

Elk Call

Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity

October 2025

Navasota Lodge #2888

8949 S Business 6, Navasota, Texas 77868

www.navasotaelks.org

A Fraternal Organization



From our Exalted Ruler...

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! THE NAVASOTA ELKS LODGE #2888 is OFFICIALLY OPEN!

Phew! Well, we finally received our Certificate of Occupancy, the last piece of the puzzle, on September 16th, just 50 weeks after we closed on our building. A great number of volunteer hours, exhausting hard work, and endless commitment went into getting this lodge ready to roll, but here we are, opening just 6 days before the anniversary of the purchase date of Sept. 30, 2024. Although we haven't yet finished all we intend on doing to the lodge, we are well on our way! Stay tuned as we work to schedule our Grand Opening and Dedication of our Lodge Home. **I'd like to send a shout out and huge Thank You to all who sweated and sacrificed along the way! A special thank you to Jeff Van Dien for holding everything together. The Membership owes you all a tremendous debt of gratitude.**

September was a good month for the 2888. We opened our lodge; held our first Soccer Shoot, which I believe was a great success, and had a fantastic Homecoming at the Texas Elks Children's Camp, where we raised Bucoup Dolores (*voice of Spicoli*) for TESCO. A special thank you to our Youth Activities Chair, Evonne Bellis and all who assisted with the Soccer Shoot; and to our Sweetheart, Calandra Van Dell and her committee for all their support for our Special Needs Children. Outstanding job by all!

I fully expect this October to be a month to remember, as it will be our first month of being fully operational. Being able to invite all members, families and guests on a regular basis to simply gather and fellowship with one another. I imagine many great plans for our community and our charitable works will be formed during these times. October is also full of events, both locally and state wide. Local events like Sweetheart Karaoke at the lodge on Saturday the 4th, our Hoop Shoot on the 18th, and one of our favorites, Treats on the Streets on the 28th. TESA events such as the Veterans Retreat at the Texas Elks Camp in Ottine on the 4th & 5th; TESA Soccer Shoot in Frisco on the 11th & 12th; the Texas Elks Fall Conference in San Antonio the 25th & 26th. Needless to say, we are going to be pretty busy this month, so please reach out and participate where you can.

As I woke up today it dawned on me that we are half way through the Elk year. Which means we only have a few months to meet our goals and complete TESA State President Matt Williams programs. Although we've worked hard and achieved some of these, we have yet to get started on others, i.e., Community Grants, Americanism, and the Drug Awareness Program. Let's utilize our time mingling at the lodge to brainstorm and achieve our goals for the year. Together we can make a difference!

As always, spread the good word about our great organization and our wonderful lodge. Find those people looking for a place where they can make a difference in their community, the lives of others, as well as their own.

These are very exciting times, my Friends! Let's make the best of every opportunity!

Darrin L. Van Dell
Exalted Ruler
Navasota Elks Lodge
#2888



"The faults of our members we write upon the sand, their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory."

Oct 4th, 2025
Sweetheart Karaoke
with DJ Kevin Iund
Starts @ 7pm-11pm?

Dinner @6:30pm
 Chicken soft taco (2), rice
 and Salad \$10

50/50 DRAWING

**All proceeds will go to Sweetheart
 to help support Texas Elks Childrens
 Camp for Special needs & Foster Children**

HALLOWEEN PARTY
FRIDAY, OCT 17 at 7pm
 Wear your best costume!
 Karaoke, Food, Costume
 Contest, Bar will be open

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A SPookTACULAR HALLOWEEN NIGHT

**BRING A GUEST AND
 COME JOIN THE FUN!**

Committees and Funds to Run Them By

Since our lodge is now officially open, it needs to be brought to the lodge members' attention that we are governed not only by our by-laws but also by annotated statutes from Grand Lodge. This being said, as committees hold events to fund themselves, we need to adhere to the following Statutes:

Section 12.050

(e) Shall receive all monies due to the lodge and pay them over to the Treasurer.

