



# THE TESA EXPRESS

"Be the spark, fired up for Elkdom

TEXAS ELKS STATE ASSOCIATION  
A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

WINTER EDITION 2025-2026



## TESA STATE PRESIDENT 2025-2026

### MATT WILLIAMS

Happy Holidays all,

I trust that everyone is enjoying the holidays. Rachelle and I are getting ready to start back up visiting our Texas Elk family. Looking forward to seeing you all. Keep in mind we are entering our final stretch on Membership for the Elk year. Lodges make your efforts and finish strong. We definitely want to sit up front again in Chicago next year.

Lodges, also please make sure that you are MENTORING the future officers in your lodge and preparing them for next year. Commitment is the biggest issue we face. So let them know what is required of them for next year. Remember what I spoke to you about at our Fall Conference in San Antonio. It is vitally important to properly mentor and prepare our future leaders in Elkdom. This will ensure our strength in this organization.

You all have a blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year.



## TESA FIRST LADY

### RACHELLE WILLIAMS

Happy Holidays Texas Elks!

What a year 2025 has been! We've all experienced so many things this year. Sadly, so many were affected by the tragic flooding in Kerrville. As always, the Elks did what they do and came together and helped and blessed so many.

Matt and I have been very busy, in the best possible way. We enjoy our travels, and visits, and love the enthusiasm and passion y'all have for the Elks and our communities.

Thank you all so much for your donations, help, and support for the First Lady Project! We're still in need of more donations and appreciate it so much.

We look forward to seeing old friends, and meeting new ones, in 2026!  
Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and God Bless you all!



## TESA PRESIDENT ELECT

### BILL "BILLY" BRYAN

Greetings Texas Elks!

Compliments to the convention committee and other members for putting together a great Fall Conference. It was great to see everyone there. I am still making some adjustments in committee appointments so if you have an interest in serving, please email me.

I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season, but January is fast upon us, bringing district events and elections. Then our own lodge elections follow that. Please make sure that

all members interested in becoming an officer know the responsibilities that come with the office. Remember, mentoring up and coming officers will provide stability and growth of our organization.

Looking forward to my new round of district travels and look forward to seeing all the great things you do across this state.

I certainly wish each and every one a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year and we will see you in 2026.

## **SPECIAL DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULER JOHN ATWOOD**

We have 3 months left in this Elk year. While Noley and his Membership team have done well, each Lodge must do their part and initiate all your current candidates. Remember, you can have Special Initiation meetings just to initiate candidates. Don't waste all the Lodge's hard work recruiting these potential new members. Finish the job. We need to continue the increase in membership cycle of the past several years.

Work the Grand Lodge and GER Bryan Klatt's programs. Work ENF, and State President Matt Williams' initiatives. Support Our 2 Camps, the Sweetheart programs, and your individual Lodge fundraisers. Be involved. Become an officer, or a committee member. Help train your younger members. They are the future leaders. Help prepare them for their future involvement in Elkdom. I hope everyone had a very merry Christmas, joyous and safe holidays, and a Happy New Year.



### **TESA STATE SPONSOR JOHN AMEN**

#### **TEXAS ELK FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

Well, the holidays are now behind us and it is time to dig in the the important work of the final quarter to the Elks year. There are only a few months to go when our Lodges will change Officers and we will take stock of our accomplishments of the 2025-2026 Local Lodge year.

The first task at hand is Membership, the lifeblood of our Order. At the time of this writing, we need to focus on reclaiming our delinquents. A strong and active membership is and has always been a major factor in the long-term success of the individual Lodges, our Association and our Order. Lowell (Noley) Neinast has done an outstanding job working to keep TESA membership growing. It is imperative that we help him in his efforts to retain the members we have, as well as efforts to attract, initiate, and develop a continual stream of new working members. This issue of unpaid members can only be addressed and solved at the Local Lodge level. Every lodge **MUST** have a designated team to convince every delinquent member that they are **WELCOME**, **WANTED** and most importantly **NEEDED** if their lodge and its important work is to continue and perhaps survive. Every lodge needs the revenue that a member brings to the lodge in the form of dues and goods and services purchased, as well as the potential manpower every member represents to possibly fill the positions of leadership and/or the workers needed to do the many things required for a successful lodge to properly function. There must be a continual and ongoing effort to build and maintain a relationship with every member wanting to be a part of the Lodge, what it does, and what it stands for in its community.

