Benevolent & Protective order of the Elks

ELK CAMPO Elks

El Campo Elk Lodge #1749 *A Fraternal Organization*

Find us on Facebook

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

ELKS - Working Today For A Better Tomorrow **October 2026**

"So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."



VETERANS OPEN CALL



HELD FIRST MONDAY - MONTHLY

Elks Campo LODGE 1749

LODGE OFFICERS

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

TRUSTEES

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

COMMITTEE

Accident Prevention.....Roy Schulz
Activities ..... Tim Drapela
Americanism .....Donnie Roddy
Auditing & Accounting.....Tracy Braden
Boy Scouts Laison .....Donnie Roddy
Chili Cookoff .....Anthony Twardowski
Clay Shoot.....Chad Hensley
Elks National Foundation.Chris Wendel
Fajita Cook-off.....Chad Hensley
Flag Day..... Allen Collins
Fraternal .....Chris Wendel
Government Relations ..... Tim Drapela
Hoop Shoot® ..... Priscilla Young
House Committee .....Tracy Oldag
Presiding Justice .....E A Weinheimer Jr.
Public Relations .....Andrea Bagwell
Scholarships .....Daniel Ott
Soccer Shoot® ..... Margarita Garza
Standing Relief .....Tracy Oldag
Trustee Chair .....Roy Schulz
Veterans Services .... Anthony Twardowski
Wreaths Across America .....Roy Schulz

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

VETERANS COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

OPEN CALL gathering on the 1st Monday of every month. 21 Veterans gathered for a complimentary meal September 7th and enjoyed BBQ Chicken meal with the fixings and the opportunity to gather for fellowship.



OCTOBER

OCTOBER 5
Veterans Open Call

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OCTOBER 8
Aggie Mom's Mosaic Crafts at the Lodge

OCTOBER 22
Sweetheart's Sour Dough 42 Domino Tournament

OCTOBER 23-25
TESA Fall Conference Houston

•

OCTOBER 30 & 31
Haunted House

2026 CLAY SHOOT RAFFLE WINNERS

Spartan RZ 54" Mower .....Chris Wendel
Benelli A400 Extreme 20 ga..... Randy Mitchell
Ruger 6mm Creedmore w/ Vortex Scope....Rudy Dornak
HK 9mm Pistol ..... Stacy Ermis
Concept reel w/ Falcon Rod..... Billy Freeman
#200 Gift Card (donated by Natalie & Patrick Gwodsz) Scott Huette
$100 Pincher's Rest. & Candy Shop GC .....Melissa Tarver
Lifetime 77 qt. Cooler.....Rodney Cooper

IT'S FALL Y'ALL!

TIME FOR THE TESA FALL CONFERENCE



Texas Elks Fall Conference
October 23-25, 2025
Mariott Houston Westchase.

Room Reservations MUST be made by 30 September, 2026 to get the TESA Fall Conference Room Rates.

Standard rooms are $119 a night (plus tax)
Suites are $159 a night (plus tax)



WREATHS across AMERICA

The Lodge will once again conduct the **Wreaths Across America** program on December 19. 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.

Sickness & Distress

Members under the weather or have health concerns. Their addresses are included to drop them a line for condolences or well wishes.

Member **Bubba Dornak** passed away August 27, 2026. Condolences to Bubba's Family. Correspondence may be sent to Bubba's Family at 1205 Laurel Lane, EC. 77473-9331

Please email or phone if there is a member or their families on which to report. cfw3662@live.com.

Secretary's Corner



by Chris Wendel
cfw3662@live.com • 979-541-9443

Dues statements for 2026-2027 Lodge year have been sent out. Delinquent Members are being contacted.

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

The Lodge year runs from April1 to March 31. We started the 2026-2027 Lodge year with a Membership of 261. This is an increase of 10 Members for the 2025-2026 Lodge year. The efforts of the Members (YOU) to recruit new Members is always appreciated.

PLEASE REMIT YOUR DUES. THE LODGE NEEDS YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND 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

Exalted Ruler's Message



by Tracy Oldag 979-541-9738
tracy.oldag@gmail.com

Hard to tell but Fall is here!

