyone's support, I am confident that we will continue to grow, exceed our objectives, positively impact our communities and raise lots of money for both state and national programs, as well as for our state project.

If you love this organization like I do, I encourage you to step forward and embrace new experiences and leadership roles in the future. We NEED your ideas, talents, and new voices along with the collective effort of every Elk in Texas to keep us moving forward. Thank you for making a meaningful impact in your lodges and in the communities where you live and work, and for providing assistance and support to those in need.

Lastly, THANK YOU for your unwavering support for John and I on our journey this past year and remember Texas Elks are just "ordinary people choosing to do extraordinary things" and we did lots of EXTRAORDINARY things this past year! Way to go TEXAS ELK FAMILY!

TESA PRESIDENT ELECT BILL "BILLY" BRYAN



It was such an honor and privilege to be sworn in as your TESA President-elect at State. I thank you for your support and will depend on it for our future together.

I am proud to be working with Matt and following all the Past Presidents that have made TESA strong and laid the foundation for us to continue our efforts for the kids, our vets, and the many other programs throughout our great state.

I look forward to working with everyone



TESA PAST FURST REDNEK JOHN OSWALT

**WE DONE
WENT AND DID IT!**

CAN'T THANK YOU ALL ENOUGH FOR HELPING RAISE MONEY FOR MY PROJECT TO UPDATE THE PLAYGROUND BY THE PAVILION AT THE KID'S CAMP. WE RAISED CLOSE TO \$78,000 THIS YEAR. PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU ARE APPRECIATED FOR BUYING SHIRTS AND "REDNEK SWAG" ITEMS AND PURCHASING RAFFLE TICKETS. I ALSO THANK EVERYONE WHO WORKED AT TABLES, THOSE SELLING TICKETS AND OTHERS MAKING DONATIONS THAT HELPED US RAISE MONEY ALL YEAR LONG. I HOPE YOU HAD A LOT OF FUN ALONG THE WAY. IT WAS AN AWESOME YEAR THANKS TO EVERYONE'S GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT.

TESA STATE SECRETARY MIKE CLARK

From the TESA Secretary's (virtual) Desk

If you received your Lodge's directories, PLEASE MAKE SURE that each person with their name on the front GETS THEIR DIRECTORY. I mailed a few this year, and received a nice note from someone who had not received their's in YEARS. They may not get to the lodge very often, but they ARE a member of your Lodge and are in the directory because they are a TESA Officer or Committee Chair or member, Board member, Exalted Ruler, Secretary, District Chair or Past State President and/or First Lady. They need it to complete their duties!

Vice Presidents are authorized to follow-up and inquire about final distribution. They were issued wet noodles at their training session, but they may have dried up and hardened by the time of the Lodge visit, so for your own good, PLEASE get those directories in the hands that need them.

HELP WANTED

Looking for qualified Elk for distribution of the TESA Directory. Seasonal work, as the directories are distributed at each State Convention.

Duties entail hand-delivering bundles of directories to 60 different Lodge delegates. Additional distribution (new Vice Presidents) may be required. Pay rate doubles for overtime. Walking shoes and reading skills required. Vehicle (cart) will be provided. License and insurance not necessary.

Advanced Microsoft Excel and Word skills may lead to advancement opportunities. Knowing how to do Pivot Tables, data management, basic macros, advanced mail merge and table formatting may lead to an apprenticeship. Experience pulling hens teeth to gather and confirm accurate data is a plus.

Takecharge! - Mike
Mike Clark, PSP, PBGT
Texas Elks Secretary
takechargemike@me.com
817 680-1069

TESA RED PIG/INTERLODGE CHAIR KIM MCDERMOTT

Congratulations to TESA Sweetheart April Story from the Wichita Falls Lodge and the North Central District. Texas raised over \$867,000 this past year. Great job, everyone! The new Elks year has begun, let's get started on this next year.

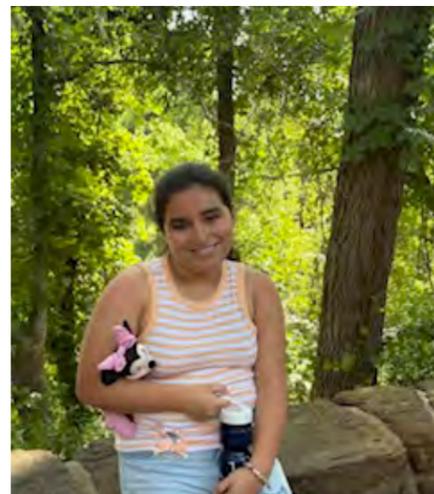




TEXAS ELKS CAMP

It's been a busy couple of weeks. As soon as we left State Convention, we got started on Staff training week. We are finishing our 2nd week of camp and we all have been very busy.