State ENF chairman, David Zint, generated wonderful results for our national charity in the past year by exceeding the President's goal. I am sure he will continue with his current hard work in the new year and generate outstanding statewide charitable donations to the great heart of Elk of Elkdom, ENF. Further, I congratulate David in advance on his planned election to the high position of President Elect at our next June TESA annual convention.

I am very pleased with the cooperation between our two magnificent camps and their attention to the details of the new Texas state youth camp legislation. The two camps working together result in great community service that we can all be proud of. Thank you, Loretta Hill, Janet Person and Mike Smith, and also Kelly McDermott, Steve Weatherly and Sandi Creswell for your outstanding accomplishments at the two camps.

I am also impressed by our Advisory Committee of Past State Presidents, taking on the important tasks of preparing and educating our current and future state association leaders for their responsibilities of high office in TESA.





## TESA STATE SECRETARY MIKE CLARK

The long awaited and eagerly anticipated TESA Reimbursement Policy Training is finally ready for prime time. That will be prime time, in the evening, starting at 6:30pm on Monday, January 19, 2026.

Zoom meeting information will be emailed to all TESA committee Chairs and TESA Officers (who have a budget!).

Subjects covered will be Administration of the Policy, Authorized Expenses, Un-Authorized Expenses, Reimbursement Process and an overview of completing a Voucher.

TESA Committee Chairs will also be receiving a DRAFT Charity Report for the 2025-26 year via email for their review. Based on activity and budget requests, I have a baseline established and need to have it verified by each committee before submitting the numbers to Grand Lodge. This is for the work of the State and District committee members, which is in addition to what each Lodge submits with their participation in Elks programs.



## TESA HOOPSHOOT KEITH STANLEY

**It's Hoop Shoot Time**

We are well on our way into the Hoop Shoot season. The Preliminaries are done and the Lodge contests are wrapping up. District contests have started with each contest date listed.

**Northeast 12/13/2025**

**Panwest 1/10/2026**

**East 1/17/2026**

**North Central 1/17/2026**

**North 1/24/2026**

**Southwest 1/24/2026**

**South 1/31/2026**

**Gulf Coast 2/7/2026**

If you would like to support these kids and see some amazing shooting on the court, contact your District Hoop Shoot Director for contest information, they may even need your help.

Once the 8 Districts have held their contests, we will have the State Hoop Shoot contest. It will be at RL Turner High School in Carrollton on Saturday, February 21, 2026. Our home base will be at the Doubletree Dallas near the Galleria. For the full experience, look for hotel reservation forms and agenda coming soon to the TexasElks.org website.

Winners of the State contest will advance to the Region 11 contest on March 14, 2026. Winners will then become National Finalists and compete at the Wintrust Arena in Chicago on Saturday April 18, 2026.

These kids put so much into this contest and doing so, they are developing GRIT. With this, we are setting the foundation of the next generation of leaders.



## TESA YOUTH ACTIVITIES BRENDA FULLER

Scholarship Opportunities Await – Apply Today!

As the Youth Activities TESA State Chair, I am excited to remind all students and educators and Elks that the TESA Scholarship Program is open for applications. This is a wonderful opportunity to not only make an impact in your community, but to support the educational journey and invest in the future of someone.

**Important Deadline:** All scholarship applications must be submitted by January 30, 2026.

**Where to Apply:** Complete details, eligibility requirements, and application forms are available on the [TESA](#) website. Please take time to review the guidelines carefully to ensure your application is complete and submitted on time. Remember, that ALL applications need to have the Lodge certification.

