

Houston 151 Elks Tracks

August 2026

10150 West Airport, Stafford TX, 77477 - 832-828-1151

Message from the Exalted Ruler (ER)



Summer is fully upon us! We have had some great events lately, and much credit is due to the wonderful Friends of 151. They put on a great event for the Fourth of July, and we truly appreciate all the hard work that went into the celebration while officers, some members, and I traveled to Chicago for Grand Lodge. We came back armed with determination and creative ideas for our Lodge.

The next several months are jam-packed. We have an exciting Interlodge event at the Katy Lodge, Fall Conference right here in Houston, and many other surprises.

Our ritual team did a great job representing us at Grand Lodge, and you can be proud of all of them. They worked very hard learning, practicing, and rehearsing every word.

We always need volunteers to cook the Tuesday night meals. Sign-up sheets should be on the bulletin board every month. Your donation of time and talent is absolutely appreciated.

I am always available. If you have an idea you would like to see implemented, or if you would like help bringing an idea to the members for support, call me, catch me in the hall, or put an idea in the handy suggestion box. I read every one and take them seriously—even the “take down the suggestion box” idea, LOL.

We have a lot to be excited about at the Lodge, and I am grateful for the dedication, creativity, and fellowship that continue to make our community strong. Thank you to everyone who gives their time, shares their ideas, and helps make each event and gathering meaningful.

Welcome new member!



Joseph Otto



Save the date

August 1

Veterans' party – noon

August 7

Steak night – 6:30 p.m.

August 14

Friends of 151 dinner – 6:30 p.m.

August 15

Gulf Coast District Interlodge –
Katy Lodge, 2:00 p.m.

August 21

PER Fish Fry and dart
tournament – 6:30 p.m.

August 22

Soccer shoot at the lodge –
10:00 a.m.

August 28

ENF dinner – 6:30 p.m.

August 29

Beautification day at the lodge
– 9:00 a.m.

September 6

Labor Day barbecue – time
(details to come)

[See Upcoming events for more info.](#)



Volunteer of the month



Frank Duffy

Prayer requests

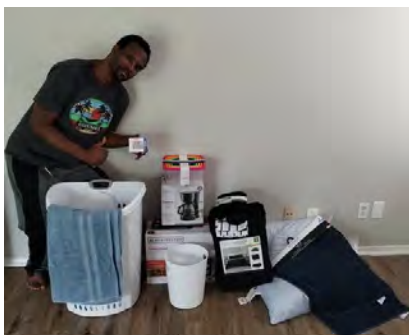
Please keep these members and friends in your prayers:

Frank Duffy, Kristen Baker, Mike Betenbaugh's son, Serena Goetsch, Connie Lisembee, Cheryl Moore, Christy Trevino, Robert Marshall's neighbor Liz



Welcome-home kits

Elks lodges provide welcome-home kits to veterans. A kit provides essentials to help with day-to-day living. Generally, a kit includes kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, and cleaning supplies, items like bedding, dishes, pots, pans, towels, toiletries, cleaning supplies, laundry baskets and detergent, etc.



In July, Chuck Dingas delivered a welcome-home kit to Army veteran Morris Randle.

Remember – YOU make it possible to deliver welcome-home kits to veterans through your donations to the [Elks National Foundation](#) (ENF).

August birthdays

- | | |
|----|---|
| 01 | Nigel Delgado
Alfred Griffin |
| 02 | Edward Goodin
Billy J Palmer |
| 03 | Fred Collier
Maria Finger |
| 04 | Larry Balding |
| 06 | Gary Richardson |
| 08 | Cynthia Rowland |
| 10 | Connie Lisembee
Clair Taylor |
| 12 | Shaun Lee Glory |
| 14 | Serena Goetsch
Brian Youngs |
| 15 | Robert Freck
Fred K Wohlfahrt |
| 16 | Adolph Garza
Derrick S Hancock |
| 17 | Christine Knierim |
| 19 | Nancy Gruber |
| 20 | Tracy E Mathews |
| 21 | Mike Snyder |
| 22 | Alexanne Albert
Kate Cavender
Ronald Gruber |
| 23 | Ben Hammond
Jon Hogue
Fred Scholibo
James Williams |
| 24 | Troy Lynn Betenbaugh |
| 24 | Brier, Connie Neal |
| 25 | Maurice Harvey |
| 28 | Karen Cullum |
| 31 | Kristen Baker |



National convention recap



Over 7,000 Elks gathered in Chicago in early July for the national convention. It was inspiring to hear about what lodges across the US and its territories are doing to improve the lives of veterans, children, and local communities.