Opinion #12

When the governing body of the Club facility has funds in its hands, they should be delivered to the Secretary of the lodge, who, under Section 12.050, is required to receive all monies due to the lodge from any source whatever, and to pay the same to the Treasurer.

Section 12.060:

(3) Receive all monies of the lodge from the Secretary, giving him a receipt therefore shall act as Treasurer of all Committees unless otherwise provided by the By-Laws.

Opinion 02

Funds derived from the dining room, bar, and other services are Lodge funds. The Lodge Treasurer is Treasurer for all Lodge Committees and shall handle all Lodge funds and pay all bills on vouchers approved by the Exalted Ruler and Secretary.

If you have any questions regarding how to handle turning in funds, please feel free to contact any of the officers for further clarification.

Respectfully,
 Nancy and Helen



From Your Lecturing Knight...

Hello Fellow Elks,

As you probably already know, I am your Lecturing Knight. I want to tell you all a little about the Veterans Retreat that happens every year in October (this year it's October 4 and 5). The weekend is there to help Vets talk to other Vets as they enjoy fishing, swimming, archery, kayaking, and other activities to help give back to them. We all need to support our Vets. We have a good time bonding with each other and the volunteers. So, if you have not volunteered this year, try to set the time aside to go next year. Volunteering helps out others in need, and shows your support of our Veterans and the Elks Veterans Retreat. Thank you for your time.



**Robert Kilpatrick
Esteemed Lecturing Knight
Navasota Elks Lodge #2888**



Homecoming Update...

Hello Elks,

As you all know, we just had Homecoming at the Children's Camp Sept 19-20. If you didn't go you missed out. It was truly an amazing time. In attendance, we had 12 lodge members. Our table was booming before we could even get it fully set up. The amount of money raised while just trying to get set up was crazy.

The large raffle item at our table was so important to me, and let me just say it was a show stopper. I couldn't tell anyone, but the ice chest and accessories were selected as "pink" since Breast Cancer Awareness is this month, and it was in honor of one of my committee members. I absolutely love Jo Kelley who is 4.5 years Breast Cancer free. I got to surprise her there with why pink was chosen! Our eyes watered a little. The amount of funds it raised was amazing. Navasota raised a little over \$3k this weekend. I can't thank my committee enough for all their help. All 6 of us were there and that made it so easy to man the table. Thank you to my husband Darrin L. Van Dell for toting everything and helping me to prepare. Thank you to who all donated, you know who you are. Thank you, Mike Callahan for your generous donation and always supporting me and our Lodge. It was somewhat bittersweet registering for the last time this year at Homecoming as Sweetheart. It's been a ride, a hard one. Lots of fun, some hard days, but we do what we do for the kiddos. All Texas Sweethearts and the First Lady made this weekend happen and they all did wonderful with their tables and auction items, as well as all the Elks who showed up to support us all. Again, it was a great weekend and we will continue to do good works.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Events are being planned now that our lodge is open! This Saturday, Oct 4th we will have Karaoke, dinner and 50/50. On Oct 17 @ 7pm we'll have our Lodge Halloween party. Wear your costumes and bring a friend! Let's have fun with karaoke, 50/50 and sneak in a Best Costume Contest as well. Come support us in raising funds for the kiddos. Please give all of us some grace with our lodge just being fully open. We are all new to this. The lodge has red pigs sitting on tables and at the bar as well. Please take the time to share your spare change to fill them. Keep your eyes open for other committee events. We all need your support to make things happen for all we do in ELKDOM.

On the hard and frustrating days, try to remember why you became an ELK. On days I'm feeling defeated, days I want to give up, I remember my WHY! When I prayed about this position it was this little beautiful brown hair girl I loved dearly, that allowed me to fill a position I never wanted. IFKYK.

**Calandra Van Dell
Sweetheart
Navasota Elks Lodge #2888
cvandell48@gmail.com**



Pics from Homecoming...



