

Benevolent & Protective order of the Elks

ELK CAMPO Elks



El Campo Elk Lodge #1749 A Fraternal Organization



www.Elks.org • www.TexasElks.org • elcampoelks1749@gmail.com • (979) 543-3701

ELKS - Working Today For A Better Tomorrow

December 2025

Annual Memorial Service Sunday, Dec. 7

The annual Elks Memorial Service for departed members. Each year the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks remembers and honors our departed members with a memorial service held the first Sunday in December. The Annual Elks Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, December 7 at 11:00 am at the Lodge.

Family members of any departed Lodge members in 2025 are welcomed to attend.



ELK'S LODGE 1749

HAMBURGER MEAL



(Hamburger, Pinto Beans, Chips & Cookie)

THURS., DEC. 11, '25

4:30-6:00PM

\$10.00 PER PLATE

DRIVE THRU TO GO ONLY

Elk's Lodge, 3030 Hwy. 71 N

PROCEEDS BENEFIT ELK'S COMMUNITY PROJECTS



WREATHS across AMERICA



Elks Campo LODGE 1749

LODGE OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler Tracy Oldag
Leading Knight Andrea Bagwell
Loyal Knight ... Efrain "Moose" Rodriguez
Lecturing Knight Margarita Garza
Chaplain Howard Middleton
Esquire Tracy Braden
Inner Guard Ann Ott
Secretary Chris Wendel
Treasurer Eddie Pool
Tiler Jamie Appling
Alternate to Grand Lodge ... Chris Wendel
Sweetheart Jamie Appling

TRUSTEES

Trustee & BoD Chair Roy Schulz
1 Year Trustee George Matthews
2 Year Trustee Joanna Cranek
3 Year Trustee Roy Schulz
4 Year Trustee Gary Strarup
5 Year Trustee Anthony Perez

COMMITTEE

Accident Prevention Roy Schulz
Activities Tim Drapela
Americanism Donnie Roddy
Auditing & Account Tracy E. Braden
Chili Cookoff Chad Hensley
Clay Shoot Chad Hensley
Community Activities Roy Schulz
Drug Awareness Stacy Amestoy
Elk National Foundation ... Chris Wendel
Fajita Cook-Off Chad Hensley
Flag Day Allen Collins
Fraternal Committee Chris Wendel
Government Relations Tim Drapela
Hoop Shoot Priscilla Young
House Committee Tim Drapela
Lodge Bulletin Chris Wendel
Membership Chris Wendel
PER Association Donnie Roddy
Public Relations Gary Tupa
Standing Relief Donnie Roddy
Swimming Pool House Committee
Youth Activities George Matthews
Veterans Committee ... Anthony Twardowski

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Chris Wendel: Secretary,
Members: Chad Hensley, Tim Drapela,
Randy Fitch and Roy Schulz

BULLETIN STAFF

Donnie Roddy & Chris Wendel

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El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-3701*

The Lodge will once again conduct the Wreaths Across America program on December 13 at 11 am. This program allows anyone to purchase a wreath to be laid on the grave of a Veteran.

We will be responsible for 11 cemeteries in west Wharton County: Nada, Taiton, Lakeview, Community Cemetery, Garden of Memories, Hillje, Louise, Swedish Lutheran, Danevang Lutheran, Holy Cross, Oaklawn and Glen Flora. More information will be available as the project gets ramped up.

Order forms are in the process of being prepared to mail out to past donors and others.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED DEC. 9 FOR 300+ MILITARY EVENT

On **Tuesday, December 9**, El Campo will proudly welcome over 360 enlisted heroes from across Texas as they participate in the **Norwegian Foot March**, a challenging endurance event that honors strength, service, and sacrifice.

These soldiers will be traveling from all over Texas and staying in El Campo and surrounding areas to take part in this special event.

The El Campo Chamber and the City Development Corporation are partnering to help host the event. and are needing volunteers and sponsors to assist with:

- Meal Distribution: sandwiches, fruit, granola/energy bars, and bottled water for up to 400 participants and volunteers.
- Check-In and Registration
- Wellness and Hydration Stations
- General Event Support

If you or your business would like to sponsor the meal distribution or donate items, this is a wonderful way to show appreciation for those who serve and to represent our community spirit.

Contact Anthony Twardowski at 979-332-6045 if you're willing to volunteer.



DECEMBER

Monday, December 1
Veterans OPEN CALL 6pm

Sunday, Dec. 7
Annual Departed Member
Memorial Service

December 9
Norwegian Foot March
challenge (military event)

December 11
Hamburger Fundraiser

December 13
Wreaths Across America

JANUARY 2026
January 10
Lodge Hoop Shoot

January 17
Gulf Coast Interlodge

January 22
42 Dominoes

Secretary's Corner

by Chris Wendel

cfw3662@live.com • 979-541-9443



Dues statements for Lodge year have been sent out for 2025-2026 Lodge year.

PLEASE REMIT YOUR DUES A.S.A.P. WHEN RECEIVED

The Lodge year runs from April 1 to March 31. We started the 2025-2026 Lodge year with a Membership of 251 - At this time we have a Membership of 262. This is an increase of 11 Members for the year. The efforts of the Members (YOU) to recruit new Members is always appreciated.

