

# Elk Call

Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity  
**May 2025**

## Navasota Lodge #2888

8949 S Business 6, Navasota, Texas 77868

[www.navasotaelks.org](http://www.navasotaelks.org)



### A Fraternal Organization

#### From our Exalted Ruler...

Greetings Navasota Elks,

Since we were April Fooled last month while the Newsletter was under reconstruction, let me Welcome you all to the new '25-'26 Elk year! With all the happenings from last year, I am extremely excited about this year! We are poised to make this our best yet!

As we start our new journey together, I'd like to begin by THANKING some special Elks to recognize their amazing accomplishments and sacrifices to this lodge, our order, and our community: Mike Callahan, PSP; Jeff and Helen Van Dien; Mike and Jo Kelley; Louis and Nancy Vidotto; Jeff and Kaisha Hampton; Mike Hobbs; Evonne Bellis. Thank you for working tirelessly on making our lodge feel like our home. Joel and Jerry Henenberg, thank you for the more than generous donation of Miles the Elk. He will be cherished as a part of this lodge forever. Calandra Van Dell, thank you for putting your heart and soul behind our State Major Project as our lodge Sweetheart, and your creative passion for designing "bling" for the lodge. Karen Cook, thank you for being so dedicated to our Veterans and the Veterans Program as a whole. You have impacted a lot of very deserving lives and brought joy to all.

So many to thank, so If I didn't mention you directly, please do not feel left out. I'm only allotted so much space in the newsletter, and to list everyone responsible for all we've accomplished would be nearly impossible. Just please know that without all of you being committed to building a Great Lodge for our community, nothing would be possible. I absolutely appreciate every single one of you and am very PROUD to call you my Elk Family. You are all shining examples of our key principles: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity!

Most of all, thank you ALL for again trusting in me! You put your faith in me to lead us into another outstanding year of sharing, caring, fellowship and growth. We're going to do many more great things together this year! As we move forward into the '25-'26 year, we've set ourselves up with a great opportunity to grow. To do that, we must focus our efforts and commit to being engaged. Consider joining one of our many committees, as I'm certain there is something that will interest you. One of our main goals is the opening of our lodge. Once we are fully operational, I expect membership will grow exponentially. This will really allow us to work our programs, increase our community outreach, fund raising efforts, support for our Veterans, and embrace our community. Everything we set out to accomplish comes down to growing our lodge. So please, introduce a friend, a family member, a neighbor, or anyone you meet that shows an interest in helping others, to the Elks. Together we will continue to do great things within our community!

Again, I thank every Navasota Elk for supporting this great lodge and exemplifying the principles of our order, and for being shining examples of what it means to be an Elk. I am very excited to bear witness to all we will accomplish this year! As I quoted in the April '24 message, I'll close with this...always remember, *God doesn't Call the Qualified, he Qualifies the Called!*

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

***Fidelity***



## ***With Much Appreciation***

At our Lodge meeting on April 24, it was a night of awards and recognition! Certificates of Appreciation were given to members who have been the base for helping to get our Lodge renovated and ready for use. Karen Cook was recognized for her work with the Veterans, Helen Van Dien was recognized as Officer of the Year, and Jo Kelley was recognized as Elk of the Year. Mike Callahan received recognition for all his help and mentoring of our Lodge. ER Darrin Van Dell also received a few unexpected surprises. He was given framed art of the #2888 logo made by Robert Kilpatrick and Jo Kelley. Calandra Van Dell presented Darrin with a plaque and shirt she designed. To top it off, Darrin received his purple PER jacket presented by PER Kaisha Hampton.

Also, a new tradition has started with Past Exalted Rulers of #2888 each signing our Lodge Bible. (Thank you, Mike Hobbs for the wonderful suggestion!)





## **LODGE #2888 MEETINGS**

will be held this month on

**May 8 and May 22**

with Social Hour at 6 p.m.,  
followed by meeting at 7 p.m.

*Stay active in your Lodge!*

***Please make every effort to attend!***

Hello all!

