QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 WINTER 2023

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



STATE PRESIDENT



TESA PRESIDENT-



STATE SPONSOR



MESSAGE FROM SDGER



MESSAGE FROM TEXAS FIRST LADY



TEXAS ELKS CHILDRENS SERVICES



DA

DRUG AWARENESS



HOOP SHOOT



VETERAN'S





FNF



MARSHALL #683

DEADLINE **Newsletter Articles**





SEGUIN # #1229 CLEAR LAKE #2322



EAST DISTRICT #8520

PUBLIC RELATIONS

TEXAS STATE PRESIDENT



It's been a whirlwind since our last TESA news with lodge/Interlodge visits and a wonderful Fall Conference in San Antonio. I believe the Casino night was enjoyed by all!!

We dedicated our November activities to honor and appreciate our Veterans with meals. parades, and ceremonies. Veterans are important EVERY month of the year and while we do make November our big emphasis, we need to do something for our Veterans

every month.

December brings our Elks Memorial Day where we honor those members who have passed from our midst the previous year. It's a great time to show their families how much we loved and appreciated their loved one and show them that Elks Care and Elks Share.

Christmas is certainly a time to visit family, socialize with friends, cook delicious meals, and shop for the perfect gift, but we must also remember the true spirit of the holiday. As Dr. Seuss famously wrote in the story of the Grinch, "Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." For Elks, Christmas means a lot more. It's the ideal time to put my theme of "We are 1, Lets Have Fun" into practice and showcase the hope and charity that Elks have given throughout the past 150 years by working events TOGETHER and having FUN while doing it!! Remember many hands make light work so volunteer even if it's only for 30 minutes, every little bit helps in making a food basket or decorating! There are many ways Lodges can give back to those who are alone or struggling this Christmas season, such as adopting a family in need of a warm meal or winter coat, donating gifts to children whose families can't afford presents under the tree, or visiting with veterans who don't have loved ones. Be sure to spread the word of your charitable efforts through your membership, social media, and local news media!! Local News Media is craving feel good stories for the Holiday season make sure ELKS is part of those stories!! As we begin to wind down our lodge year, be thinking about your succession planning and new officers, nominations happen the first meeting in February which will be here before we know it. Also, make sure we leave no new members in limbo, get everyone initiated even if you have to hold an initiation on a Friday night or off week to accommodate schedules, we need these new members in! Also, membership committee's make one last ditch effort to contact your delinquent members and remember to use standing relief for long term Elks that may be in assisted living or are having health issues, they were faithful to us for many years we need to give them the same respect. One final thought, as you attend social events at your Lodges this holiday, remember to be kind and compassionate to one another. While the holidays are a fun and easygoing time for some, they can be difficult for others. It is our duty as Elks to extend the same help to each other as we do to our friends outside the Order. From our house to yours, Kerri and I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year. We hope you all find a way to grow your heart's three sizes this Christmas. See you in 2024!

Fraternally, Hon. Steven D. Weatherly Grand Lodge Esquire TESA State President







TESA PRESIDENT-ELECT



Howdy Texas Elk Family.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I am always THANKFUL for my Elk family and for all of the wonderful and life changing things we do in Texas. I am also Thankful for the blessings of spending time with family and friends during the holidays. Hopefully, you had extra time off to relax, recoup and maybe to do some shopping for Christmas.

recoup and maybe to do some shopping for Christmas.

Since the last update, John and I have visited the Harlingen and San Benito lodges, attended the BEST Homecoming yet and we recently returned from Fall Conference in San Antonio.

Vice President Jessica Myers, known to most as "Red", and the entire team from the South made us feel right at home and their hospitality is greatly appreciated. Elks from this district are out in their communities sharing program information, and many are focused on helping their lodges to be the best they can be. It was a pleasure to network with Elks from this district and a privilege for John and I to present Steve and Kerri's programs.