PLEASE REMIT YOUR DUES

THE LODGE NEEDS YOUR MEMBERSHIP & DUES.

IF YOU NEED SOME CONSIDERATION FOR ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR LODGE DUES PLEASE CONTACT LODGE SECRETARY CHRIS WENDEL TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS - 979-541-9443 OR elcampoelks1749@gmail.com

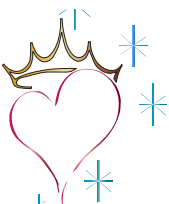
We do have an option of paying by credit card if you so desire. Give me a call and we can get your dues processed. There is a 5% convenience fee we have to add to recoup fees.

VENMO IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO PAY YOUR DUES ! NO FEES! Pay as a FRIEND @Elks1749

Chris Wendel, Secretary
979-541-9443 • elcampoelks1749@gmail.com

Sweetheart's Corner

by Vicki Limmer • 979-578-2546
vickilimmer@gmail.com



Happy post-Thanksgiving and hope you all had a wonderful time with family.

Trivia Night was a blast. Sweethearts had a great turn-out, food was good and there were lots of laughs. We will be offering Trivia Night again soon.

Sweethearts will not be hosting an event in December, but we will be assisting the Lodge in many activities including Wreaths Across America, the military event Norwegian Foot March and Hamburgers to Go. Please see the bulletin calendar and/or Facebook for time and dates.

Be on the lookout for our January event: SINGO . . . kind of like Bingo with a twist. We promise a night of fun and frolicking with dinner/dessert included in entry fee, as always. Date and time to be determined. Until then, the Sweethearts would like to wish everyone A Merry Christmas To All, and To All a Good Night.

See you at the Lodge.

Exalted Ruler's Message

by Tracy Oldag 979-541-9738

tracy.oldag@gmail.com



Apparently we skipped Fall, but the holidays are here!

Members Pricilla, Margarita, Moose, Alma, Anthony and Jamie prepared a Thanksgiving feast for the last November meeting. The meeting meals are always fantastic, but they really knocked this one out of the park! Thanks to all members & spouses who volunteer to prepare the meeting meals throughout the year.

Our annual Haunted House was a success and is becoming a growing tradition for the community. Thanks to all who donated their decorations, time, hard work and talents!

December is a busy month with the holidays, Wreaths Across America, our annual memorial service and the hamburger meal. Sweethearts and Domino fellas are taking a break but look forward to more fun in January!

Meanwhile, join us at the club room or the December 16th meeting with great food & chances to win! Always a good time at the lodge.

Be The Spark,
ER Tracy Oldag

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Parents, the scholarships available through the local, state and National organizations all have deadlines and requirements. The deadlines for these are included in this bulletin. Some are on-line ONLY.

Lodge scholarship application are available in the Counselor's office and due to Counselors office **April 1, 2026.** Try to submit earlier than the day of the deadline. **IF YOU HAVE A GRADUATING SENIOR, PLEASE PICK UP AND SUBMIT A LODGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION.**

Local Lodge scholarship amounts vary. The amount of time you or your child provide to assist with Lodge events goes toward determining the amount the child receives.

Hoop Shoot Set for Jan. 10, 2026



The El Campo Elks Lodge will hold its annual "Hoop Shoot" free throw contest Saturday, January 10 at 8:30 a.m. at ECHS gym.

The contest is open to all area youngsters 8-13 years of age, with the date of age determination being April 1, 2025. (i.e. How old the shooter will be ON THIS DATE). This is not an "El Campo only" contest, but covers an area approximately 40-50 mi. surrounding....or half-way to the next available Elks Lodge.

There is NO ENTRY FEE and no preregistration is necessary.

There are three age categories: 8-9, 10-11, and 12-13, with boys and girls competing separately.

Any questions regarding the upcoming "Hoop Shoot" event should be directed to Elks Hoop Shoot Director Priscilla Young at 979-332-5169.

Elks, Boy Scouts Serve US Military Christmas Kindness

Boy Scouts from Troop 368 assisted GI Joe/Jane coordinator Tracy Oldag at the El Campo Elk's Lodge 1749 to help sort, pack and ship care boxes to military personnel around the globe.

Items were collected throughout November and early December from Lodge members and the community.

Sponsors for the GI Joe/Jane project are Prosperity Bank, El Campo Elks Lodge #1749, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No. 1069, and R & R Printing. This marks the 18th year of the project.



Pictured front row, L-R; Scouts Damien Bustamante, Justin Pfeil and Assist. Scoutmaster Wayne Bustamante. Back row, Troop 368 Scoutmaster Ryan Baumann, Eagle Scout Elijah Bustamante, and Scout Luke Merta.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

These New Members were elected and initiated to Membership at the November 18 Lodge meeting

Terri Corn proposed by Tracy Oldag
Cade Graff proposed by Anthony Perez

Member selected to Membership

Membership to be finalized

Kody Miller proposed by Al Supak
Jennifer Medina proposed by Anthony Perez
Chad Graham proposed by Daniel Ott
Clint Bram proposed by Daniel Ott
Justin Clark proposed by Daniel Ott
Jessica Cockrell proposed by Jamie Appling
Membership ceremony scheduled for December 16 regular Lodge meeting

We welcome these new Members and look forward their participation in Lodge activities.

