



February 2023

# The Antler

Official Newsletter of the Galveston Elks Lodge #126



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## GUMBO COOKOFF



Galveston Elks Lodge #126  
1518 23rd St., Galveston, Texas 77550  
Benefiting charitable programs on the island.

**1ST ANNUAL**

FEBRUARY 28TH, 2023

MUSIC - FOOD - CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT - GOOD TIMES

Great music, games, corn hole tournament, and the always popular dessert auction! Guests and cooking teams don't have to be Elk Members, they just need to be signed in by a member.

**Volunteers**  
**Cooking Teams**  
**Sponsors**  
**Cake and Pie Donations**

*Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks  
A Fraternal Organization*

Galveston Elks Lodge #126  
1518 Tremont Street Galveston, Texas 77550  
Office: (409) 762-1212  
Return Service Requested

*For the latest Lodge information follow us on Facebook.*





# Elks Websites

(click below for websites)



[National Elks](#)



[Texas State Elks](#)



[Elks National Foundation](#)



[Texas Elks Camp](#)



## A word from the Exalted Ruler

### Fellow Members of Galveston Lodge,

Welcome to February! If the Antler is a little late this month, I'll take the blame. There has been a lot going on and I wanted to include all events into this article. In January, we had a serious meeting led by Sally regarding the future of our lodge. It was good to air some of the problems our lodge is facing and hear the input from so many new members of our lodge. The momentum of that meeting led to a fantastic Wednesday Steak dinner where we sold over 70 steaks. This resulted in the lodge making money to pay our bills... It was a fantastic night where all had fun and enjoyed the lodge. Later in the week, I held a volunteer meeting for all wanting to help. Again, a great turnout with about 15 people! (the last time I tried a volunteer meeting, we had 2 people show

up) We will keep up this positive momentum! Together we can ignore the negativity and focus on our future.

**February 11**, is the Sweetheart Ball in Clearlake. If you haven't bought your tickets yet, please see Asta. Let support our Sweetheart and cheer her on.

**February 14** is of course Valentines day. It's also our lodge meeting where nominations will be taken for next year's officer positions. Please show up and nominate your next leadership team

**February 12** is the Big game. With that is a SuperRib event at the lodge. Paul, Maddog, and team will smoking the famous ribs (outside until our pit room is fixed). Please join us for a great time... and a game.



**On February 18**, our State Hoop shoot competition will be held in Dallas. We have 3 Kids from the Galveston area that will be attending! This is very exciting for our Kids and they have a chance to make it to Chicago for the Finals. I'll



be posting a couple requests for donations to assist our Shooters in this exciting opportunity.



**On Feb 25,** we will have a Gumbo Cook-off where I'll be inviting as many lodges as I can. This will be a fun time for our lodge and a chance to show off our lodge to visiting Elks. Please help us out by volunteering for this fun event. Robert Corkren is heading this up and can use as much help as he can get.

**February 28,** is the 2cd lodge meeting in February and we will hold elections for the nominated officers.

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

Let's make 2023 the best year for the Elks of Galveston!

**Joe**



## From the Chaplain

A new year brings new beginnings. A fresh start . A clean slate. A time for change.

It is very rightly said that nothing in life is permanent except change . Change is almost inevitable and one of the most prominent changes that we experience every second of the day is time itself.

We grow up , meet new people in life, lose loved ones along the way, and move to different places during our lifetime. Since change is unavoidable , you might as well learn to embrace it. Once you do that, you will learn that change often brings a lot of new opportunities and experiences that are actually good for us.

Change is never easy but something we all face as we go through this life rather we choose to make a change or things change around us beyond our control.

That said, be a force for change not a subject for change. You can change your life and

someone else's life for the better if you choose to change.

So long as you embrace change, you will find that your situation does not have to last forever and you will progress on to something bigger and better. If you reject change, experiences and opportunities in your life are likely to pass you by.

In this life we have participants and spectators. Be a participant and you will be a force for change! Be a spectator and you will be a subject of change. Think about it..... what changes can you make in your life or someone else's to make a positive difference? The world is ever changing and so must we. Be that force for positive change in your life and someone else's.

Take control of your life ! Make a positive change in the world around you and make 2023 the best year , this year!

I want to wish all Elks a very happy 2023.

If I may be of service to you please call me at (281) 935-9950.

**Chaplain Joe**





## My final days as Sweetheart are here already. XO

The Gulf Coast Elks District Sweetheart Charity Ball is Feb 11 th , 6- 11pm at [Clear Lake Elks Lodge # 2322](#) (623 Hanson Rd, Kemah, TX 77565). Tickets are \$35 each. (Includes dinner, beer, wine and rail drinks, music and dance.)