As you all know, another Elk year has come and gone. Last year I held the position of Esteemed Loyal Knight and BOD (Board of Directors) Chair. The torch has been passed and I am honored to now carry the position of Esteemed Leading Knight position, AKA vice president. I am really excited for my new role and looking forward to what this new Elk year may bring. Our lodge is closer than ever to an opening day and we are looking forward to having you all out to celebrate with us. But until that day comes you can still come out and see us on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month with social hour starting at 6:00 pm and our meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Come on out and say "hi". See y'all there!!!!

**Jeff Hampton**  
**Esteemed Leading Knight**  
**Navasota Elks #2888**  
***Charity***



The mission of the Elks National Foundation is to help Elks build stronger communities. We fulfill this pledge by investing in communities where Elks live and work. We help youth develop lifelong skills, send students to college, meet the needs of today's veterans, support the charitable work of the state Elks associations, and fund projects that improve the quality of life in local Elks communities.

Like all Elks, the Foundation values the belief that charity is the greatest of all virtues and that by sharing and giving, we have the power to replace sorrow and despair with hope and confidence. Donations to the Foundation help us fund programs that match our cornerstone values of knowledge, integrity and community.

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.

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)

[jtvandien@gmail.com](mailto:jtvandien@gmail.com) or (940) 230-1446.

**Jeff Van Dien**  
**Elks National Foundation (ENF)**  
**Committee Chair**  
**Navasota Elks #2888**



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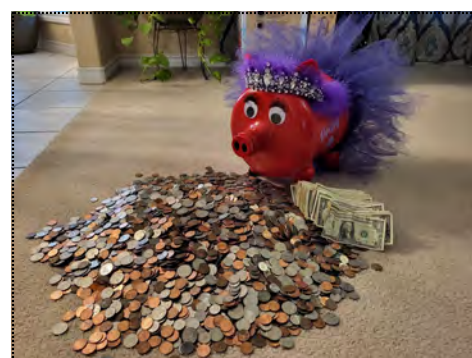
**Funding Summer Camp and Special Needs Grants for Kids**

~ Drawing ~  
**GRAND PRIZE**  
**2025 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 2-DOOR WITH POWER EQUIPMENT & HARD TOP**  
(Winner responsible for all applicable taxes, title, fees and license requirements)

~ To Be Held ~  
**JUNE 7, 2025**  
Need not be present to win!

~ Donation ~  
**TICKETS \$10 EACH OR 3 FOR \$20**  
For ticket info, contact:

*Sweetheart program*  **CAMP gives kids a world of good.**  
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### A Message from Miss Prissy...

Please continue to fill your red pigs and bring them to the lodge. **Each filled pig will receive a free ticket for the Jeep drawing that will happen in June 2025!**

4/04	Riley Baughman
4/06	Annastasia Scott
4/12	Taylor L. Kern
4/23	Michael A. Bellis
4/24	Candice Bellis
4/25	Robert Donellan

*Celebrate May Birthdays*



## ***Your House Committee Update***

The House Committee (HC) drafted a rental agreement for renting the Lodge and the BOD is reviewing it. The HC is meeting at the Lodge on Sunday, May 18 at 3 pm to draft guidelines for what the HC is responsible for in our Lodge. All are welcome. In May, the HC will create an inventory of all the kitchen and bar equipment and supplies we have to date and then look at what still needs to be purchased or obtained through donations.

We are still needing to have members send their TABC and Food Handlers certificates to the Lodge to have on file. If you are interested in obtaining a certificate, the training is on-line. Click on the link below or copy and paste to your browser.

[https://foodserviceprep.com/Courses/TexasFoodHandler?gad\\_source=1&gbraid=0AAA\\_AABusknyQsvZMziAQaldct5wcpBC7z&gclid=Cj0KCQjw5azABhD1ARIsAA0WFUHMAF6Th-Yv3X-DoXCFTHOfL6\\_XVWZ\\_uuGwqPKIRPpx5tGuLylrRtlaAs0NEALw\\_wcB](https://foodserviceprep.com/Courses/TexasFoodHandler?gad_source=1&gbraid=0AAA_AABusknyQsvZMziAQaldct5wcpBC7z&gclid=Cj0KCQjw5azABhD1ARIsAA0WFUHMAF6Th-Yv3X-DoXCFTHOfL6_XVWZ_uuGwqPKIRPpx5tGuLylrRtlaAs0NEALw_wcB)

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions...