Scholarships are more than financial assistance—they are a recognition of your hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. Whether you are pursuing higher education or professional growth, these awards are designed to help you reach your goals.

I encourage each of you to take advantage of this opportunity by reaching out to high schools and vocational/technical training schools in your area to get the information in the right hands.

This is a reminder to all Scholarship Chairs of local lodges that your Judging Manual contains all of the information of what to do with each scholarship. These Judging Manuals were emailed to your District Youth Activities Chairs for distribution. Please feel free to reach out to them or to me directly with any questions you might have.

Together, we can continue to support and uplift the next generation of leaders through education.



## TESA STATE VETERAN CHAIR NIKKI GREEN

I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday feasts. Along with safe travels. Being able to spend time with your loved ones is the best.

I hope everybody enjoyed fall conference as much as I did. I was a bit nervous about speaking to a couple hundred Elks.

I do need to amend my report. The top five lodges with welcome HomeKit since they started are: 428 San Antonio, 268 San Angelo, 233 Arlington, 227 Fort Worth, & Grapevine. So sorry about the confusion about the numbers and the lodges.

Also, when kits are delivered, let's put a save the date for your upcoming Lodge events for the veterans to attend. Let's also include a craft kit.

It is that time again for the veteran volunteer of the year award.

The veteran volunteer of the year award recognizes exceptional individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding service to veterans and military members in need. These individuals exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and dedication to serving veterans. If you know somebody who deserves this recognition, consider nominating them for veteran volunteer of the year. You may also nominate them on the National level. Simply check the box on the application. Please be sure that your nominees form is received by January 20 of 2026. There will be two recipients for this award.

The veterans retreat was held at the Texas Elks children's camp at all team October 3-5. It was a wonderful time for all. We had 34 veterans signed up. Final numbers attending were 32. 10 females and 22 males vets enjoyed they come and take a parade, music, bingo, kayaking, fishing, hiking, and assembling craft kits And very popular cellophane game and an epic pillow fight. PS the females one! The next Retreat will be held May 1-3 at TECOT. We already have 26 applicants signed up. But if you will take a top bunk, we can make sure that you attend. Also, we will have a a fishing guide to take us out on the lake to fish.

If you have any questions about the veterans retreat, please reach out to one of the Retreat Committee members. Corey Basquez, Kendra Har, Keith and Beth Stanley, Al Olmos, Sheri McCord, Mike Cropp, Despi Scott, Vickie Vaughan, Wayne and Linda Justice and Deb and Ed Salazar, or myself (Nikki Green).

Merry Christmas, and a safe New Year.



## TESA MEMBERSHIP LOWELL NEINAST

**Greetings From the T.E.S.A. Membership Team!** This year has flown by. We will be starting the 4th and final quarter of the Elk year in January. The State of Texas has the possibility of achieving a five-year growth in membership, but we need your help. There are several candidates waiting to be initiated. Unfortunately, we have even a higher number of delinquent Elks on the rosters. With hard work and dedication, we can do this. Initiate those waiting candidates who are waiting to tell their story about why they became an Elk. Make personal phone calls to the delinquent members of your lodge, not telling them they owe money, but seeing how they are doing because you have not heard from them lately. Your commitment is our strength.

As stated before, next 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 as we grow in numbers, commitment, and strength.

From the TESA. Membership Team, we wish you all a safe and happy New Year.



## ENF CHAIR DAVID ZINT

The Texas Elks State Association proudly reports strong charitable performance during the 2024-2025 Elks year and positive momentum entering the 2025-2026 year. Through continued support of the Elks National Foundation (ENF) and statewide fundraising initiatives, Texas Elks remain committed to serving veterans, youth, and local communities across the state.