The theme is "Back to the 80s"! I hope everyone will join me and other fun elks to celebrate our hard work this year! RSVP #608-576-9055. We are still arranging group transportation or a carpool to the event.

As we all know, currently, our lodge needs our financial attention. Since I'm on my last

days, this is my final PUSH for totals. All district Sweethearts submit their total amount raised in form of a check at 5pm on that Saturday, Feb 11 th . The Sweetheart in the District that has raised the most money will be crowned the District Sweetheart and then move on to compete for STATE Sweetheart.

I would love THAT TIARA!!!!!!

But it is most important to remember that ALL OF THIS is FOR THE KIDS! All monies benefit Texas Elks Children's Services Inc. This year we helped Aiden Adams and Sophie Barkdull with special grants and sent many kids to Texas Elks Kids Camp in Gonzales, TX over the Summer. Let's increase our totals so we can help more local kids with their needs (hearing

aids, uncovered medical costs, special medical equipment, or services...). And maybe, we - ELKS LODGE #126 - can win DISTRICT! I don't think we have ever won!!

But I still need your help to reach the GOAL! Even SPOT has been going around town selling raffle tickets and raising money for the kids. If SPOT can do it, so can WE! GO SPOT GO! Donations are also accepted. TECS Inc. is a 501(c)3. Start your tax write- offs for 2023! Thank you for all your love and support! It has been challenging but FUN!

*Love, Asta*



**Sweetheart's**  
via Carol McCoy donations

**Valentine's Goodies**

- Pick the items
- Make a donation
- Place \$\$\$ in the bucket.

Benefitting Texas Elks Children's Services Inc.

**HAPPY MARDI GRAS**

**\$5**

FOR Texas Elks Children's Services Inc.





## If you have a chance, reach out and wish these Elks a Happy Birthday!

### January Birthdays Missed in the January Antler

Ray Molina  
 Rickey Morrison  
 David Pennington  
 Larry Poe  
 John Ritter  
 Christopher Robertson  
 Natalie Robertson  
 David Salyer  
 Sandra Scardino  
 Andrew Shelton  
 William Silkowski  
 Linda Stephens  
 Chelsea Sutton  
 Charles Taylor  
 Gregory Ustinoff  
 Raul Vanda

### February's Birthdays

Dirk Archer  
 John Barry  
 Elena Brasher Schroeder  
 F W (Rusty) Carnes  
 Carl Christensen  
 James Davis  
 Renkert DesPrez  
 Matthew Farragher  
 Annette Felts  
 Dean Franklin  
 Linda Garcia

Bartley Gray  
 Karen Greenan  
 Charles Head  
 Katherine Herrin  
 Richard Huepers  
 Robert Joha  
 Mikko Kuch  
 Stacy Mathews  
 Tracy Mathews  
 Ralph Nusbaum  
 Dana Pate  
 Crystelle Pierce  
 Brian Ponce  
 Sylvia Rekoff  
 Donald Rogers  
 Paul Rogers  
 James Scharbach  
 Preston Smith  
 Helen Stroud  
 Robert Thierry  
 Cheri Ustinoff  
 Catherine VanNess  
 John Walker  
 Ann Wallace  
 Jeffrey Warren  
 Kenneth Wegner  
 William Westrup  
 Linda Dobbs Willis



One of the ways you can help is volunteer in the Lodge a few hours here and there. Either behind the bar helping keep things clean or serving a cold beverage. And lets not forget the kitchen or the weekly bingo!

With these opportunities though, comes some mandated training. Click the logos below for more information.



# Committee's Corner

## Grants Committee

### Dear Members,

Winter has been an exciting time for the Lodge's Grants Committee! In conjunction with the Elks National Foundation, our Lodge has awarded \$3,500 in grants to two community nonprofits.

**CHRISTUS OUR DAILY BREAD** is the focus for Members of the Lodge in January and February. A Donation Box, located in the front foyer of the Lodge until February 11, enables Members to donate coats, jackets, new underwear, razors, body wash and trial size deodorant for Our Daily Bread's clientele.

In December 2022, the Lodge's Gratitude Grant donation of \$2,500 was awarded to the Resource and Crisis Center of Galveston County for their annual Santa for Survivors. This

event enabled the residents of their domestic violence shelter to be able to select gifts to give to members of their family for the Holidays. The children even shopped for their loved ones! Everyone had the opportunity to talk to Santa, have their selected gifts wrapped and enjoy cookies and punch. This grant helped with the purchase of gifts for all age groups plus provided Happy Holidays and lots of smiles. The picture below is Dianna Puccetti with volunteers at the Santa for Survivors event.

