

# THE TESA EXPRESS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2024

**WE ARE ONE, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN– Click on pic to jump to story**



MESSAGE FROM STATE PRESIDENT



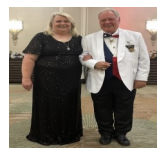
MESSAGE FROM TESA PRESIDENT-ELECT



MESSAGE FROM STATE SPONSOR



MESSAGE FROM SDGER



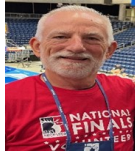
MESSAGE FROM STATE CONVENTION



TEXAS ELKS CHILDRENS SERVICES– POOL



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



HOOP SHOOT



TESA VETERAN'S



STATE CONVENTION



SOCCOR SHOOT



PROPOSED FRISCO LODGE



KERRVILLE #2081



EAST DISTRICT #8520



PUBLIC RELATIONS



## TEXAS STATE PRESIDENT



Just finished attending Regional Hoop Shoot and what a great time we had! The competition was intense with several shoot outs and the best shooter shot 22 out of 25! What a remarkable performance by these girls and boys! The families were so supportive of the kiddos and anxious to hear about Elkdom and we might have two new members for the new Frisco lodge! It was such a blessing to get to be part of the kids' lives and interact with them and their families!

Well, it's a new lodge year, lots of new beginnings, new officers, new committee chairs and new IDEAS. Remember we can be open to new ideas and projects while still respecting the past. Just because something didn't work 10 years ago doesn't mean it can't work now. Support those new people in leadership and help them overcome the hurdles that we all know they will face.

Retiring lodge officers are a wealth of information and every officer and committee chairman should share information with the new officers and chairman. If you have a contact with the school for scholarship or hoop shoot let the new person know names and contact information. If you are handing off building maintenance let the new person know which contractors/handy men, you use and even introduce them! Remember, the key is to do what's best for the lodge and communicating is a key factor in having seamless continued operations.

By now, most of the district sweethearts have been crowned, but districts need to keep having events and raising money for your district! Sell those truck tickets at community events you have, farmers markets, remember OPM -Other Peoples Money! We can make our goal of \$999,999 if we all work together!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at state and hearing about all the goals that we have met and exceeded!

Fraternally,

Steven D. Weatherly Sr.

TESA State President

2023-2024

## TESA PRESIDENT-ELECT



“HAPPY SPRING” to our Texas Elk Family!

So many events and activities have taken place during the first quarter of the new year .... January Interlodges, district, state and regional Hoop Shoots, the annual Sweetheart Retreat, Inter Lodge Chair training, workdays at the kid’s camp, the 1st ever Spring Fling at Texas Elks Camp on Texoma (TECOT), budget and board meetings and 2024 / 2025 Vice President’s Training. Whew!! That is A LOT!!

Sadly, many also dealt with devastating and unexpected wildfires that impacted thousands of families in the Pan West. As usual our members jumped into action to come to the aid of those in need. Some did this even when their own homes and properties were in danger. Lodges opened as shelters, Elks took to social media to communicate items and supplies needed to help those who were evacuated and displaced and some who lost their homes. While we watched the horrific news stories and prayed for protection for our brothers and sisters, members from other parts of the state answered the call for help by making monetary donations and/or loading up trucks and trailers and hauling supplies to the impacted areas. These selfless acts of kindness helped to provide aid and relief for some of our Elk families and complete strangers. Fire fighters and first responders (some Elk members) were also deployed to the Pan West to help fight fires and to work in shelters. ALL these things are “what Elks do” .... right? Join me in sending a “shout out” to the 2023/2024 lodge officers in appreciation for their service during the past year. You made it! and hopefully you accomplished what you set out to do for your lodge. I also hope you are leaving the lodge in a good place for the new team coming for the new year. CONGRATULATIONS to the new officers and I wish you all the best during the new year! MAKE IT GREAT!

I don’t want to miss the opportunity to introduce the Texas Elks State Association Incoming Vice President Team for the upcoming year.

East – Larry Baughman, Gulf Coast – Dean Holtke, North – Gary Emberling, North Central – Karen McCrary, Northeast – Greg Davis, Pan West – John “Pup” Yohn, South – Cliff Meyer & Southwest – Richard Lowery

Incoming Vice Presidents will be sworn in during the upcoming state convention. Many state committee chairs will be introduced, and some will host break out and other learning sessions throughout the weekend. Don’t forget about the Youth Awards on Friday night (one of my favorite events), the state Sweetheart and Elk of the Year announcements AND the big truck give-away on Saturday night. It doesn’t get much better than that!!