Reminder graduation is on Friday's at 3 PM except for the week of the 4th of July which graduation will be on Thursday, July 3rd at 3 PM. Camp will resume Monday, July 7th.



Helping veterans, kids and community with grants and scholarships

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

FUNDRAISER

2024 *Harley-Davidson* BREAKOUT I17

CUSTOM LOYAL KNIGHT JUSTICE BIKE

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

TEXAS ELKS STATE ASSOCIATION

TRIPP'S HARLEY DAVIDSON OF AMARILLO, TEXAS

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
Need not be present to win

SAVE THE DATE

Inagural Keith Brown Memorial Golf Tournament

Sept 19, 2025
(Keith's Birthday)

Gonzales Golf Course

Watch for Updates

Sept 19, 2025

Proceeds to TECSI "for the kids!"



TEXAS ELKS CAMP ON TEXOMA

The Camp has been busy! Hosting Spring Fling and the North Central District Interlodge was great, and everyone seemed to have a great time. We were honored to host the May Texas Elks Veterans Retreat! While it was rainy, the veterans and volunteers did their best not to let it dampen their enthusiasm! We had to adapt and overcome for the archery but with 660 acre's we were able to find a relatively dry spot to have the archery! Please check out the Texas Elks Veterans Retreat Facebook page for a lot of awesome pictures of the veterans enjoying what Texas Elks have provided!

We are also hosting over 60 schools, Foster Care, and Youth Groups this year. State Chairman for youth-oriented programs (Hoop Shoot, Americanism, Soccer Shoot, Drug Awareness, Scholarship etc.) please send us packets to give to the teachers for your programs. These schools, churches and groups are from all over Texas (we'll provide the groups with a list of lodges near them.) We have an opportunity to reach approximately 1200 children a MONTH with our programs and opportunities, please help us get these materials to these kids.

Anyone needing a Gold Girl Scout or Eagle Scout project, Texas Elks Camp on Texoma is available for these!! Both of our Gaga Pits were built as projects, as well as benches at the activity field and other projects. We have many opportunities available. We also have tent camping and activities available to troops and will deeply discount fees if the troop does a service project while onsite!! Contact Sandi to set up.

Speaking of projects, we have lots of volunteer opportunities available for Elks or any group wishing to help (we have a church coming to volunteer next month!) We have both indoor and outdoor projects and if you volunteer you stay free! Painting, power washing, deck building, deck/wood water seal, dock repair, trail maintenance, gardening, you name it we probably need it! Come help and get to stay by a lake and enjoy!

Also, we'll be happy to provide donation receipts for any items you would like to donate. We need tools, mowers, 4 wheelers, golf carts, side by sides, play balls, outdoor games, above ground pools, curtains, lamps, bedroom furniture, you name it we probably need it. Please contact us! Camp Store is open with lots of great t-shirts, fishing shirts and hats. We plan on getting this on our website soon!

Thank you, Texas Elks, for all your awesome support and let's continue to improve to offer Veterans a great place to go and relax and recharge! Remember we're available for LODGE Veteran events too!!



TECSI ENDOWMENT CERTIFICATES SALLY DIPALMA

Support the Texas Elks Children's Camp with Endowment Certificates

The Texas Elks Endowment Certificates that support the Texas Elks Children's Camp are waiting for you! These certificates are eager to be adopted, and your support can make a meaningful difference in the lives of special needs children in our communities.

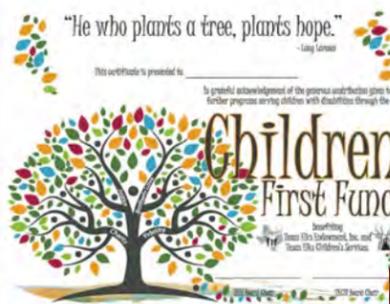
By contributing to this cause, you help ensure that the camp continues to provide enriching experiences and special grants to children in need. Here's how you can participate:

- Honorary Founders Certificate - \$1,000.00
- Children's First Fund - \$500.00 (the only certificate divided between the endowment fund and the camp)
- Permanent Benefactors Certificate - \$200.00
- Love Certificate - \$100.00

These certificates not only support the children's camp but also help save your lodge on the assessment. Additionally, we offer Memorial Books for \$35.00, a meaningful way to honor loved ones while supporting a great cause.

