



THE TESA EXPRESS

"ELKdom Starts With You!"

TEXAS ELKS STATE ASSOCIATION
A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

SUMMER EDITION 2026



TESA STATE PRESIDENT 2026-2027 BILLY BRYAN

Hello Everyone,
State Convention is behind us and the work begins! I hope those that made it enjoyed it and appreciated all the training and topics presented by the TESA team. Matt, congratulations on a great year. I am proud to follow you.

Next up is Grand Lodge and I hope that many of you are taking the opportunity to visit the Historical Grand Lodge on its anniversary. And of course, our Texas Hospitality events.

Then its back and into our August District Events, where I am excited to have a great Vice-Presidents team in place and The Bryan Bandits will be out and about working for the kids!

Speaking of the year ahead of us, I have a simple but meaningful motto:

"ELKdom begins with you."

Those words remind us that the strength of our lodges and District begins with each individual Elk. It begins with the member who shows up, who reaches out, who volunteers, who invites, who mentors, who gives, and who believes in the values that define who we are.

The focus for this year is on three things:

- strengthening our lodges,
- growing our membership, and
- deepening our commitment to service.

Strong lodges create strong communities. Growing membership ensures our future. And service is the heartbeat of everything we do.

No effort is too small. A phone call to an absent member, an invitation to a prospective Elk, an hour volunteered at an event, a word of encouragement to a new officer—these are the moments that build a stronger lodge.

If Elkdom begins with you, then it also grows through you.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.



TESA PRESIDENT ELECT DAVID ZINT

Dear Texas Elks Members,
DeLee and I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the membership of the Texas State Elks Association for your vote of confidence in electing me to serve as your President-Elect for 2026–2027.

I am truly humbled and honored by the trust you have placed in me. This opportunity would not have been possible without the support, encouragement, and guidance of so many dedicated Texas Elks along the way.

I would like to offer a special thank you to all of our Past State Presidents, mentors, and advisors who have shared their wisdom and experience throughout my journey. Your leadership has helped shape and prepare me for this role. In particular, I want to recognize Royce Butler, PSP, for his guidance, friendship, and unwavering support. I could not have reached this point without the help of so many outstanding individuals.

DeLee, "The First Lady in Waiting," and I are excited to support Billy, Karen, and "The Billy Bandits," as they lead this year's program. We look forward to seeing the incredible things that Texas Elks will accomplish together in the coming year.

As we travel across our great state, DeLee and I look forward to visiting with each of you, strengthening friendships, and celebrating the spirit of Elkdom that makes our Association so special.

Thank you again for your confidence, your support, and your dedication to the Texas State Elks Association. I am honored to serve as your President-Elect for 2026–2027 and look forward to working alongside each of you as we continue to build upon the proud traditions of Texas Elkdom.

May God bless each of you, and may God continue to bless the Texas State Elks Association.



TESA STATE SECRETARY MIKE CLARK

This year's TESA Directory has been printed and distributed. If you are IN the Directory, there is one with your name on it. If you did not attend the State Convention, it was sent to the Lodge with the Secretary or Exalted Ruler who attended the convention.

Since the world does not stop turning when the Directory is printed, here are a few updates:

Robinson Lodge
Secretary
Erin Kerlee (Brandon)
secretaryrobinson2881@gmail.com
831-998-3037

Lake Ray Roberts contact info:
telephone: 940-758-1286
Email: secretarylrr2862@@gmail.com

The minutes of the 2026 State Convention have been completed at can be found [here](#). Please review them for any errors or omissions while we are fresh off of the event. Better chance to catch something I may have missed.

Here is a part of those minutes, but extra-worth on its own. This is a list of the award winners for different Lodge contests in various programs. If your Lodge is not listed, we are early in the year, so there is plenty of time to work on the programs and document your results for next year's entries.