Beth Leopold

House Committee Chair

[hcnelkslodge2888@gmail.com](mailto:hcnelkslodge2888@gmail.com)

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## **Assistance with Newsletter Needed!**



Your help is needed to publish our monthly publication of **ELK CALL**. With the summer months upon us, this Editor will be doing some traveling and be without access to the newsletter files. We have a computer available, a Dell all-in-one, so it's easily transported, for you to use with all the old newsletters on file, and you won't have to install the software on your personal computer. The software is very user friendly and the templates are already made. Each publication is prepared at the end of the month so that the Lodge Secretary can get it distributed via email for the following month. Help us keep the newsletter alive and current!

If you are willing, able and interested, please text Jo Kelley at 713-305-3019 or email at [mike.jokelley@gmail.com](mailto:mike.jokelley@gmail.com)

Thank you so much for your consideration!

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## Chili Cook off a Great Success

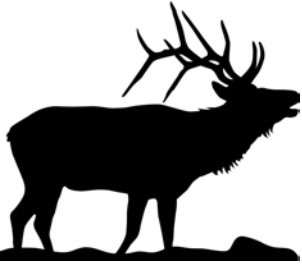
On March 30, Navasota Elks #2888 had our first event at the lodge. The weather may have threatened us, but the Bluebonnet Classic CCO and the Colorado Valley Pod CCO was a great success! We even had a marriage proposal! Everyone had a good time, so much in fact, that we are planning to do it again next year! If you missed it this past March, don't miss the next one! (See lots more great pics on our FB page!)



*Elks* Care - *Elks* Share

## 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, contact Louis Vidotto at 512-917-6212 or email [secretary@navasotaelks.org](mailto:secretary@navasotaelks.org).



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 2024-2025 year. Contact Nancy Vidotto, Secretary, at 512-917-6212 or email [secretary@navasotaelks.org](mailto:secretary@navasotaelks.org).



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## 2025-2026 Committee Chairs

**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*

**Activities**  
*TBD*

**Americanism**  
*TBD*

**Audit and Accounting**  
*Robert Miller*

**Community Projects**  
*TBD*

**Drug Awareness**  
*Jerry Henenberg*

**Elks Memorial Day**  
*Helen Van Dien*

**Elks National Foundation**  
*Jeff Van Dien*

**Flag Day**  
*Darrin L. Van Dell*

**Fraternal**  
*Louis Vidotto*

**Government Relations**  
*Darrin L. Van Dell*

**Grant Coordinator**  
*TBD*

**Hoop Shoot**  
*TBD*

**House Committee**  
*Beth Leopold*

**Lodge Activities**  
*TBD*

**Membership**  
*TBD*

**PER Association**  
*Kaisha Hampton*

**Public Relations**  
*Jonathon Kern*

**Ritualistic**  
*Mike Hobbs*

**Soccer Shoot**  
*TBD*

**State Major Projects**  
*TBD*

**Veterans Service**  
*Karen Cook*

**Youth Activities**  
*TBD*

**Webmaster**  
*TBD*

**Newsletter Editor**  
*Jo Kelley*



Find us on Facebook

**Navasota Elks Lodge #2888**

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 TESA Monthly Membership Call 7pm	6	7	8 LODGE MTG 6 pm Social Hr 7 pm Meeting	9	10
11 HAPPY Mother's Day	12	13	14 BOD Meeting 6:30 pm	15	16	17
18 House Comm Mtg. 3 pm at Lodge	19	20	21	22 LODGE MTG 6 pm Social Hr 7 pm Meeting	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Working for our businesses.

936-825-6600

[navasotagrimeschamber.com](http://navasotagrimeschamber.com)

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