The Clay Shoot was a huge success! Good fun had by all for our biggest fundraiser to support all the good being done by Elks. A big thanks to the Hensley family and everyone who bought, sold and donated their time, talent and resources. Also, thanks to everyone who came out to shoot or just support the event and have a great time in the perfect weather. Longest running consecutive annual Clay Shoot is the same weekend every year, don't miss out next year!

Next up, our annual Haunted House! Volunteers are welcome and needed for set-up beginning the weekend prior and scaring Friday 30th and Halloween night, Saturday 31st! Fun for all ages; come out & brings friends!

Meanwhile, Sweethearts are cooking up a Sour Dough class, Veteran's committee has Open Call the first Monday of the month (as always), Dominos and always a lot of fun going on at the lodge!

Happy Fall,
ER Tracy Oldag

Sweetheart's Corner



by Cheryl Twardowski • 979-616-6866
cheryltwardowski@gmail.com

Elks Sweetheart Happenings

What an exciting few weeks it has been for our Elks Sweetheart events! I want to start by sending a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Clay Shoot such a success. Whether you participated, sponsored, donated, volunteered, or simply came out to support us, your generosity and involvement mean more than you know. Events like this truly take a village, and we are so grateful to have such an amazing community behind us!

The fun didn't stop there! We have also had an absolute blast at both Bingo and Trivia Night. There were plenty of laughs, a little friendly competition, and lots of great memories made along the way. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make these nights so much fun. Your support is what makes these events so special!

And apparently, everyone is ready to get their sourdough on! Our upcoming Sourdough Class SOLD OUT incredibly fast, and we are blown away by the response! If you didn't get a spot this time, don't worry just yet—with so much interest, you may want to keep your eyes open for another sourdough class in the future.

We are incredibly thankful for the continued support of our Elks Sweetheart activities. Every ticket purchased, event attended, donation made, and helping hand brings us closer to our goals while giving us the opportunity to have a whole lot of fun along the way.

Thank you for showing up, supporting us, and making each event one to remember. Stay tuned… there's more fun to come!

Cheryl Twardowski

Thanks to our
Monthly Newsletter Sponsors
Chris Wendel
Helping Hands Ministry
First Church of God
R & R Printing

ENF FUNDED DONATIONS

When you remit your dues and add funds as an ENF donation we receive the opportunity to apply for funds to be used in the community.

SPOTLIGHT GRANT ($2,500) is being worked on to assist Blessing Cup.

You can also become a Fidelity Club Member of the ENF by providing a monthly donation using a credit card or bank debit. We have a couple of Members donating to the ENF in this fashion. This allows the Lodge to access an extra $500 if we meet a certain level of Fidelity Club donations. Please consider donation to the ENF through the Lodge to let us assist community needs.



CLUBROOM ACTIVITY

Clubroom hours 5 - 7 PM Tuesday thru Thursday

WE HAVE ACCESS TO HOUSTON ASTROS GAMES - COME OUT TO VIEW AND VISIT.



October Birthdays!

02	Meinardus, Lesley	20	Freeman, Shawn Michael
03	Clark, Justin	21	Dornak, Philip
05	Howard, Scott	21	Resendez, Cypriano
05	Rodriguez, Stephanie	21	Tarver, Dustin
07	Cerny, Thomas	22	Hansen, Douglas R
09	Clark, Felicia	22	McMahan, Jason
11	Koudela, Brian	22	Triska, Jimmie L
12	Viktorin, Raymond	24	Freeman, Joe
14	Gwosdz, Patrick W	26	Guerra, Shayna
14	Harris, Charles Steve	26	Meek, Brian
15	Perez, Adela	29	Socha, Marc
15	Raney, Cliff	31	Baker, Winston
16	Smith, Denise	31	Bruce, Emory E
18	Johnson, Gary	31	Juranek, Daniel R
19	Herrmann, Paul John		

El Campo Lodge showed up and showed out at Elk District Soccer Shoot!

DISTRICT SOCCER SHOOT RESULTS : 4 out of 5 qualified for Elk's State Soccer Shoot, October 17 in Frisco, Texas!
So proud of these kids!