Your support is crucial in increasing the funds that sustain the Texas Elks Children's Camp and in providing much-needed grants to special needs children.

Please consider adopting a certificate today and making a lasting impact on the lives of these deserving children. Your generosity makes all the difference!





SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY SALLY DIPALMA

Supporting Our Community: Enhancing Lives Through Compassionate Service

At the heart of our community lies a commitment to improving the lives of those who need it most. Through a range of services and programs, we've made it our mission to provide essential resources to individuals with special needs, veterans, and others in our community who require assistance. From providing specialized equipment to organizing fun-filled events, we are dedicated to creating a more inclusive, supportive, and enjoyable environment for everyone.

Providing Essential Equipment for Special Needs Individuals

Our initiative has extended to offering a variety of vital equipment to support individuals with special needs. We provide glasses, hearing aids, and cochlear hearing aids, ensuring that individuals can fully engage with the world around them. These tools are life-changing for many, improving communication, mobility, and overall quality of life.

In addition to these sensory aids, we also supply wheelchairs, adaptive tricycles, and special adaptive strollers designed specifically for children with special needs. These items give individuals the opportunity to experience greater independence and mobility, empowering them to navigate their environment more freely and comfortably.

Creating Joyful Experiences for Our Veterans

We deeply value the service and sacrifices made by our veterans, which is why we've hosted several fun-filled days just for them. These events are designed not only to offer enjoyment but also to foster a sense of community and camaraderie among those who have served.

Our veterans have enjoyed a variety of activities, including hearty meals, bingo, swimming, darts, pool, and horseshoe games. These events create a lively, welcoming atmosphere where veterans can relax, connect with others, and have fun, while showing appreciation for the hard work and dedication they have given to our country.

Welcome Home Kits for Our Veterans

In addition to recreational activities, we've also delivered numerous welcome home kits to veterans returning to our community. These kits include essentials and comforting items to help ease their transition back home. It's a small gesture that goes a long way in making them feel appreciated and supported as they return to civilian life.

A Community Effort

The services and events we provide wouldn't be possible without the strong support of our community, volunteers, and generous donors. Every action we take is a collective effort to improve lives and show that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, deserves access to the resources they need to live full, enjoyable lives.

From essential mobility aids and sensory equipment to exciting events and thoughtful welcome home kits for our veterans, our mission is clear: to ensure that no one in our community is left behind, and to create a world where everyone can thrive.

We look forward to continuing these efforts, expanding our outreach, and making an even greater impact in the lives of those we serve. Together, we can make a difference, one person at a time.



TESA STATE VETERAN CHAIR NIKKI GREEN

Greetings fellow Elks,

We are taking applications for the Veteran's Retreat which is Oct 3-5, 2025 in Ottine, TX. Saturday, Oct 4th is the Come & Take it Parade in Gonzales. We are asking all lodges to please bring a big bag of candy to Homecoming for the Veterans to pass out during the parade. Please make sure there is no chocolate.

The retreat is open to all Veterans from any branch of service. Applications can be downloaded at [veterans application](#). Veterans who have not attended a retreat will be accepted first.

We are asking all District Veterans chairs that have not attended a retreat to volunteer. If you would like to volunteer please fill out a [volunteer application](#) form. Volunteers that have not volunteered before will be selected first.

The Veteran's retreat committee is myself as Chairperson, (Panwest), Sheri McCord (East), Corey Brown (Southwest), Keith & Beth Stanley (North Central), Vicki Vaughn (North), Mike Cropp (North East), Al Olmos (Gulf Coast), Despi Scott (East), Billy Pence (North) & Kendra Hart (Pan West). We would love to have someone join our committee from the South District. If you are from the South District and would like to join the committee, please reach out to me.

If you have any questions about the retreat you can reach out to me or anyone of the committee.

Nikki Green
Amarillo Lodge #923
TESA Veterans Chair
larrynikkigreen@yahoo.com
806-435-1214

EAST DISTRICT #8520

BRENHAM #979



Brenham Elks Lodge had a wonderful Mother's Day Celebration, the leftovers went to WashCo EMS!



Brenham Elks Lodge with the local boy scouts held their annual Flag Day ceremony.

BRYAN #859



On Memorial Day and Flag Day we had a very nice and touching ceremony with our local Veterans. They were very appreciative and a couple stood up and shared their background while they served our country!

CROCKETT #1729



Carol Williams from the Crockett lodge #1729 was the big winner of the STATE FUND DRIVE. She won a brand new 2025 Jeep Wrangler.