Were you at Homecoming this year? If not, you missed IT.... you REALLY missed it! Many fundraising records were broken and treasured time was spent with friends from lodges across the great state of Texas. CONGRATULATIONS to all Sweethearts and to TESA First Lady, Kerri! Way to shake things up with new game ideas and awesome live auction items!

ideas and awesome live auction items!

ideas and awesome live auction items!
Fall Conference was also a lot of fun. We arrived at the hotel in time to watch the World Series Game with several Elk friends. We very "loudly" cheered the Texas Rangers on to victory during the Championship Game. Sorry, Astro's fans... we still love ya... and remember, there is always next year.

Several members mentioned how much they enjoyed this year's conference. There seemed to be something for everyone... Informational board meetings, helpful breakout sessions, awesome entertainment and valued time with some of our best friends. The showgirls and casino night were a big hit too, and it was a huge honor to give the 11 O'clock toast on Friday night with much support from my Elk family!

Keep growing your lodges, continue to raise money for Elks National Foundation and Sweetheart, host a lodge Hoop Shoot, use those Community Investment Grants, market your lodge, always promote the GOOD..... and keep doing GREAT THINGS in your communities!

I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Renea Oswalt - Proud Elk Member TESA President Elect

TEXAS STATE SPONSOR



TEXAS ELK FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Well, the holidays are now behind us, and it is time to dig in the important work of the final quarter to the Elks year. Only a few months to go when our lodges will change Officers and we will take stock of our accomplishments of the 2023-24 Lodge year.

The first task at hand is Membership, the lifeblood of our Order. At the time of this writing, we

are significantly behind the national average in delinquents. A strong and active membership is and has always been a major factor in the long-term success of the individual Lodges, our Associ-

ation, and our Order. It is imperative that we continue to retain the members we have, as well as attract, initiate, and develop a continual stream of new working members. This issue of unpaid members can only be addressed and solved at the 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 func-

tion. 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.

I am confident that while the first 9 months of 2023/2024 have had its share of roadblocks and obstacles, I am confident that the hard working and dedicated Elks of Texas can overcome the challenges and that once again the TX Elks will have and outstanding 2023/24 year.

At the Grand Lodge level there is much concern about the increases to our lodges and members attendant to the At the Grand Lodge level there is much concern about the increases to our lodges and member attendant to the cost of insurance. You may well know that two of our Statutes mandate that every lodge and member support the insurance programs financially. Our property insurance costs have had significant increases due to claims related losses associated with major storms and fires across our nations. Likewise, liability insurance has skyrocketed, primarily due to court cases and judgments against lodges for over-serving alcohol in our social quarters. Grand Lodge in the court cases and programs are considered to the court cases and programs are considered to the court cases.

marily due to court cases and judgments against lodges for over-serving alcohol in our social quarters. Grand Lodge is diligently working to reduce insurance premiums and I am confident that significant changes will be made to our insurance programs at the next Grand Lodge Conventions in Austin.

Speaking of Austin, we are looking forward to a great convention with PGE Kirk Storey overseeing a great team of Texas Elk volunteers putting on a show the likes of which have never been seen outside the borders of Texas (except for 2014 when the Texas Elks put on the show in New Orleans and I was elected GER, HaHa).

Best wishes to each and every Texas Elk and their families for continued good health, prosperity and joy - all the joy you can capture with family and friends - family and friends that will make the difference and carry us through 2024 as the premier organization that we are. And finally, THANK YOU for your unwavering and dedicated support and efforts on behalf of your lodge, or Association and our Order, and those we serve – you are the BPOE, truly the BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH!!!!

Texas, vou are great! John Amen, PGER State Sponsor

SPECIAL DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULER



We are 2/3s through the Lodge year and halfway through the TESA year. We appear to be having moderate success so far. No major problems, but no major successes either. Membership is still a huge issue, and Matt Williams and his team are striving to accomplish our State President's goal of an increase of 700. The biggest obstacle is our delinquents. We have to reduce these numbers. Matt has called for a call-a-thon in January to help achieve this reduction. We all need to participate in this project. Let's get these delinquents back into the fold.

major issue before TESA is the problem of overserving. As those of you who were at Fall Conference heard, there are going to be some mandatory changes instituted statewide. I will be issuing an Instructional Communication shortly outlining the plan for attacking this problem. I apologize for not having it out already, but my Attorney work has kept me occupied.