TESA ENF DUSTIN BASQUEZ

Howdy,

My name is Dustin Basquez and I am your new Texas Elks State Association Elks National Foundation chair. I have been an Elk for nine years and have served as Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler for two consecutive years, a three-time Lodge trustee, Lodge ENF chair for 4 years, District ENF chair for 1 year, and am now taking on the State ENF role. President-elect David Zint has left me with big shoes to fill but we are going to take it step by step.

We are continuing our motorcycle raffle, which we will draw at the Fall Conference. This year we are raffling off a brand new 2024 Road King. We are currently stripping it down and painting it with a custom theme representing Charity. I am setting a goal for every lodge to sell 100 tickets each.

Something else I am doing this year is bringing back Bob Boyett's XiT. It has been away for some time but it has broken out with a new appearance. LIT - 50 in Texas. If every member in Texas donates \$50 to ENF we will set a record. I am encouraging this with my TESA Robber pins. By donating for one of these you can help reach the goal. District ENF chairs have some of these pins and I will have them when I visit clinics throughout the year. My team and I are going to make sure every member gets credit for these pins.

Be on the lookout for some fun games between The Bryan Bandits and The TESA Robbers throughout the year.

ENF is LIT!

Fraternally,
Dustin Basquez, PER
TESA Elks National Foundation Chair
512-644-4247
dustinbasquez@gmail.com





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!



What a Fantastic Year!

Trustee's Lodge Collection Report					
Year: 2025-26					
District	Sweetheart	Red Pig	Fund Drive	Misc	Total
East	\$85,712.27	\$6,361.45	\$680.00	\$0.00	\$92,753.72
Gulf Coast	\$88,328.85	\$23,728.92	\$8,574.80	\$0.00	\$120,632.57
North	\$152,307.94	\$12,221.94	\$7,376.00	\$0.00	\$171,905.88
Northeast	\$98,931.50	\$2,047.92	\$9,730.00	\$0.00	\$110,709.42
North Central	\$181,957.08	\$38,509.53	\$32,194.16	\$0.00	\$252,660.77
Panwest	\$77,867.04	\$5,207.33	\$3,750.00	\$0.00	\$86,824.37
South	\$27,614.51	\$3,537.27	\$1,520.00	\$0.00	\$32,671.78
Southwest	\$58,215.83	\$5,665.22	\$8,620.00	\$0.00	\$72,501.05
Miscellaneous			\$2,424.00		\$2,424.00
Total	\$770,935.02	\$97,279.58	\$74,848.96	\$0.00	\$943,063.56

THANKYOU
for a great year!



TESA PUBLIC RELATIONS GORDON DANIELS

It was great getting to see and visit with everyone at the TESA State Convention. At the convention, I presented our Annual PR Report. We also crecognized Judy Stump, who is our Website Developer and also Sheri McCord, who has been doing a tremendous job on our TESA newsletter. I would be remiss if I did not point out how much time and effort those two individuals put in on a daily weekly and monthly basis to produce all of the graphics and content that they do. It's truly a labor of love doing what they do and Texas is lucky to have such great talent doing the work they do. I also want to point out that while I'm a huge supporter of adopting the use of a few of the AI tools out there, what these two individuals do is old school, fingers on the keyboard and mouse, creating some terrific graphics and copyrighting. While we are on the topic of utilizing AI in our social media maryketing, I want to point out and briefly discuss a recent memo from Grand lodge advising all lodges across the country to refrain from using a variety of the tools out there that are creating images that do not fall within the Grand lodge regulations for graphics and content use. While you may use some of those tools to create graphics, please refrain from using any of our Grand lodge logos that are being generated through the AI tools as they are not approved and are a copyright violation. Grand lodge is currently working on putting out more information on this, and I'm sure that will be coming in the near future. On a sidenote, if you want to attend the social media marketing session I'm going to do tomorrow I will be recovering some of the guard rails that we have in place with the tools that we are using that help alleviate some of those issues. Now back to the numbers. In the last 90 days we have had 141,609 views on our Texas Elk status Association Facebook page that's up from 85,000 the previous 90 days so if you do the math, we are just under 1 million views at 924,000 960,000 views in the past year alone. Our largest reaching post was the tribute that we did to Lodge secretaries and that Post Malone had 13,295 views the interesting part is that only 18% of the people who viewed it or Texas Elk state Association Facebook huleadership to begin the process of having that monetization start back up and deposit into our Tessa account on a monthly basis. We are also starting to implement a star program that for every star that someone sends to us we literally will be getting a penny. While we're not talking large sums of money, we are talking sufficient enough funds that will help support what we're doing and pay for some of the software and services that we are utilizing. That's a good thing! Some of the other numbers that are interesting to look at are the fact that 53% of our viewers are women 47% are men. Our average age of followers are 42% are 65 and older 27% are 55 to 64 15.4% are 45 to 54. And finally 15.5% are junder 45. We have been working with the ELKS magazine and several articles have been posted throughout the year and an upcoming addition is going to feature some additional information of the Hunt flooding tragedy that occurred this past year and Texas.