Join us in Mesquite and prepare to have fun, network, share ideas, attend informative training and “think tank” sessions and to experience a weekend full of “extraordinary” things!

Renea Oswalt  
TESA President Elect

---

## TEXAS STATE SPONSOR



Hello Texas Elks,

CONGRATULATIONS! Texas Elks have achieved an outstanding “three-pete” of three years of membership gains in a row. We have a great State Membership team of Lodge Membership Chairs, District Deputies and our State Chairman, Matt Williams, leading the way and every Texas Elk can be proud of this accomplishment. Looking back only a few short years ago our state membership stood at 12,611 members. Our preliminary

March 31, 2024, membership is at 14,038. What a great accomplishment! Periodic Zoom meetings and monthly Lodge Membership Committee meetings do work. We have found the keys to sustained growth and we will continue pushing forward on this mission because membership growth is so important to our Lodges and our Order

At this writing we are planning to Institute the newest Lodge in our Order on May 11, 2024, at Dallas Lodge #71. Hope to see you there because it will be fun to see the array of new Charter Members of Frisco Lodge #2890 take the oath of membership.

Kirk Story is leading the team of Local Support Committee of volunteers for the 160<sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge Convention to be held in our own city of Austin, Texas, starting Sunday, June 30th. It takes a huge number of dedicated Elks to produce the grand “show”. I know Texas will do a topnotch job of hosting Elk Members from all over the country. Thank you in advance Chairman Kirk and all of your helpers.

We have had a great year at our two charitable projects with the fabulous new swimming pool at our special needs camp in Ottine and our largest veterans retreat to date, which is to be held next month up north at our Texoma camp. Thank you, Loretta and Stacy for carrying forward these magnificent projects.

On a personal note, Susan and I are happy to report that we have purchased a townhome in the Houston suburb of Baytown to be our winter residence in order to avoid the brutal winters of living in Colorado at 7,500 feet of elevation.

I frequently recall the words of my mentor that “all you have to do to have a great Lodge is just follow the Statutes, not just some, but ALL of them.”

So, goodbye for now, Y’all.

John D. Amen, PGER, State Sponsor

---

## SPECIAL DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULER



Welcome to all the new Lodge Officers. I trust all the ERs have your committee chairs filled. This is critical to having a successful year. Remember, you are the leader of the Lodge, but you work for the Members. They decide everything. Listen to the Members, the PERs, and work with your Officers and Committees. You are not going to please everyone, but you also cannot make everyone upset with you as well.

---

This should be an interesting year. Our incoming President, Renea Oswalt has great plans for the year. Grand Lodge will be in Austin, which should give all Texas Members an opportunity to attend. New committee chairs are beginning their year. They will need your support as they adjust to their new roles.

We will be instituting a new Lodge in Frisco in May. That will be the third one in three years. Great job Ed Salazar and his New Lodge Development team. We currently have several more potential new Lodges in various stages of development. If you are in any of the areas where they are being developed, please offer your support to the startup team.

PSP Kirk Storey is diligently working with his team to put on a great Grand Lodge in Austin. This convention will reflect on Texas, and Kirk needs all the help he can. Please volunteer to work the convention. It will help the State, the Grand Lodge, and you will have a chance to meet Elks from all over the country.

This will probably be the last Grand Lodge in Texas for quite a while. Take advantage of it being so close.

Remember, the State and Grand Lodge Officers and Committee Members in Texas are here to provide all Members advice and support. Utilize their knowledge and expertise. Good luck this year.

John H. Atwood  
SDGER - TEXAS

---

---

## TESA FIRST LADY



First and foremost, I want to thank everyone for all the fundraising efforts going on statewide to try to make this Sensory Playground a reality! To all the Does, Elkette's, Lady Elks, Elk Ladies and every auxiliary organization that has sent a donation I thank you! To the PER Associations, Districts and Lodges who have sent contributions it means so much. And to every person who has bought a t-shirt, raffle ticket, or participated in a 50/50 raffle you are all helping to make this dream come true for Texas Elks Children's Camp too! Remember every dollar counts! We'll have our final push at the State Conference with the raffle for the Electric Bicycle, raffle baskets, 50/50 board and I'm sure John will have some surprises as well! We're fortunate to have already been able to order some of the equipment with your generous donations! Remember, if you have some excess bingo money that needs to be donated, TECSI/First Ladies Project is a 501C-3 and works for those donations!!