- Total contributions by Texas Elks to the Elks National Foundation: \$347,381.55
- Total funds returned to Texas through Community Investment Programs and ENF grants: \$496,500.00

These funds supported vital programs benefiting veterans, youth, families, and communities throughout Texas, reinforcing the Elks mission of service and compassion.

Community Investment Program funding allows charitable dollars raised by Texas Elks to be returned directly to local lodges for use in meaningful community projects. These grants supported youth initiatives, veteran services, scholarships, and community outreach across the state. Texas Elks continue to live the Foundation's guiding principle: "Elks Care - Elks Share."

### Loyal Knight Charity Bike Fundraiser - 2024-2025

- Total dollars raised: \$29,655.00

The Loyal Knight Charity Bike Fundraiser reflected strong statewide participation and helped support charitable and community investment efforts throughout Texas.

### 2025-2026 Elks Year Outlook

Fundraising efforts for the 2025-2026 Elks year are off to a strong start, with continued engagement from lodges statewide. Texas Elks leadership encourages all lodges and members to build on last year's success and exceed the 2024-2025 results.

"We are doing great so far this year, but our goal is simple – we need to finish stronger than last year," said State President Matt Williams.

The Texas Elks State Association will conduct the \*\*Leading Knight Charity Bike Fundraiser\*\* during the 2026-2027 Elks year.

- Featured Prize: 2024 Harley-Davidson Road King
- Tickets & Posters Available: January 1, 2026
- Participation: All 60 Texas Elks Lodges

Proceeds will benefit charitable initiatives and community investment programs supported by Texas Elks.

The Texas Elks State Association extends sincere appreciation to every lodge and member for their continued dedication, generosity, and service to their communities.

The Texas Elks State Association extends sincere appreciation to every lodge and member for their continued dedication, generosity, and service to their communities.



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

### **My Journey with the Lodge: From Member to Leader**

Beaumont faced significant challenges regarding the shuffleboard table. A group of gentlemen initially funded the table, expecting the lodge to reimburse them. However, while waiting for repayment, they began taking money from the shuffleboard proceeds—a practice that was strictly prohibited. Although the arrangement for the lodge to pay them back was acceptable, the way they managed the funds was not. Ultimately, these gentlemen, along with about seven officers, decided to quit. This all occurred during Ella's tenure as Exalted Ruler (ER).

With several officer positions suddenly vacant, Ella saw the need for a special election to fill the six or seven open seats. At the time, I was simply a social member, having been with the lodge for two or three years and only utilizing the social quarters. I had never attended a meeting. My sponsor, David Huber, was running for trustee, which prompted me to participate in the voting process. This was my first real exposure to the internal difficulties the lodge was experiencing, and I could see Ella's struggle to keep everything functioning.

During the meeting, Jim Arnold, a past state president, and Ken Boyd, both serving as special representatives, attended because the lodge was on probation. After witnessing the situation, I spoke to Rochelle, expressing my concern and desire to help. I mentioned that if I were asked to be the esquire, I would accept, as it was clear that Ella needed assistance.

At the following meeting, after the formal business concluded, I was approached by Dave Fisher, a past exalted ruler. He asked if I wanted to become the esquire. Upon my agreement, he immediately informed Ella, who enthusiastically responded, "Buy him a drink before he changes his mind!" Thus, I became the esquire. Ella worked closely with me, explaining my responsibilities, and I dedicated myself to learning by reading the required materials repeatedly. I served as esquire for the remainder of the year, and Ella recognized my efforts by naming me Officer of the Year.

Following my time as esquire, I moved up to lecturing knight the next year. During this period, I became aware of the Elks National Foundation (ENF) and took charge of fundraising efforts for the lodge, organizing baskets and other activities while continuing as lecturing knight. The subsequent year, I was slated to become loyal knight, but as Ella stepped down and a new person entered as ER, leadership gaps emerged. So the following year this led to my appointment as leading knight, as requested by the Past Exalted Rulers (PERs).