Pictured L-R: Ella Toomes – 1st Place, Girls U-8; Crockett Toomes – 1st Place, Boys U-12; Logan Gutierrez – 1st Place, Boys U-14; Jaxon Alvarez – 1st Place, Boys U-8; Zaedrian Wilson – 3rd Place, Boys U-10.



The 2027 application deadline is November 12, 2027
www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/MVS.cfm
If prompted, the program code is: ElksMVS

The 2027 Elk's Lodge 1749 High School Scholarship applications are now available in the counselor's office. The scholarship is open to any Lodge 1749 Member's high school senior. Application deadline for submission is March 1, 2027.

Legacy Awards Scholarships have increased to $6,000 and are available to children and grandchildren of Elks members.

Application deadline is February 1, 2027, 11:59 a.m. Pacific Time.

https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/Legacy.cfm



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! **We also have a meal prior to each meeting.**

42 Elk's Lodge 1749 Domino Tournament

OCT. 22

3030 N. Mechanic

$25.00 entry fee for 5 games & Free meal

Be there by 6:00pm to register. • Tournament bgins 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



Saluting G.I. Joe & Jane

Sometimes the best thing a soldier away from home can receive is something encouraging… a card or letter saying Thank You and We Support You.

Prosperity Bank, Elks Lodge #1749, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1069, KULP 106.7 FM & 1390 AM, and R&R Printing present G.I. Joe & Jane, supporting the proud men & women of the United States Military stationed abroad with Care Packages including food, snacks, personal hygiene, writing supplies, etc. and the support of our community. Drop off your donations during November at Prosperity Bank, El Campo Elks Lodge, First State Bank, Boys and Girls Club, Executive Stitches, and El Campo Library.

If you have family or friends deployed or just need more information, contact Tracy Oldag at Prosperity Bank at 979-541-4247 or tracy.oldag@prosperitybankusa.com.

Thank you for supporting our Military Men & Women who are far away from home, protecting us and our freedom every day.

BELOW IS A LIST OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED

- Altoids, Certs, Chewing Gum, Peppermints
- Beef Jerky (not pork)
- Canned food items (with a pull top)
- Cereal, Granola, Fruit Bars, Nut Bars
- Coffee & Tea
- Condiments (Creamer, Sugar, Sugar Substitute, Salt, Pepper, Ketchup, Salsa, Mayo, Mustard)
- Cookies, Cheezits, Snack Crackers (Cheese & Peanut Butter)
- Dried Fruit, Fruit Cups, Pudding Cups, Hostess Treats
- Flavor Packets (for bottled water), Gatorade, Powerade
- Gummy Bears, Jelly Beans, Sour Gummy Candy
- Hard Candy (non-melting candy)
- Hot Sauce & Green Sauce (small bottles & HOT)
- Hot Cocoa Packets/Mix
- Instant Breakfast, Instant Oatmeal Packets
- Macaroni & Cheese Individual Bowls
- Mixed Nuts, Peanuts, Pringles & Chips, Pretzels,
- Olives, Pickles, Peppers
- Pasta and Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter, Bean Dip
- Potted Meat, Vienna Sausages, Beanie Weenies, Tuna, Chicken Packages, Spam, Treet
- Rice Krispie Treats, Pop Tarts, Breakfast Bars, Fried Pies
- Soup Mixes
- Advil, Aleve, Tylenol, Other OTC Meds
- Anti-Fungal Ointment and Meds
- Band-Aid Adhesive Bandages
- Bath Soap Bars & Shower Gel
- Body & Foot Powder
- Chapstick & Lip Balm
- Cough Drops and Vitamin C Tablets
- Deodorant (Non-Aerosol)
- Disposable Shower Towels
- Eye Drops
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Hand & Body Lotion
- Hand & Feet Warmers
- Hand Sanitizer, Sanitizing Wipes, Baby Wipes (Non-scented & Disposable)
- Heart Burn Medication
- Icy Hot Patches, Wraps, Roll On Ointment
- Lens Cleaner
- Mouthwash (No Alcohol Content)
- Neosporin (Antibiotic Ointment)
- Razors
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Tissues & Kleenex
- Air Fresheners (Stick-Ups & Febreeze)
- Bug Repellant (Non-Aerosol)
- Bungee Cords (Small)
- Deck of Cards, Dice, Dominoes
- Electrical Tape (Small, Thin Rolls)
- Flashlight (Small Pen-Lights)
- Hacky Sacks
- Nerf Toys (Small Footballs, etc.)
- Notepads, Pens, Pencils
- Odor Eaters for Boots
- Puzzle Books, Word Finds, Crosswords
- Heavy Duty Socks
- Inflatable Pillow or Seat Cushion
- Koozies
- Nerf Toys (Small Footballs, etc.)
- Notepads, Pens, Pencils
- Odor Eaters for Boots
- Puzzle Books, Word Finds, Crosswords• Sewing Kit (Travel Size)
- Shoelaces (Boots & Gym Shoes)
- Sunscreen, SPF 30 & Up (Non-Aerosol)
- Travel Size Games, Rubik's Cubes
- Ziploc Bags (Quart & Gallon)