Elections for Lodge officers are coming up in a couple of months. These elections are very important for your Lodges. The Officers you select will be the leaders of your Lodge for the next year, and possibly longer. Choose wisely. The choices you make can potentially make or break your Lodge. Choose leaders, who can inspire the Members to get involved.

Finally, the 2 camps we sponsor are creating a lot of excitement around the State. Ottine is making several improvements to upgrade the facilities, especially the new pool. This is going to improve our summer camp experience for the kids, and might even make Homecoming more enjoyable. Lorretta, Janet and Kirk, keep up the good work. TECOT has been hosting several school groups this fall, and major improvements are scheduled, including ADA compliance, dock improvements, and pontoon boats. These improvements are geared to make the camp more assessable for our veterans.

The faults of our Members are written on the sand, their virtues on the tablets of love and memory.

John H. Atwood SDGER - TEXAS

TESA FIRST LADY



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!

Thanks to everyone who contributed and supported the First Ladies Booth at Homecoming! It was a huge success. We sold more than we ever have and set a new record for Homecoming! Thank you to everyone who helped assemble baskets, work the booth, tote stuff from here to there, cook, cleanup and

100 other things I'm forgetting! I appreciate you all!

Fall Conference was a blast and while the hotel layout was a little challenging for a First Ladies table, we made it work and I appreciate all the support. Thank you to everyone who worked at the booth. We do still have a few Fall Conference pins available for \$5 each plus postage to anyone who missed out!

Casino night was enjoyed by all, and I think overall a huge success thanks to all who participated. It did cost more than our usual entertainment and the First Lady had to chip into the convention committee to pay for it, but I think the fun and participation that it sparked might be worth tweaking the convention budget to accommodate for such an event!

Steve and I look forward to visiting everyone in January and seeing everyone at the State and Regional Hoop shoots early in the year!

May each of you have a blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Fraternally, Kerri L. Weatherly, TESA First Lady

TEXAS ELKS CHILDREN'S SERVICES, INC.



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

We're Hiring:

We are now hiring summer camp counselors and counselors in training for Summer 2024. If you know a young adult who is interested in working with our campers, please

have them apply thru our website, Available Positions - Texas Elks Camp. Please keep in mind that counselors and counselors in training must be able to meet the physical and mental demands required to take care of our campers. We work 12-to-14-hour days in the summer heat. Camp counselors will work with children and adolescents who have intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and foster care children. Patience, love of working with kids and the energy and ability to work well in a group setting are a must. Regular duties include leading small or large groups activities; ensuring safety of campers while at camp and on outings; participating in camp activities: singing, storytelling, arts, crafts, swimming, and sporting activities; assisting campers with eating, bathing and toileting as needed; walking/running in the heat of the day; and making beds, organizing/straightening dorm rooms, crafts, and sporting equipment. Working at Texas Elks Camp is a real job and must be treated as such. Keeping our staff and campers safe is our highest priority.

Camper Applications Open January 1

We will begin taking camper applications January 1. It is important to get applications completed in a timely manner, as our camp sessions tend to fill up quickly. An application is not considered complete until all forms and required documentation has been submitted, even for returning campers. Visit our website, Eligibility - Texas Elks Cam to learn more about the camper application process.

Special Grant Period Ends February 29

We would like to commend all the lodges for their efforts in submitting Special Needs Grants this year. We have spent a record amount of grant funds this time of year. If you know of someone who needs assistance please get the application sent in as soon as possible. Remember all applications must be presented on the lodge floor and voted on. The Special Grant application and information can be found on our website at Texas Elks Camp.

IMPORTANT DATES





TEXAS * ELKS

Hello Texas Elks

Return Peaus Lins.