Serving as leading knight for a new Exalted Ruler turned out to be a challenging year. The Exalted Ruler (ER) was not actively involved and often missed important events and conferences, leaving me to represent the lodge in her place. She only attended the Grand Lodge in New Orleans since her expenses were covered.

After that year, I was asked to run for Exalted Ruler (ER). When the ER learned about my candidacy, she chose not to run, allowing me to assume the role. I served as ER for two years, then advanced to Vice President (VP). It was during this time that Hurricane Harvey struck, and I helped lead the lodge's major relief initiative. We became a distribution center for families affected by the hurricane, ultimately assisting over a thousand families.

My involvement continued as I joined the training program while serving as ER and VP, which allowed me to travel across the state and gain broader experience. Later, I took on roles as auditor and as District Deputy (DD). Near the end of my term as DD, John Atwood invited me to become the district leader when Barbers had to step down due to health reasons. Throughout these years, I also served as membership chair.

Looking back, the pivotal moment that set me on this path was when Dave Fisher asked if I would be esquire—a decision that ultimately shaped my journey and commitment to the lodge. Interestingly, it echoes how others, like Matt, also needed to be asked before stepping into leadership roles. That is the story of how I became involved and continued to serve, leading to where I am today.

# EAST DISTRICT #8520

## CROCKETT #1729



Crockett 1729 held its Hoop Shoot event on October 17th at Latexo High School, with strong participation from attendees.



Crockett 1729 used a spotlight grant to assemble Thanksgiving baskets with food, turkeys, hams, hygiene products, and blankets. Baskets were picked up at the lodge or delivered to those unable to collect them.

Crockett 1729 donated an ENF gratitude grant to the Houston County EMC/Fire Department for emergency radios. The lodge presented the grant to Heath Hurff, EMC representative.

## BRYAN #859



Annual Veterans fish fry and gift card giveaway

**GREAT WORK**

## BEAUMONT #311



Beaumont Elks participated in the Girls Haven gumbo cook off



Beaumont Elks Lodge #311 presented the Spotlight Grant check in the amount of \$2,000 to Some Other Place on 12-2-25 to assist with their food pantry.

Presenting the check to Executive Director Chris Robertson are Beaumont Elks Elaine and John Galvan.

In addition to the check 10 members went to Some Other Place on Labor Day to assist with serving a meal to the unhoused and needy and on December 2nd they assisted with breakfast preparation and service at Henry's Place, a subsidiary of Some Other Place.



## Stockings share spirit with seniors

The Beaumont area nonprofit Elks Lodge No. 311 organization delivered stockings to senior citizens at the Beaumont Nursing and Rehabilitation residence Dec. 4, gifting 54 with presents — and presence.

Volunteers filled each stocking with various items such as word searches, pens, candy, small toys, lotion, handkerchiefs and flashlights.

"We brought Easter baskets before to the nursing home, and it was a hit. We've raised money for different projects, and we thought this would be good for the elderly to brighten their

The Beaumont community will soon have an opportunity to support the organization through the nonprofit's Purse and Pistol Bingo event, Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at 6 p.m.

Participants will have the chance to win a designer purse and pistol. Tickets are \$50, with dinner and 10 games of Bingo included. A cash bar will be available with additional tear sheets.

For tickets, visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/elks-purse-and-pistol-bingo>.

Proceeds will benefit the local nonprofit charities that the Elks Lodge sup-



## NORTH #8680

### MARSHALL #683



It's hard to believe we are wrapping up 2025 and starting 2026. This past year the Marshall Elks Lodge has been busy, busy, busy. We did a fundraiser split with ENF and Sweetheart on Valentine's Day with a murder mystery dinner theatre. Word got out and we had to do it again. We had an amazing crawfish boil, which helped raise money for the sweetheart program.

Next up was our Back-to-school bash, which helped our community by offering supplies for school children and that was followed by our Community Baby shower. This shower helps to provide much needed items for new mothers to be.