Kerri L. Weatherly

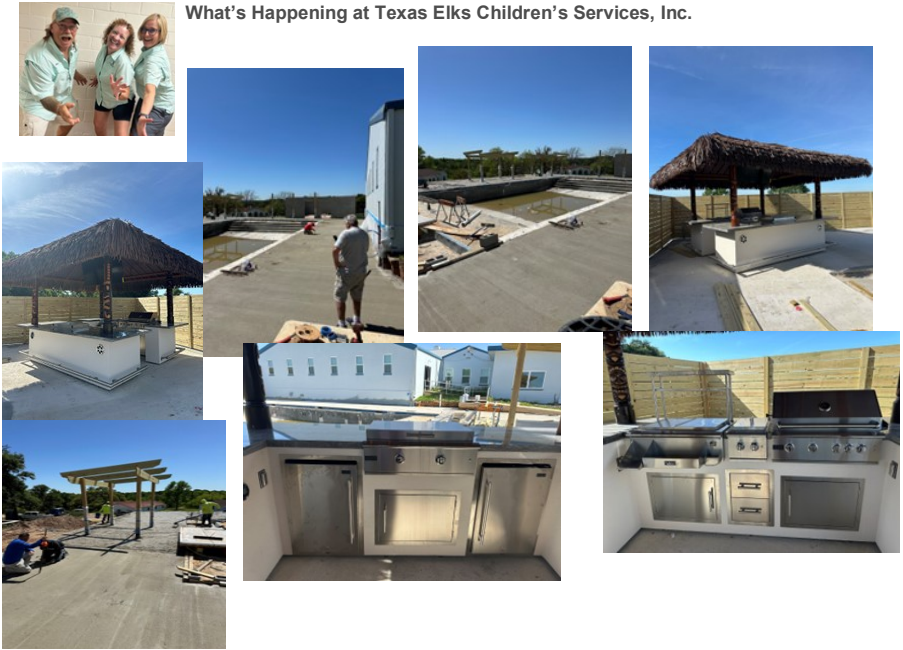
TESA First Lady

2023-2024

---

## TEXAS ELKS CHILDREN'S SERVICES, INC.

What's Happening at Texas Elks Children's Services, Inc.



---

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Community service is the spirit of Elksdom within each of our communities. Every community has some common needs and others have unique needs based on their geographic location and demographics. Community service builds pride in our members—a proud member stays a member. Every Lodge strives to meet needs in their communities that demonstrate the motto "Elks Care – Elks Share".

TESA Bylaws: "Section 10.030.5: ELKS COMMUNITY SERVICES: The purpose of this committee is to stimulate and assist the Lodges in initiating and continuing community service activities in the Lodge area."

Your booklets need to be mailed to 1140Norwood Drive , Beaumont Texas 77706 by April 27, 2024.

You can contact:

Teresa Blevins @ 409.540.2332

Dean Anderson @ 936.544.0610

Sheri McCord @ 979.277.4479

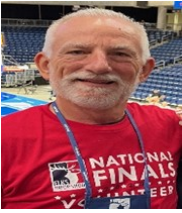
with any questions.

Use your imagination and get creative. Makes a great scrapbook to share with new candidates as well as a tool to get your members excited about what all your lodge does in the community! Click [here for the guidelines.](#)



---

## HOOP SHOOT



We had the Southwest Region 11 Hoop Shoot Contest on Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>. There were 6 Texas State winners competing for a spot as a Region 11 Champion and a National Finalist.

Klæe Mendoza representing the Harlingen Lodge

Harper Belcher representing the Dallas Lodge

Landon Atwater representing the Denton Lodge

Emma McKenzie representing the Denton Lodge

Jose Paredes representing the San Antonio Lodge

Alexis Wong representing the Plano Lodge

Of the 6 who competed, 2 of our Texas contestants will now be competing in the National Finals in Chicago on April 20<sup>th</sup>. They are Emma McKenzie sinking 21 out of 25 baskets and Alexis Wong sinking 22 out of 25 baskets and also winning the high score for the tournament.

Lets all wish these two young ladies the best of luck in Chicago and you can do so by going to by end of day on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Each National contestant will receive a book with all the well wishes when they check in to the hotel in Chicago.

Our Texas girls ROCK!

*Keith Stanley*

TESA Hoop Shoot Director

BPO Elks

Cell: 817-319-2327

[Keith.Stanley2327@outlook.com](mailto:Keith.Stanley2327@outlook.com)

---

## TESA VETERAN'S



Greetings Texas Elks

There is so much going on right now in Elksdom, I am not sure where to start. All lodges should have installed all their new officers and are starting to put their committees together. I would like to request that all incoming Lodge and District Veterans chairs please send me an email with your contact information. I am here to assist you with your programs and needs. If you are coming to the State Convention, I would love to meet you. Don't forget that there are lots of resources for you on Elks.org under the Veterans page. They can provide you with information that can be used at your lodge and during Veterans events that tell our community just what we do.