Sweetheart Committee

Christine Gomez, Jo Kelley, Calandra Van Dell,
Evonne Bellis, Tanya Alley, Helen Van Dien



Your House Committee Update - CHEERS!

If you are reading this, you know that we are officially open and that the bar is up and running! We have a limited menu currently but are making plans to include some other drinks and small food items in the near future. Our normal hours are Thurs – Sat, 4 – 9 pm. We reserve the right to close early or stay open longer depending on clientele. We may be closed on any given day if we can't get bartender coverage (a growing pain that will get better as we get more bartender volunteers). So come in and socialize and support your Lodge!

Beth Leopold
House Committee Chair
Navasota Elks Lodge #2888
hcnelkslodge2888@gmail.com

HC members: Joel Henenberg, Jo Kelley, Beth Leopold, Calandra Van Dell, and Helen Van Dien
Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

In celebration of Red Ribbon Week, October 24-31, 2025, the Navasota Elks Lodge #2888 Drug Awareness Committee has plans to visit area schools to educate students and staff. We will be presenting age-appropriate information and materials. Topics for the presentation include dangers associated with vaping, tobacco use, and alcohol use. I will be speaking with students in Richard's ISD on October 27. Information we will include:



- Stranger Danger
- Automobile Safety
- Bullying
- Any other information the schools wish to be conveyed

We have coloring books, bookmarkers, stickers, posters, and brochures for students and schools.

Jerry Henenberg
Committee Chair, Drug Awareness Program
Navasota Elks Lodge #2888

TEXAS ELKS

2025 Fall Conference

to be held at the

San Antonio Airport Marriott

24 - 26 October

Conference registration and Hotel reservations

go to  <https://texaselks.org/conventions>

REGISTRATION OPENS on Friday at 12 noon.

Don't forget your favorite LANDYARD for your credentials.

The *Final* schedule and agenda are complete and on the web. Look it over and make sure you highlight the Workshops/Meeting and Business sessions you want to attend. Be the *SPARK !!* Fired up for *ELKDOM !!*

Friday

OPENING Session is at *8 PM*

Saturday

8:30 am first business session.

1:30 pm there are numerous *Workshops* planned. (Sweetheart, Hoop Shoot, DAP, Membership, ENF, New lodge development, and RITUAL)

The *Banquet* starts at 6:30 pm,

Dinner at 7 pm THEN

Saturday Night Fever at 8:00 pm.

Sunday

09:00am second Business session

Now you can RELAX  until the next **EBLAST** update!!

See you soon.....



If you have any questions, or issues, contact Jim Stansbury at jim.stansbury52@gmail.com or 325-374-4541.



Mark your calendars for Navasota Police Department's Treats on the Streets on Tuesday, October 28. The event begins at 6 p.m. and candy will be handed out by local organizations and businesses that will be set up along the 200 block of Holland Street. Again, this year there will be one way access beginning at Holland and Lasalle Street near Snowflake Donut. The route will end in the parking lot of Navasota

City Hall where a costume contest will be held at 7 p.m. Participants will be divided into age categories: 0 – 3 years of age; 4-year olds – Kindergarten; 1st grade – 3rd grade and 4th grade – 5th grade. Trophies will be awarded to participants placing first through third.

Navasota Elks #2888 will be participating, and we'd love for you to come out and help us pass out candy to the trick or treaters, and to share our Elks story with the community. Bring candy to share!



As a fellow Elk, I urge you to stay on top of scheduling your annual mammogram. Early detection is the key! March 2026 will mark my 5 year journey as a breast cancer survivor, proof that there is hope for healing.

Jo Kelley
Newsletter Editor
Navasota Elks Lodge #2888



10/04	Christine Gomez	10/26	Bert Miller
10/08	Brent Scott	10/27	Vernon Neal
10/10	Sherrie Hutchins	10/28	Clayton Benton
10/12	Steven Ringo	10/30	Jo Kelley
10/21	Katie Boone	10/31	Suzanne Neal
10/22	Helen Van Dien		

LODGE MEETINGS
will be held this month on
October 9 and October 23
with Social Hour and Meal (\$10) at 6 p.m.,
followed by meeting at 7 p.m.
Get active in your Lodge!
Please make every effort to attend!