The 2023 Freedom Grant of \$1000 was used by Lodge members to purchase items so Health and Hygiene Kits could be assembled and given to homeless Veterans. Items for the kits include: 2 t-shirts, 2 pairs of socks, 2 men's briefs or Ladies underwear, full size toothpaste, toothbrushes, Flashlight with

batteries, standard size shampoo and conditioner, standard size bar soap, lip balm/lip moisturizer, lotion, and a first-aid kit. A handwritten card and a Star from a retired US Flag were included in each kit.

Our Lodge members want the homeless Veterans served to know and understand that Galveston Elks care about them, their health and their safety. Members also want to say "Thank you for your service to our Country" which is a debt we can never repay. Elks live by the motto, "As long as there are Veterans, the Elks will never forget them".

Thanks everyone!

**Dianna Puccetti and Constance Rivers,**

**Grants Committee**

### Mardi Gras Poster Winner

Tia Haynes, wife of member Kenneth Haynes, presented a Mardi Gras poster to Galveston Lodge #126. Tia won first-place in the annual contest. Her entry, "Hooray for Hollywood", was designed and created to depict this year's theme for the Krewe of Gambrinus.



To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care.

~ Mandy Hale



# Some of Our New Members

(Welcome aboard. We're Glad You Joined)



(L-R) Don Burlison, John Ondrasek, Bryan Roberts, Nancy Starr, Mike Starr, Todd Bsnight, Bill Martin



(L-R) Bobbie Christian & John McCain

## Veterans Day Quilts of Valor

Last month, we had a ton people come together for a great cause. An army of quilters created true works of art and heirlooms these veterans will be able to cherish for many years to come. This is what Elkdom is all about. Helping our community and working together as Elks should always do. Elks Care. Elks Share.

### Quilters

- Marilyn Simmons
- Pat Reed
- Shannon Shock
- Marian Hoffman
- Ruth Marquez
- Dena Yngve
- Patricia Legg
- Cheryl Tessitore

- Helena Acoin
- Katy Farmer
- Jeri Jaquis

### Veterans receiving Quilts

- Ron Woods
- Jimmy Bacon
- John Dapra
- Jim Gilmore
- Jerry Jackson
- Mike Aleman
- Lenny Van Noord
- Tom Verkin
- Stan Humphries
- Harry Milo
- Sonny Taormina
- Rachel Sanderson
- Tom Scott
- John Carlson





### 2022-2023 Officers

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Exalted Ruler</b>    | Joe Miller        |
| <b>Leading Knight</b>   |                   |
| <b>Loyal Knight</b>     | Natalie Robertson |
| <b>Lecturing Knight</b> |                   |
| <b>Secretary</b>        | Belinda Miller    |
| <b>Treasurer</b>        | Tammy McCall      |
| <b>Chaplain</b>         | Joe Simmons       |
| <b>Esquire</b>          | John Bullacher    |
| <b>Tiler</b>            | John DaPra        |
| <b>Inner Guard</b>      | Jim May           |

### 2022-2023 Trustees

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>5th Year</b> | Linda Muehlberger |
| <b>4th Year</b> | Kris Graves       |
| <b>3rd Year</b> | Dianna Puccetti   |
| <b>2nd Year</b> | Stef Cochran      |
| <b>1st Year</b> | Stanley Marinos   |

### Previous ERs

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Michael Burckett | Julie Molis     |
| Richard Carroll  | Dianna Puccetti |
| Jack Cross       | Paul Rogers     |
| Bill Jamison     | Dennis Zapalac  |
| Chubby Lauzon    | Jim May         |
| Loraine McKinney |                 |

### 2022-2023 Committees

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Committee</b>         | <b>Chairperson</b>  |
| Accident Awareness       | Claudia Mendel      |
| Americanism              | Kathy Nesbitt Aarom |
| Auditing & Accounting    |                     |
| Bingo                    |                     |
| Community Activities     |                     |
| Club Room                |                     |
| Drug Awareness           | Constance Rivers    |
| Elks National Foundation |                     |
| Entertainment            |                     |
| Garden/Yard              |                     |
| Gov't Relations          | Kris Graves         |
| Hoop Shoot               |                     |
| Investigation            | Joe Conti           |
| Indoctrination           |                     |
| Kitchen                  | Matt Farragher      |
| Lodge Activities         |                     |
| Membership Committee     | Richard Percy       |
| Memorial Day (Lodge)     | Joe Miller          |
| Memorial Team            | Jim May             |
| Newsletter               | Robert Corkren      |
| Pool                     |                     |
| Public Relations         | Chair Officers      |
| Relief                   | Stephenie Schlett   |
| Scholarships             | Paul Rogers         |
| Veteran's Programs       |                     |
| Visiting                 |                     |
| Youth Activities         | Natalie Robertson   |