All during the year we offered a Vets and First Responder's breakfast on the second Saturday of the month. We also passed out baskets of much needed personal items to our vets in our local nursing homes.

We also hosted Interlodge and had a golf tournament and golf ball drop to raise funds.

Then we had our annual Friendsgiving. We had a wonderful time and a few prospective new members showed up.

December, we observed our memorial service for members who had passed away during the year.

## NORTH CENTRAL #8640

### ARLINGTON #2114



Military Ball -Annual formal ball to recognize lodge veterans and express our gratitude for their service to our country. Hosted by the Veterans Committee.

Hoop Shoot - Arlington City level Hoop Shoot competition.

Christmas Vendor Market - The Sweetheart hosted a vendor market for local crafts people. There was a wide variety of unique gift items to choose from. The Sweetheart raised about \$1,500 in entry fees with 35 vendors participating.

Veterans Day Out Christmas luncheon - The lodge provided 75 in-patient veterans and their support staff from the DFW & Fort Worth VA hospitals a hot holiday meal. Chef Eddie prepared a wonderful turkey dinner with all the traditional sides and desserts. Santa distributed gifts along with a selection of therapeutic craft kits.

Breakfast with Santa -- Does Drove #166 and the Elks welcomed Santa and his loyal Elf to start the Christmas season. About 35 children had breakfast, decorated cookies, put their names on elf caps with glitter glue, and talked to Santa.

Angel Tree Pick Up - This year's angel tree focused on the children of veterans. We filled the Christmas needs for 39 children.



# PANWEST #8720

## BORGER #1581



### Texas Panhandle Veterans Appreciation Banquet Honors Service, Sacrifice, and Community Heroes

Borger, Texas – The Texas Panhandle came together in unity and gratitude this week for the annual Texas Panhandle Veterans Appreciation Banquet, hosted at the Borger Elks Lodge #1581. Veterans, families, community leaders, and supporters filled the lodge for an evening dedicated to honoring military service, remembering sacrifice, and celebrating the strength of the veteran community.

The program began with a formal Presentation of Colors by the Borger Honor Guard, followed by welcoming remarks from Master of Ceremonies Clayton Norton, PDDGER, who led the evening with professionalism and heartfelt respect.

A moving tribute recognized all branches of the United States Armed Forces—Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force—honoring veterans past and present. A powerful POW/MIA Remembrance was presented by Don Martin, PER and David Zint, Texas Elks State Association President Elect Designate, underscoring the community's ongoing commitment to those still missing and the families who await their return.

First responders were also honored for their daily courage and dedication to protecting communities across the Texas Panhandle.

One of the most emotional segments of the banquet recognized Blue Star and Gold Star Mothers, honoring the strength of families who support service members and remembering those who have given all.

A solemn Veterans Toast, led by David Zint, Texas Elks State Association President Elect Designate, highlighted the enduring bond shared by all who have worn the nation's uniform. Don Martin, PER also led a special "Sheepdog" Tribute, recognizing those who stand guard in service—both abroad and at home.

A standout moment of the evening was a special presentation honoring Bob Tiffany, PDDGER, for his 18 years of dedicated service leading and performing opening ceremonies across veteran events throughout the region. His unwavering commitment to honoring the flag and preserving military tradition earned him a heartfelt standing ovation.

Another highlight was the presentation of American flags to both the youngest and oldest veterans in attendance—an emotional connection between generations of servicemembers. Assisting with these presentations were Ralph Pumphrey, PDDGER, and Clayton Norton, PDDGER, whose support added to the significance of the moment. The flags were provided by the office of Congressman Ronny Jackson.

The banquet was further distinguished by the attendance of Past Texas Elks State President Don Pepper and Past First Lady Peggy Peppers, recognized warmly for their longtime service to the Elks and their commitment to supporting veterans.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Rodney Gonzalez, Administrator for the Amarillo VA. Gonzalez shared updates on expanded veteran support services—including healthcare access, mental health initiatives, and enhanced resources for veterans across the Texas Panhandle.