Our May Veterans Retreat is fast approaching, and I am very proud to say that we are just shy of our goal of 50 veterans. We currently have 48 veterans registered. This is the most we have ever had at one of our retreats. The deadline for applications is April 14<sup>th</sup>. This is going to be the biggest retreat to date. We have lots of great things planned. This will be the second retreat at our new camp, Texas Elks Camp on Texoma, but the first since we have taken it over. The retreat committee and camp staff have been hard at work to make it an amazing event. Please follow us on Facebook at Texas Elks Veterans Retreat to see all the great things that will be happening.

Thank you to all who submitted nominations for the Veteran Volunteer of the Year. I had 13 nominations sent in this year. These were sent to the review committee and the nominations were scored and the winners were chosen. The awards will be handed out at the State Convention in June. I truly hope that I will get more next year as we continue to grow the number of lodges in our state.

Lastly, I would like to welcome The Honorable Mike Clark PSP Grapevine Lodge 2483 and Adley DuPuis New Braunfels Lodge 2279 as our newest VA Representatives. We have certified 3 new facilities this year and they will be the representatives taking care of our veterans at those facilities. If you would like to lend them a hand, please reach out to them, I am sure they would love to hear from you.

Well, I think that catches everything up for the time being. I look forward to another great year in Elksdom.

Fraternally  
Stacy Hydrick PER  
TESA Veterans Chair

817-819-9484

---

## STATE CONVENTION



Congratulations to the new Lodge Officers! Whether you are brand new in your position or are advancing up the Chairs, it is an exciting time as you enter the leadership realm of Elksdom.

To help you in your journey, a wonderful educational opportunity is the upcoming Texas Elks State Convention to be held at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Mesquite on June 6 - 8, 2024.

Information will be available on ALL of the Elks programs that can help your Lodge become a key player in your community. There is also time for fellowship and networking to seek and share ideas on how to help those programs run more smoothly and successfully.

So go to the [TEXAS STATE CONVENTION INFORMATION](#) link on the Texas Elks website to make your hotel reservations and pick up your registration, lunch and banquet tickets and be ready for a wonderful time with your fellow Texas Elks!

Mike Clark, PSP

Convention Committee Chairman

## SOCCER SHOOT



Uriel C. has won the Elks National Soccer Shoot competition for 2023-2024. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner for the Boys U-10 Division.

Uriel competed in his local Amarillo Lodge #923 and was first place in that competition. Scoring 46/75 possible points.

He then moved up to the PanWest District and won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the District. Scoring 45/75 points.

Uriel competed in our State Competition which was held in Frisco, TX at FC Dallas MLS soccer complex. Uriel one first place which qualified him for Regionals.

He competed with competitors from 6 other states and was the First-place winner in the Regionals.

He then moved up to the Grand Lodge Virtual Elks National Soccer Shoot. Uriel came in First place for his U-10 division with 69/75 points. **He also was the Highest Scorer in the Nation for all age divisions.**

**Per the Grand Lodge Soccer Chairman Terry Ford**

*"Please take special notice of the U-10 Boys score of 69 out of a possible perfect score of 75 from the boy from TX. That is an awesome level of skill!"*



Congratulations Uriel C. the State of Texas Is Proud of You.

Jerry Swanson, PER  
Texas Elks Soccer Shoot Chairman

## PROPOSED FRISCO LODGE

*You Are*

*Cordially Invited*

*To The*

*Institution of the Frisco, Texas*

*Elks Lodge No. 2890*

*Please Join Us*

*Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 2:00pm*

*Institution & Celebration*

*Will Be Held at The*

*Dallas Elks Lodge # 71*

*8550 Lullwater Dr, Dallas, TX 75238*

*Dinner & Drinks*

*To Follow Ceremonial Ritual*

*RSVP to [friscoelks2890@outlook.com](mailto:friscoelks2890@outlook.com)*

*By April 27, 2024*



## KERRVILLE #2081



On the weekend of November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Rick Trzcinski of the Kerrville Elks Lodge #2081 and Blair Sanders provided their annual Veterans Hunt, with the help of many in the community, at the ranches of John Falk (Doozer Ranch), and Terry McBride (McBride Ranch) of London, Texas. Together, we all have been hosting combat/disabled veterans to hunt deer, turkey and hogs, all expenses paid since 2011.