Our 1st **Soccer Shoot** had its challenges, but as Elks do we worked together as a team and managed to have a successful competition. Our participants had fun and we had several headed to District in Liberty, TX on September 27. Advancing to District for U-8 Girls is Raven Lohse; for U-8 Boys is Tucker Santana; for U-12 Boys is Lane Vandiver; and for U-14 Boys is Jordan Castillo. Congratulations to all!



Elks Care - Elks Share

ELKS HOOP SHOOT
FREE THROW CONTEST
THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT YOUR NAME
IN THE NAISMITH MEMORIAL
BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME.

Let's have some fun and volunteer for Hoop Shoot '25! We need folks to help with set up at 9am and help with registration at 9:30am. Items needed for Hoop Shoot are snacks for the participants, water and Gatorade. Please let us know how you can help!

HOSTED BY: Navasota Elks Lodge #2888

WHEN: Saturday, October 18, 2025
9:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon

WHERE: Old Rock Gym, 203 Brosig Ave.,
Navasota, TX

WHO: All boys and girls ages 8 to 13 as of April 1, 2025
(Parent must be in attendance)

QUESTIONS: Text Evonne at 979-204-2661 or email
navasotaelksyouth@outlook.com

The Elks Hoop Shoot, funded by the Elks National Foundation, is a free throw contest for children ages 8 to 13. Age group is determined by contestant's age as of April 1, 2025. For more information, contact Lodge Elks Hoop Shoot Director listed above or visit elks.org/hoopshoot.org



PER Association Fund Raiser

Help us to raise the American Flag outside our new home!

All proceeds go to the purchase and installation of our first flagpole.

HENRY 30-30 COLOR CASE HARDENED LEVER ACTION RIFLE

ONLY 250 TICKETS SOLD!

DRAWING TO BE HELD

DECEMBER 11, 2025



MSRP \$989.99

Tickets \$20

Contact (text or call) any Past Exalted Ruler below for tickets:

Kaisha Hampton: (979) 777-4307; Darrin L. Van Dell: (608) 322-8820
Larry Baughman: (979) 777-4308; Mike Hobbs: (714) 318-9371
Christine Gomez: (281) 467-3046; John Gomez: (832) 675-4493
Robert Miller: (346) 337-7744; John Gray: (956) 454-8803





Our Lodge is open for business! Come see us and let's reconnect!

As a lodge our membership is small, but a large percentage of our members support ENF. This year (2025-2026) Navasota is currently number 3 of 60 in the state with average per member giving at \$10.89/member. That also puts us at number 35 of 2,200 in the nation.

Our membership is growing. I will continue to ask new members for their support so that we can keep our percentage of participation up. I also ask that any current members not contributing to ENF, please consider doing so. You can donate online or simply bring a contribution to the lodge and I will submit it for you. Of course, current contributors can also consider adding an additional monthly or one-time contribution.

In 2025-2026, ENF has budgeted over \$48 million to Community Investments programs, State Elks Association Grants, Scholarship programs, Veteran Service program, Hoop Shoot, and Drug Awareness program. Our lodge can benefit from every one of these programs.

Do you contribute to the Elks National Foundation? What if you could donate without having to think about it? Well, you can! Enroll today and become a member of the Fidelity Club—the ENF's monthly giving program. If you have already become a member of the Fidelity Club, please consider an increase in your gift for the 2025-26 year.

Find out more about how your donation will benefit our Lodge by clicking on the link below.

[Secure.elks.org/FidelityClub](https://secure.elks.org/FidelityClub)

I have tickets for sale for the Loyal Knight Justice Bike. Come see me at the next lodge meeting! Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.