**OFFICER NOMINATIONS**  
FEBRUARY 14TH,  
LODGE MEETING @ 6PM

**Officers & Trustees**

**OFFICER ELECTIONS**  
FEBRUARY 28TH,  
LODGE MEETING @ 6PM

**ELKS LODGE #126**  
GALVESTON, TEXAS



**THE BIG GAME PARTY**

BBQ Ribs & Sausage  
Potato Salad  
Pinto Beans  
Bread **\$15**

**DREAM TEAM** **on the BIG SCREEN**

Sunday - Feb.12th  
noon until sold out



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 **Share Your PHOTOS**

Whether it's sitting around the pool at Lodge, working in the community, volunteering on one of the many committees, or maybe even a meeting with some of your fellow Elks. Heck, maybe you went on a once in a lifetime trip or had a neat experience on the island - this is your chance to tell your fellow Elks what you've been up to! So this is a friendly reminder... share your photos with the Elks Editor at the email below. Just send an email explaining the event, who's in the picture, what's the location.

[elks126editor@gmail.com](mailto:elks126editor@gmail.com)



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# GUMBO COOKOFF

1ST ANNUAL

FEBRUARY 25TH, 2023 - GALVESTON ELKS LODGE #126

MUSIC - FOOD - CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT - GOOD TIMES

The weekend following Mardi Gras will be time to put those cooking skills to the test in the 1st Annual Galveston Elks Gumbo Cookoff!

Great music, games, corn hole tournament, and the always popular dessert auction! Guests and cooking teams don't have to be Elk Members, they just need to be signed in by a member.

## ENTRY & REGISTRATION

Free - Elks Members  
(donations are also welcome)  
\$10 Donation - Guests  
\$40 - Cooking Teams

## SCHEDULE

8 am - Registration Table & Check-in  
9 am - Quick Team Meeting  
10 am - Bar Opens  
11 am - 3 pm - Music &  
Corn Hole Tournament  
12 noon - Gumbo Tasting  
2 pm - Judging & Dessert Auction  
3 pm - Awards  
5 pm - Areas Cleaned Up

More Information can be found on the Elks Facebook page and in Lodge email communication.

[Event Site Click Here](#)



Galveston Elks Lodge #126  
1518 23rd St., Galveston, Texas 77550  
Benefiting charitable programs on the island.

## CONTACT

Robert Corkren - Communication Committee  
Galveston Elks 126  
713-805-8660 - elks126editor@gmail.com

## **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

### Drink Sponsor - \$750

- 2 team entries
- Company Name / Logo on all materials (including event emails, website, and Elks newsletter)
- Commemorative Plaque
- Special mention at the event

### Sign Sponsor - \$500

- 1 team entry
- Company Name / Logo on all materials (including event emails, website, and Elks newsletter)
- Commemorative Plaque
- Special mention at the event

### T-Shirt Sponsor - \$300

- 1 team entry
- Logo prominently displayed on the front of shirt
- Company Name / Logo on all materials (including event emails, website, and Elks newsletter)
- Commemorative Plaque
- Special mention at the event

### Trophy Sponsor - \$250

- 1 team entry
- Company Name / Logo on all materials (including event emails, website, and Elks newsletter)
- Commemorative Plaque
- Special mention at the event

### Event Supporters- \$40

- Name, Company Name, or Logo on all materials (including event emails, website, and Elks newsletter)
- Special mention at the event

## **PRIZES**

- First Place - cash and a trophy
- Second Place - cash and a trophy
- Third place - cash and a trophy
- People's Choice - cash and a trophy (Ticket Drop @ Cooking Table)
- "Most Hype Team"
- "Best Decorated Tent"

## **WHAT'S PROVIDED**

### By The Teams

- 150 Gumbo portions / 3oz portions for attendees (quantity may change)
- Propane, cooker, pots, utensils, tables, and ingredients, etc.
- Wash/Sanitation Station
- Ice Chests are allowed only for items necessary for cooking

### By The Lodge

- 1 quart containers for judging.
- 3oz sampling cups, spoons, napkins
- Serving bowls and spoons, for paid portions
- Ticket boxes (People's Choice)
- Tickets and Wrist Bands

**Volunteers Needed!**

**Cake and Pie Donation  
SignUp Sheet in the Lodge.**



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