Exalted Ruler and Past Exalted Rulers, please mark your calendars for February

24, 2024, at the Temple Lodge. National ritualistic committee member Steve

The training will begin at 9:00 am and go to about 3:00ish pm. The North District ritual degree team will be performing for floor judge certification. Lunch will be served by the good folks at the Temple Lodge and there will be refreshments

The Temple Lodge was chosen because of its central location in the state. I would love to have a ritual certification clinic in each district; however, no one's budget can handle that @

Please plan on attending. Your lodge's ritual team starts with a ritual judge, someone trained in proper ritual performance to coach the team. Also, there are plans afoot to make Texas ritual competition a bit easier. Don't let your lodge get

Remember, it doesn't matter what it is, Texas Elks make it better

Mike Callahan, PSP TESA Ritual Chair (281) 705-3974 (c)







The Houston Metropolitan Chapter of Continental Societies, Inc.



Special THANKS to Mr. Ken Boyd and The Elks for your partnership with Red Ribbon Week 2023.

Our chapter served 4,099 children and youth and the donated promotional items will serve as reminders and encouragement for students to remain drug free.

Regina G. Deadrick 1st Vice President (Programs)

Allyson Bailey-Leonard President

HOOP SHOOT



Now that Christmas is here, we're well into the holiday season and the Hoop Shoot season. Lodges have been holding their local shoots with the help from so many Elks, thank you very much! There are a few lodges that will be hosting a contest in the next couple of weeks, so let's get this wrapped up for the 8 District Hoop Shoot Contests coming up in January.

February 17th is the day contestants from across the Great State of Texas will meet to compete for a State Champion Title. These boys and girls who age from 8 to 13 years old, are the best from each of our Districts at free throw shooting. As in years past, we will be needing over 50 volunteers to assist in hosting this event, so please contact me if you would like to help. We will be posting the State Hoop Shoot information on the texaselks.org/ website in January.

We will have the 6 State Champions compete at the Regional level on March 16th and I am hopeful Texas will then have 6 Regional Champions become National Finalists and compete at the Wintrust Arena in Chicago on April 20th, 2024.

In Hoop Shoot, we say we help build Gritty Kids. Let's all do our part in this endeavor to help put Grit into this next generation of kids.

Keith Stanley TESA Hoop Shoot Director **RPO Flks** Cell: 817-319-2327

TESA VETERAN'S



Greetings Fellow Elks

The deadline for the May Veterans Retreat is fast approaching. The dates are May 3'd-5th at Texas Elks Camp on Texoma. Let's not wait until the very end to get those applications in. Please get those applications in as soon as possible. If you are having a Veteran's event, please pass out applications to them.

We have lots of great activities planned as well as a great menu.

Please get the application printed off and have it available at your lodge events as well as send them out to other organizations that your lodge works with. We are also asking anyone that would like to volunteer to please fill out the volunteer application and get it back to me. Download applications here.

We are now approaching the deadline (December 31st) for nominations for Veteran Volunteer of the Year and so far, I have only received 1 nomination.

Now I know that most if not all our lodges have at least one member who goes above and beyond to help our Veterans. Wouldn't it be nice to have that person recognized at our next State Convention? It only takes a few minutes to fill out the nomination form and send it back to me. Let's get those members the recognition they deserve.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Fraternally Stacy Lahue PER TESA Veterans Chair Grapevine Elks Lodge #2483 817-819-9484

MEMBERSHIP

Hello Texas.

Just a note regarding Membership. Currently we are a -556 with 283 Candidates awaiting initiation. We are about 300 off our pace from last year. We have some work to do to reach our goal of a +700. So let's remember to keep pushing strong towards our goal. We are entering our last quarter so it is time to start shifting out focus on how we are going to replace the delinquents with new members. Membership Committees should be planning events to bring in new members. Also a reminder that January is our annual Call -A-Thon month. Time to reach out to them after the holidays, their situations might have changed and things might be different now. Remember, we are trying to accomplish something that has never been done before, and that is a plus 3 years in a row. So let's get going, and "GROW TEXAS"!!!!

Matt Williams TESA Membership Chairman

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Good Morning Texas Elks!

As most of you are aware, during the Fall Conference Convention, we handed out Posters and Raffle tickets for the Texas Elks State Association's Elks National Foundation Bike.

We have also mailed and shipped posters and raffle tickets to several lodges and ENF Chairpersons. If you did not receive your tickets, please let me know and we will make sure to get them to your lodge. We currently have handed out 74 posters and 8,280 tickets to over 37 lodges in Texas.