Finally, to all of the lodges out there who are utilizing a variety of social media tools, we encourage you to continue doing that, but to make sure that you have sufficient guard rails in place to maintain the integrity of our logos and brands and that we are staying within the guidelines that Grand lodge has put out.

One last reminder is that our lodges are never open to the public! However, we are able to invite members and their guest to lodge events and can invite members of the community to such things as our hoop shoots, soccer shoots, open houses membership drives community activities, and the like.

So with that said, I'd like to thank all of you for doing what you do to promote Elkdom . Please remember to reach out any time with questions or support! We are here to help serve you!



TESA RED PIG/INTERLODGE CHAIR KIM MCDERMOTT

The final numbers were turned in at TESA State Convention at the beginning of June in Mesquite and they were impressive. Texas Elks raised over \$943,000 this past year. WOW!!! Thank you to all the Lodge Sweethearts for your hard work and dedication to raising funds for our state's major project, The Children's Elks Camp. Kids can attend camp another year because of you. Congratulations to our State Sweetheart Janessa Pattison from the Wichita Falls Lodge in the North Central District. Also, congratulations to Janessa and the Wichita Falls Lodge for most money total dollars raised and most money per capita raised in Fund Drive tickets. Congratulations to the Fort Worth Lodge for most money total dollars raised in Red Pig. Congratulations to the Mesquite Lodge for Sweetheart most per capita money raised and to the Katy Lodge for most money total dollars raised for Sweetheart. Our next challenge has been set with a goal of \$1,000,000 by TESA State President Billy Bryan.

Thank you again for a fabulous year and let's keep up the hard work.

WE CAN DO THIS!

EAST DISTRICT #8520

BEAUMONT #311



Beaumont Lodge #311 proudly hosted its annual Flag Day Ceremony in partnership with VFW Post 1806, honoring the American flag and the ideals of freedom, unity, and patriotism that it represents. Working together, the two organizations presented a meaningful ceremony that paid tribute to our nation's history, recognized the sacrifices of those who have defended our freedoms, and reminded all in attendance of the respect and reverence our flag deserves.



Beaumont Elks Lodge #311 proudly demonstrated its commitment to serving the community by presenting a \$2,500 donation to the Hardin-Jefferson Hunger Initiative. This contribution will help provide food assistance to individuals and families facing food insecurity throughout the local community.

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.



The Liberty Elks Lodge #2019 First Annual Donkey Basketball Game was one for the books! The first match-up kicked things off with the Liberty Elks going head-to-head with The Line Camp Cowboy Church – and the Elks came out strong with the win! Next up, the City of Liberty (Police Department & Fire Department) faced off against Acadian EMS, bringing the heat and securing the victory for the City of Liberty! Then came the FINAL showdown... City of Liberty vs. Liberty Elks From the very first whistle, it was a full-on battle – riders flying, donkeys refusing, and the crowd roaring! The game ended in a tie, sending us into sudden death. After a long night of being thrown, falling off, pulling, and pushing those stubborn donkeys... the Liberty Elks fought their way to the CHAMPIONSHIP WIN!!!