Guests enjoyed a catered dinner and evening of fellowship, providing veterans and supporters the opportunity to connect, share stories, and strengthen community bonds. The atmosphere reflected unity, gratitude, and pride in the region's legacy of service.

Organizers celebrated the strong turnout and meaningful participation, marking the Texas Panhandle Veterans Appreciation Banquet as a cornerstone tradition of patriotism, military heritage, and community commitment.

**Great Job!**

## SOUTHWEST #8800

### NEW BRAUNFELS #2279



We are proud to support Communities In Schools with a \$300 donation this holiday season.

In addition, two of our members generously contributed \$100 each to help Communities In Schools of South Central Texas, at Legend Point elementary and Walnut Springs elementary continue breaking down barriers and improving student attendance.

Legendary Leaders also joined in the spirit of giving by helping prepare sides and turkey meals for two families in need.

Community is what we're all about.



New Braunfels Elks Annual Adopt a Family for Christmas event was a resounding success. From 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM, the New Braunfels Elks Lodge was filled with joy, laughter, and the spirit of giving as we hosted 60 families and over 200 children for our cherished Christmas celebration.

This wonderful event would not have been possible without the generous support from the ELKS National Foundation Grant Program, our local Lodge, and the unwavering commitment of our members and the community, The Family Life Center of New Braunfels, and Kay Scott, the director for their assistance as well. Together, we have spread warmth and happiness to those in need, reminding us all of the true meaning of the holiday season.

I would also like to highlight and celebrate Toby Muncaster, our dedicated program coordinator. This year marks her 15th anniversary with the event, and it's safe to say that this year's celebration has been one of the best yet! Her hard work, passion, and commitment have truly made a difference in the lives of so many families.



## HELP NEEDED



Several members are in need of financial help. There are several members throughout the state that are unable to work because of medical treatments. If you would like to help, please reach out to their lodge. Stephenville & Amarillo both have members in need.

# TREASURER'S TRAINING

## Treasurer's Training

The Treasurer survey results have been analyzed and the first Texas Elks State Association Statewide Treasurer Training will be held at 7pm on 12 January, 2026 (yeap, that's 2026!). It's a Monday evening. Get your questions ready and plan on attending.

This training is for Treasurers, those thinking of being a Treasurer, or any one else that wants to know what Treasurers are supposed to do, and what they may really do.

Here's the Zoom link for the training session:

The TESA Training Team is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Statewide Treasurer Training

Time: Jan 12, 2026 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86401177865?pwd=8GOOyw0gHQPx2sLSoW0a5zVGLqMI5z.1>

Meeting ID: 864 0117 7865

Passcode: 884448

---

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,86401177865#,,,\*884448# US (Houston)

+12532050468,,86401177865#,,,\*884448# US

Join instructions

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/86401177865/invitations?signature=8\\_\\_SXK-L4kz6vvXVx5NwO9YJhuOx\\_fIFeFy2zjzcr\\_Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/86401177865/invitations?signature=8__SXK-L4kz6vvXVx5NwO9YJhuOx_fIFeFy2zjzcr_Q)

**MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDAR**

## TESA LODGE BULLETIN CONTEST

Good afternoon TEXAS ELKS! It's time to start thinking about the lodge bulletin contest. Our criteria changed last year to require bulletins from July, November and 1 month of your choosing. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2026, but PLEASE do not wait until the last minute to turn those in! You can access the contest rules at <https://texaselks.org/bulletin-contest> but I am including the most important points below:

Please send your completed entries to me as soon as you are able.

Liz Sample

State Bulletin Contest Chair

[lizsample69@gmail.com](mailto:lizsample69@gmail.com)

281-804-8425



## 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 **MARCH 20, 2026**. Email articles to [sherimc@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