This has been a long time coming and took some strategic planning to develop; We are proud to say we will have four bikes coming out in the next four years. Each year starting with 2024 and ending in 2027, a oneoff custom bike in honor of each of our four Knight's stations will be released: Brotherly Love, Justice, Charity, and last

We have partnered up with Tripp's Harley-Davidson in Amarillo, Texas. They have worked with the Elks for many years helping raise money for Veterans and Children. The artist working on the paint for the bike is John Stromberg, a local home-grown boy known for doing custom painting, hoarding, and being

a Texan. You can check out his work at Lucky 7 Customs on Facebook and Instagram.

All funds raised will go to the Elks National Foundation. Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00. Monies will be turned in at the Fall Conference Convention each year for the next 4 years. Please turn these into your local lodge and have your lodge Secretary and Treasurer create a code in QuickBooks for ENF Bike. Each Lodge will write a check to the Texas Elks State Association each year. In the memo line please code to Elks National Foundation Bike. Tripp's has taken all the tins off and John has them now. The paint on them should be done by January 1, 2024. Some parts will then go to the engravers and powder coating. If everything works out correctly and we have no delays, the bike should be done by March 31, 2024. Pictures will start showing up on Facebook and Instagram very soon.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. 806-679-6532

Fraternally Yours, David M. Ziint



MARSHALL ELKS #603



Marshall Elks entered a float in the annual Christmas parade held last Saturday in Downtown

Members, kids, grandkids, friends of the Elks, recent Hoop Shoot contestants and Special Grant recipients also rode on the float.

Our theme was Elks Care Elks Share by Giving During the Holidays!

One more way Marshall Elks continue to spread the word about the good works done in our community!

Everyone had a blast!! Check out that huge Elk head on the front of that tractor. It's a big one for sure!









SEGUIN #1229



Seguin Texas - The Seguin Elks Lodge held their annual Hoop Shoot competition this morning at the St. James Catholic School. Congratulations to all of the participants and those moving on to the district competition in January. A big shout out to all our volunteers and to St. James Catholic School for helping to host the event.









CLEAR LAKE #2322





Veterans Event - Sailing Angels Hydro Therapy Luncheon

Air dogs learned up with the Saling Angels Foundation to provide a lunchoon for Veterana and their families during October. This year weets started with the Saling Angels Foundation providing hydro threapy on the water which included 48 boats in a boat parade lead by the Coast Gurard in the moming. After the hydro threapy event we had a lunchoon in the Clear Lake Elak Loge. This provided a gathering place for all of the veterane and families along with the Saling ores to gather in one place to meet and greet each other. We sestimated we served over 25's weterans, families and saling overs from all over Hostonic coming to out dogs for this gathering. Thank you to all the members who were able to help with this furn community event. It was such a pleasure for our lodge to serve this

















EAST DISTRICT #8520



EAST DISTRICT #8520

CROCKETT- #1729

Crockett Elks Lodge #1729 held the annual 9th annual Kids Christmas. They had a great time and were very excited. This was made possible by using the ENF Beacon Grant. Crockett Elks also filled Toys for Tots boxes and presented a \$1,500 donation to









Liberty- ##2019

Uberty Elks lodge #2019 has successfully shopped, packaged, handed out or delivered all 30 Thankagiving Baskets to vetera n within our community. We would like to thank HEB and every one who showed up or helped to make this happen.

We had a lot of fun wat ching t hese kilds compete at the Liberty Elks Lodge #2019 Hoop Shoot











Navasota Elks #2888

The Navasota Elks #2888 had floats in the Veteran's Day Parade and the Christmas Parade. On December 2, 2023, the Navasota



BRENHAM ELKS #979

arenham Eliks had approximately 30 children and their parents attended the annual Special needs Christmas. This was made po

he children were all from the Brenham Independent School District Early Childhood Learning Center. This campus has pre-

Brenham was fortunate in having the principal of the school, Melissa Boogley, and one of her teachers attend also. This worker out great because the children all saw a familiar face when they entered the Lodge.







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.



Volunteers (Elks and Spouses)



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 MARCH 17, 2024