LIBERTY #2019



Liberty Elks Lodge 2019 proudly celebrated Flag Day with honor this year. As part of our heartfelt tradition, local veterans took part in presenting each historic flag during the ceremony. For the past three years, these veterans have graciously supported us in making this event meaningful and memorable.

We are deeply grateful for their dedication, service, and continued involvement in our celebration. Their presence adds a powerful sense of pride and respect to the occasion.

Following the ceremony, we welcomed everyone to enjoy food, refreshments, and time to connect with one another—a true reflection of community and camaraderie.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

ARLINGTON #2114



Arlington Lodge #2114 held its annual Flag Day Ritual in the ballroom. The boy scouts posted the various US flags as Don Hamby read the history of the flag. There were about 50 people in attendance. Approximately 18 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and parents participated in the ceremony.

The ceremony moved from the ballroom to the RV area after completion of the ritual. The Boy Scouts prepared a large quantity of flags for retirement by trimming out the blue field, removing metal gromets and cutting the stripes into manageable squares. The scouts then assisted Elks and guests respectfully retired old and worn flags into several burn barrels.

STEPHENVILLE #2834



Here is Stephenville Area Elks Lodge 2834 serving the community with the community supper and hygiene kit giveaway thanks to the ENF Beacon/Spotlight grant

NORTH DISTRICT

DALLAS #71



Dallas 71 held our Flag Day ceremony on Sunday, June 8th. It was an irreverent and beautiful celebration of our symbol of America. As Elks, we hold the American flag near and tear to our heart and cherish every time we get to get together and show the flag, the respect it deserves. Tracy Settimi and Russell Scott did a wonderful job speaking and telling stories about the history of our American flag. Special thanks to our local Boy Scout troop who came to help us with the celebration.

FRISCO #2890



Frisco 2890 held its first Flag Day ceremony in our new home. Veteran members of our lodge participated in carrying in the flags as our ER, Barry Hohlfelder, and Leading Knight, Charles Wood, provided the narration of the history of our American Flag. Musical accompaniment was provided to enhance the beauty of the ceremony. The event was followed by a meal and fellowship in our social quarters.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

MARSHALL #683



Marshall Elks Lodge #683 had an awesome turn out for their Veteran's & First Responders Breakfast AND Annual Flag Day Ceremony! A good crowd from the community showed up to support both events and to pay tribute to the American Flag. Marshall ISD Junior R.O.T.C. assisted again this year. We appreciate these young people showing up and supporting us every year on Flag Day!



Marshall Elks delivered stuffed animals to the kids camp last weekend. These cute critters will be camper buddies for kids coming to camp this summer!



Congratulations to Miss Mya Stuart for placing 3rd in the Texas Teenager of the Year award!! She was sponsored by the Marshall Elks Lodge, where she and her family volunteer regularly.



PSP Renea Oswald with several Marshall Elks and family members made the trip to Texas Elks Kids Camp to attend a camp graduation. Many other Elks from other lodges also attended this awesome and heart warming event. This was Marshall's Sweetheart, Cherry Fisher's, first trip to the camp. She is fired up and has already started raising money for the current year!

MESQUITE #2404



Mesquite #2404 held their annual Flag Day Ceremony.

PANWEST DISTRICT



Borger Lodge #1581 celebrated Flag Day in conjunction with the City of Borger's "Second Saturday of The Summer" on Main Street. We had members from Amarillo Lodge #923, Hereford Lodge #2269, Perryton Lodge #2368 Borger Lodge #1581, and TESA state President Matt Williams from Beaumont Lodge #311 doing the service. The Antlers Lodge from Amarillo #923 were the flag bearers. Members from Dalhart Lodge #2390 were also in attendance. We are attempting to bring the "MIGHTY Panwest District" together even more. This is the second year that we have worked with our city to have Flag Day. They are supporting us with free hot dogs and a place to celebrate.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

GONZALES #2413



Gonzales Elks Lodge #2413 held its annual Flag Day ceremony Saturday, June 14, at the Gonzales County Veterans Memorial Association memorial on Smith Street in Gonzales.



TESA EXPRESS EDITOR SHERI MCCORD

Thank you to everyone submitting items for the TESA Newsletter.

I need help so I am Calling on all District PR chairs..... Please work with the lodges Public Relations committee in your district and send me an article on how the Lodges are doing the wonderful things with the ENF grants, Special Needs Children and Veterans. 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 fall newsletter will be **AUGUST 18, 2025**. The fall issue will have a special section for sweetheart raffle items for homecoming, so make sure your sweetheart emails me a pic and a description and what lodge to me. 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.