Jeff Van Dien
Elks National Foundation (ENF)
Committee Chair
Navasota Elks Lodge #2888 2 Year Trustee
jtvandien@gmail.com or (940) 230-1446

Thank You to our Lodge Sponsors



Sponsors are included each month in our newsletter for the '25-'26 lodge year. Talk to those businesses in your area and invite them to become sponsors. A one year membership and one year advertising in our newsletter is included in sponsorship. To find out how your business or businesses in the area can become a sponsor and be included in the newsletter, please contact Christine Gomez, Membership Committee Chair at 281-467-3046.

If you are currently a member of Navasota Lodge #2888, own your own business and your membership dues are in good standing, your business can become a Lodge Sponsor for the 2025-2026 year.




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Please support our Lodge Sponsors!

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**2025-2026
Lodge Officers**

Exalted Ruler
Darrin L. Van Dell

Leading Knight
Jeff Hampton

Loyal Knight
Louis Vidotto

Lecturing Knight
Robert Kilpatrick

1 Year Trustee
Karen Cook

2 Year Trustee
Jeff Van Dien

3 Year Trustee
Kaisha Hampton

Secretary
Nancy Vidotto

Treasurer
Helen Van Dien

Esquire
Evonne Bellis

Chaplain
Mary Suzanne Neal

Inner Guard
David D. Tullos

Tiler
Andrew Cook

Accident Prevention
Jeff Van Dien



**2025-2026
Committee Chairs**

Activities <i>Karen Cook</i>	House Committee <i>Beth Leopold</i>
Americanism <i>Karen Cook</i>	Lodge Activities <i>TBD</i>
Audit and Accounting <i>Robert Miller</i>	Membership <i>Christine Gomez</i>
Community Projects <i>Nancy Vidotto</i>	PER Association <i>Kaisha Hampton</i>
Drug Awareness <i>Jerry Henenberg</i>	Public Relations <i>Robert Miller</i>
Elks Memorial Day <i>Helen Van Dien</i>	Ritualistic <i>Mike Hobbs</i>
Elks National Foundation <i>Jeff Van Dien</i>	Soccer Shoot <i>Evonne Bellis</i>
Flag Day <i>Karen Cook</i>	Standing Relief <i>Darrin Van Dell</i>
Fraternal <i>Louis Vidotto</i>	State Major Projects <i>Calandra Van Dell</i>
Government Relations <i>Darrin L. Van Dell</i>	Veterans Service <i>Karen Cook</i>
Grant Coordinator <i>Kaisha Hampton</i>	Youth Activities <i>Evonne Bellis</i>
Hoop Shoot <i>Evonne Bellis</i>	Webmaster <i>Joel Henenberg</i>
	Newsletter Editor <i>Jo Kelley</i>



Find us on Facebook

Navasota Elks Lodge #2888

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/221595737089774>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 House Comm Meeting via 7:00 pm	2	3	4 Sweetheart Dinner and Karaoke 6:30 pm Vets Retreat
				Bar Open 4 pm - 9 pm		
5	6 Ritual Training 6 pm	7	8 PER Meeting 6:30 pm	9 Lodge Dinner/ Social Hour 6 pm Lodge Meeting 7 pm	10	11
				Bar Open 4 pm - 9 pm		
12	13 Ritual Training 6 pm	14	15 BoD Meeting 6:30 pm	16	17 Halloween Party & Karaoke 7 pm	18 Hoop Shoot Rock Gym 9am—Noon
				Bar Open 4 pm - 9 pm		
19	20 Ritual Training 6 pm	21	22	23 Lodge Dinner/ Social Hour 6 pm Lodge Meeting 7 pm	24	25
				<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Texas Elks Fall Conference San Antonio October 24-26</p> </div>		
				Bar Open 4 pm - 9 pm		
26	27 Ritual Training 6 pm	28 Treats on the Streets 6 pm TESA Membership via Zoom 7pm	29	30	31 	
Red Ribbon Week October 24 - 31				Bar Open 4 pm - 9 pm		



Working for our businesses.

936-825-6600

navasotagrimeschamber.com

Find the Grimes County Chamber calendar of events at their website.