This event was more than just a game – it was an unforgettable night of laughter, teamwork, and community. Friends, coworkers, and even strangers came together and made memories we won't soon forget. The outpouring of support from our community and sponsors was truly breathtaking.



NAVASOTA #2888



Navasota Elks Lodge #2888 celebrated Flag Day with the help of the Local Boy Scouts.

NORTH DISTRICT

SHERMAN #2280



Sherman Elks Lodge #2280 hosted a fun-filled Kids' Easter Egg Hunt, bringing families together for a day of laughter, excitement, and community spirit. The event provided children with the opportunity to enjoy the thrill of the egg hunt while creating lasting Easter memories. Thank you to the dedicated Elk volunteers whose hard work made this special event a wonderful success.



Sherman Elks Lodge #2280 proudly hosted its 5th Annual Kids Fishing Tournament, providing young anglers with a day of fun, friendly competition, and unforgettable memories. Families gathered to enjoy the outdoors while children experienced the excitement of fishing in a safe and welcoming environment.



Congratulations



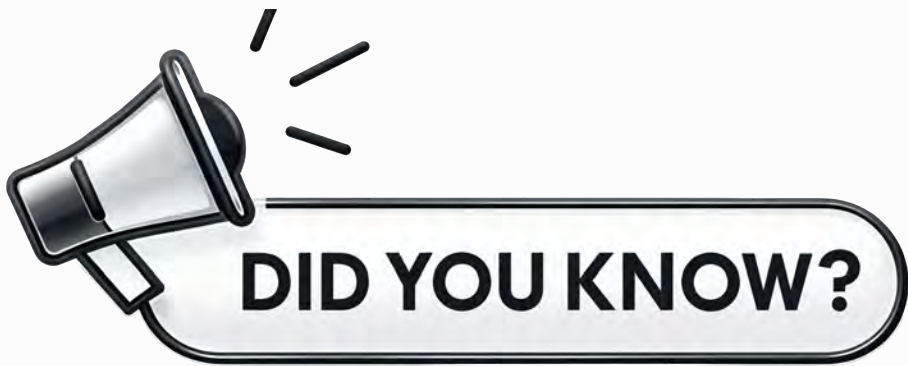
Texas Elks State Sweetheart-
Janessa Pattison from Wichita
Falls Lodge #1105



Texas Elks State Elk of the Year-
Sheri McCord from Brenham
Lodge #979



Texas Elks State Exalted Ruler of the
Year- Kathleen Hunnicutt from
DeSoto Lodge #2552



Texas Elks Children's Services, Inc. (TECSI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that administers the Texas Elks State Association's major projects. Originally established as a polio hospital in 1946, its mission has evolved over the decades to focus on a summer camp for children with special needs and adaptive equipment grants.

The history of TECSI centers around several major milestones:

- 1946: The Texas Elks opened the Crippled Children's Hospital in Ottine, Texas. It provided physical and hydrotherapy to children suffering from polio.
- 1976: As polio was eradicated, the Elks shifted their focus to helping children with special needs, converting the facility into a diagnostic center.
- 1987: The Texas Elks Camp was launched as a four-week summer program.
- 1997: The Elks discontinued the diagnostic services to focus on a larger, expanded summer camp program for children with special needs and foster care children.
- 1999: TECSI created the "Grants for Special Children" program to help families cover adaptive and assistive devices (e.g., prosthetics, hearing aids, wheelchairs) not fully covered by insurance.
- Present Day: The organization is headquartered in Gonzales, Texas. The Texas Elks Camp operates all summer long, providing traditional camping experiences at no cost to children with special needs and those from foster care. The Grants Program also allocates hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to children across the state.



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. **"ELKdom Starts with You!"** Deadline for articles to be submitted for the **Fall/ Homecoming newsletter** will be **AUGUST 20, 2026**. This newsletter will have a special place for lodge Sweethearts to get the word out for their live auction item. 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, scholarships, ENF grants & special grants.