This year we had four disabled Veterans join us and it was our pleasure to host them. In attendance were John Kadleck of the Wounded Warrior Project in Houston (USMC/Army), his friend and veteran Paul Calderon (Army), Jim Emery of Connecticut (USMC) and Joe Morales of Kerrville, also USMC. Of the four Veterans we harvested six deer (5 bucks and 1 doe) and a turkey. It was expressed by them that it was the best weekend they have had in a long time. Fun was had by all, but it wouldn't have been possible without the help of many. Special thank you to the Kerrville Elks Lodge #2081 (our main sponsor) for providing all the food and processing of the deer. We'd also like to thank Rhodes Taxidermy for the processing, Carter Automotive and Rick's Yoga Therapy for providing the ranches with deer corn and alfalfa for the feeders. And thank you to Sheldon and Carol Starbuck of Florida for their generous donation. Thank you all so much. This hunt was successful because of all of your support for our Veterans. Jim Emery donated his two deer to the Venison for Veterans program run by Rick for the Elks Lodge. That meat went to the Kerrville Veterans Center Food Bank and to the Veterans Yoga Project class at the Elks.

John and Terry not only gave back to our veterans this weekend but have piloted a Christmas toy drive which began in 2019 and has blossomed into a wonderful gift of gratitude. They saw a need in the community of London, Texas and have stepped up to support their community and especially the children. Everyone who came out to hunt were asked to bring an unwrapped toy for this project. The Veterans all brought toys and were happy to give back to the kids. We'd also like to thank Town and Country Animal Hospital of Kerrville for their generous donation to buy toys and clothes for the children this Christmas. The Veterans helped deliver the gifts this year and the community was very grateful. With Gratitude

Rick Trzcinski, Kerrville Elks Lodge #2081  
Blair Sanders

## EAST DISTRICT #8520



### Huntsville #1981

Huntsville Elks Lodge #1981 presented Restore Texas Ministries a \$1500 Check from Elks National Foundation (ENF) Gant to help their program. John Gomez ER, Irene Garcia-Juarez- Secretary and Chris & Amber from Texas Restore.



Huntsville Elks lodge #1981 with the H.E.A.R.T.S Veterans Museum shopped for Richard Robinson US Army Veteran for his tiny home with the Spotlight grant from the Huntsville Elks lodge.



### Brenham #979

Brenham High School student Lia Otero that is a member of the Marine Corp Junior ROTC, was honored by the Brenham Elks Lodge. Read full story [here](#).



### Beaumont #311

Donation from Beaumont Elks 311 to Surviving Parents of SE Texas in honor of Tyler barrows Braxton barrows and Blake Alexander all perished in a house fire.



## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION



Newsletter Editor- Sheri McCord.

Newsletters will go out quarterly. For submission to the **SPRING** newsletter, please submit by **June 10, 2024**. Articles to submit from Lodges is Veteran's, Special needs children, Drug Awareness, Elks National Foundation, Hoop Shoot, 1st Responders, and Community activities. Please email information & photos to Sheri McCord at [sherimc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sherimc@sbcglobal.net).

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**



**GRAND LODGE CONVENTION 2024- AUSTIN TX INFORMATION**

Did you know that Elks are the loudest members of the deer family? So let's be loud and proud Texas Elks and volunteer for Grand Lodge 2024 in Austin, Texas. Remember your Grand Lodge Registration Fees will be covered when you sign up to Volunteer !!

**CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER NOW!!**



**159th Elks Grand Lodge Convention**  
**AUSTIN TX**

**LET'S MAKE THIS CONVENTION THE BEST YET!**

**June 30 - July 3, 2024**  
**VISIT TEXASELKS.ORG AND SIGN UP TODAY!**

Austin Convention Center, 500 E Cesar Chavez St., Austin, Texas, United States, 78701

**400-500 TX VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

-  Choose the Role(s) you are interested in and the days and times that you will be available to work.
-  You will be contacted via email closer to the Convention to confirm assignments and scheduled times.
-  Meet Elks from around the country! Work for a bit then stay and play.



**SCAN ME TO SIGN UP!**

Volunteers (Elks and Spouses) that work a minimum of one shift will be exempted from paying registration fees for this convention. Except DD Designates, Ritual Teams & current ERs.



**THIS IS YOUR TESA NEWSLETTER**  
**SHOW OFF WHAT YOUR LODGE DOES FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!**

**#WE ARE 1, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!**

SUBMIT ARTICLES TO [SHERI MCCORD](#) DEADLINE JUNE 12, 2024