MEETING DRAWING

At each meeting, as Members enter the meeting room, they donate \$2 that goes into a drawing pot. We have a can with all the current Members numbers in the can. At the appropriate time during the meeting we draw a number from the can. If that Member is present, they collect the pot. If the Member drawn is not present the pot is not given out. The drawing continues at each meeting. Once the pot reaches \$500, if the 1st number drawn is not present, we continue drawing until a Member at the meeting is drawn. They then receive ½ the pot. Come out to a meeting and maybe your number will be drawn!

LAST WINNERS WERE EDDIE POOL (6/03/25 meeting) and ANTHONY PEREZ (7/15/25 meeting)

We also have a meal prior to each meeting.



42 Elk's Lodge 1749 Domino Tournament

JAN. 22

3030 N. Mechanic
\$25.00 entry fee for 5 games & Free meal
Be there by 6:00pm to register. • Tournament begins 6:30 pm

Prize payout is for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places

DOMINOS AND A MEAL

FREE MEAL
FOR ALL PLAYERS

Non-players can purchase by the plate.

For more info call Patrick at 979-332-7242

December Birthdays!

02 Garza, Melissa	12 Wilson, Lawrence	21 Stehno, Bradley
02 Kana, Drew	13 Weathers, Sara	22 Contreras, Ray
02 Resendez, Erica	14 Ott, Ann	25 Cannell, James
03 Braden, Cory	15 Cruz, Jessica	25 Conley, Charles R
03 Supak, Al	15 Priesmeyer, Terry	25 Garza, Margarita
05 Santos, Jessica	16 Cunda, Brandi N	27 Murphey, Jerry
06 Hensley, Chad	17 Ott, Clayton	27 Schulz, Roy D
06 Yackel, Scott	19 Chappell, Valarie	31 Latapie, Mark
09 Wenglar, Douglas	19 Khan, Lily	
10 Reyes, Nancy	21 Solorzano, Gustavo	

Thanks to our Monthly Newsletter Sponsors

Helping Hands Ministry
of El Campo

All donations greatly appreciated

ANN STRARUP, FOUNDER

a 501 (c3) Charitable Organization

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Come Experience His Love

Rev. Howard Middleton, pastor 543-2433

Crap, My Retired Husband is now My full time job.

Chris Wendel
3662 FM 961 Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
979-541-9443
cfw3662@live.com

Wendel's proudly support EC Lodge.

PRINTING & GRAPHICS

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A Fraternal Organization

"For a special Elk and family"

B.P.O.E. #1749
P.O. BOX 287
EL CAMPO, TX 77437

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Read the Exciting News In Your Bulletin

ELKS SPONSOR & SUPPORT

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Youth Scholarship
Special Needs Children
Veterans Programs
Community Projects

Welfare to Needy
Hoop Shoot
Youth Baseball
Youth Softball



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2025 Upcoming Events DECEMBER

- Dec. 1 -Veterans OPEN Call, 6 pm
Dec. 7 - Lodge Memorial Service for deceased local Members
Dec.11 - HB meal to go being served at the Lodge - pick up tickets to purchase or sell
Dec.13 - Wreaths Across America program at the Lodge - 11:00 AM
Dec. 16 - Regular Lodge meeting - 7:00 PM.
Dec. 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

2026 Upcoming Events JANUARY 2026

- Jan. 1 -Veterans OPEN Call, 6 pm
Jan. 6 - Regular Lodge meeting - 7:00 PM.
Jan.10 - Lodge Hoop Shoot at ECHS gym - come out to assist
Jan.17 - Gulf Coast Interlodge hosted by EC Lodge
Jan.20 - Regular Lodge Meeting
Jan. 22 - 42 Dominoes

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Veterans' Open Call 6:00 pm</i>	2	3	4 Christmas Parade	5	6
7 Annual Memorial Service 11 am CLOSED	8 CLOSED	9 OPEN 5-7 pm	10 OPEN 5-7 pm	11 Hamburgers To Go Lodge OPEN 5-7 pm	12 CLOSED	13 <i>Wreaths Across America program</i>
14	15 CLOSED	16 <i>Regular Lodge Meeting 7 pm</i> OPEN 5-7 pm	17 OPEN 5-7 pm	18 OPEN 5-7 pm	19 CLOSED	20 CLOSED
21 CLOSED	22 CLOSED	23 OPEN 5-7 pm	24 OPEN 5-7 pm	25 Merry CHRISTMAS Christmas Blessings to all! OPEN 5-7 pm	26 OPEN 5-7 pm	27 CLOSED
28 CLOSED	29 CLOSED	30 CLOSED	31 Happy New Year!  CLOSED			CLOSED

Please notify the Secretary of your address change. The whole National mailing process to all members works off the Elk's Magazine mailing list and we try diligently to keep it correct so that mail is properly received. Help us. Thanks!