The Ghouls & Goblins are gathering for the 4th Annual Elk's Haunted House October 30 & 31.

So mark your calendar and dig out your costumes



COLLECTING CARE PACKAGE ITEMS

NOVEMBER 1ST
THRU
NOVEMBER 30TH

DONATION DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

PROSPERITY BANK
EL CAMPO
1301 N. Mechanic | 979-543-2200

ELKS LODGE 1749
3030 N. Mechanic | 979-543-3701

Flip this page over for a full list of most needed items.

If you have a family member or friend who is deployed overseas or have any questions, please contact
Tracy Oldag - 979-541-4247
tracy.oldag@prosperitybankusa.com

The best thing a soldier away from home can receive is something encouraging: a card, letter, or drawing from everyone, including our children, saying
Thank You & We Support You.

Proudly sponsored by:

PROSPERITY BANK · KULP LIVE · R&R PRINTING & GRAPHICS · Elks LODGE 1749

Lodge and Clubroom will be closed all week October 25-29 in preparation of the upcoming Haunted House.

2026 Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

Oct. 2-4 Veterans Retreat - Ottine
Oct. 5 - Veterans OPEN Call. Vets come out for a complimentary meal. Others are always welcome also.
Oct. 6 - Regular Lodge Meeting.
Oct.8 - Aggie Mom's Mosaic Crafts at the Lodge
Oct. 20 - Regular Lodge Meeting.
DDGER Dean Holtke visit.
Oct. 22 - Sweetheart Sour Doug, 6:00 pm
42 Dominos at the Lodge. 6:30 pm
Oct. 23-25 - TESA Fall Conference
Oct. 30 & 31 - Annual Haunted House

NOVEMBER

Nov. 3 - Regular Lodge Meeting.
Nov. 17 - Regular Lodge Meeting.
Nov. 19 - 42 Dominos at the Lodge

October Happenings

HAUNTED HOUSE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	1 OPEN 5-7 pm	2 VETERANS RETREAT OTTINE CLOSED	PRAIRIE DAYS 3 VETERANS RETREAT OTTINE CLOSED
4 VETERANS RETREAT OTTINE CLOSED	5 Veterans' Open Call 6:00 pm CLOSED	6 Reg. Lodge Meeting 7 pm OPEN 5-7 pm	7 OPEN 5-7 pm	8 Aggie Mom's Mosaic Crafts at Lodge OPEN 5-7 pm	9 CLOSED	10 CLOSED
11	12 CLOSED	13 OPEN 5-7 pm	14 OPEN 5-7 pm	15 OPEN 5-7 pm	16 CLOSED	17 CLOSED
18 CLOSED	19 CLOSED	20 Reg. Lodge Meeting 7 pm OPEN 5-7 pm	21 OPEN 5-7 pm	22 Sweetheart Sour Dough 6:00 42 Domino Tourney 6:30 OPEN 5-7 pm	23 TESA Fall Conference Houston CLOSED	24 CLOSED
25 TESA Fall Conference Houston CLOSED	26 CLOSED	27 CLOSED DURING THE WEEK FOR HAUNTED HOUSE SETUP CLOSED	28 CLOSED	29 CLOSED	30 Lodge Haunted House 6-9pm	31 Halloween Lodge Haunted House 6:30-10pm