Our new Grand Exalted Ruler – Timothy Jaeger – announced the theme for this fiscal year – **Ready Elks – Let's Go!** He explained, ““When I chose this theme, I thought about the Elks history,” Jaeger said. “The benevolence began back in the Jolly Cork days, when one of the members died, and the Corks decided they should support the widow and children. The cry went out, Ready Elks— well, Corks— and the response was, 'Let's Go!'”



The Houston 151 2025-26 ritual team represented the state of Texas.

Andy Mishaga won the All-American award for his recitation of the chaplain portion of the ritual ceremony. He is shown at the right with the outgoing Grand Exalted Ruler.



Sally DiPalma and Renay Bennett were just a few of the members from 151 who attended the national convention.

Elks.org has a wealth of information about the convention. (You may need to log in.)

- [Click here](#) to see official photos from the convention.
- You can see the daily convention newsletters [here](#).



Scholarship applications are open

High-school seniors can now apply for a variety of Elks scholarships. **The students do not need to have an affiliation with the Elks to apply.**



Students can apply for Most Valuable Student (MVS) [here](#) (beginning August 1). Encourage any high-school seniors you know to apply as soon as possible.

To see the video of one of this year's MVS recipients, [click here](#).



Message from the Esteemed Leading Knight



As Elks we emphasize charity as a core virtue, promoting acts of kindness and support for those in need through charitable works and community service. This principle is central to our mission and is reflected in our commitment to respectfully helping others.

As a lodge we should be very proud to have benefited special needs children, veterans, young athletes, and the needy—in hospice, in public schools, and in our community this past year. We exceeded every goal set by our state and national organization, and I am sure we will continue to do so this year.

But as stated in our ritual, we should also practice the higher charity of thought, word, and deed. And as the old saying goes, "Charity begins at home." This type of charity often takes more effort, and deed might be the easiest part. Are we supporting the lodge with our actions? Could you work in the kitchen, plan or help with a fun activity, help with landscaping, do a repair, compare costs on items needed by the lodge, wipe tables, bring a dessert, take out the garbage, or even wipe up a spill? If you are not sure what to do, ask an officer or come to a board meeting.

Charity of thought and word are closely intertwined. We are a brotherhood, and what we think and say should reflect it. We should think carefully before we speak, especially when we are frustrated or angry. We also need to remember that those who are listening to us are greatly influenced by our tone and body language. We need to speak to each other with kindness, for we pass this way but once.

Likewise, the principle of charity of thought and word should also be practiced by those listening. We should assume the best possible interpretation of a statement is the one the speaker meant to convey, to avoid unintended offense.

Finally, throughout this I have been reminded of the words of the great philosopher Thumper: "If you can't say somethin' nice, don't say nothin' at all."

Susan Midyett

Elks National Foundation (ENF)

Since inception, the ENF has contributed more than \$500 million toward Elks charitable projects nationwide. The ENF fund the Community Investments Program through grants offer our lodge an opportunity to serve your community.

The ENF is able to help Elks build stronger communities thanks to contributions from our generous donors. Today, we have more than 124,000 active donors and an endowment fund valued at \$886 million. You can become a Fidelity member by donating monthly. Click [here](#) to sign up.

For more information on ENF, please contact Susan Midyett.



Message from the Secretary



MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP

The Lodge needs your help in retaining current members who have not yet paid their dues for 2026 – 2027. If you know someone on the list - or even better if you proposed someone on the list - please make the effort to contact them and see if we can save that member. In addition to saving members, we are not where we need to be on bringing in new members. We all need to work on trying to bring new members into our Lodge.

Every member should consider themselves to be on the Membership Committee.

Participation at recent events has been a little low. Come out to the Lodge and see what you are missing. Our members are putting a lot of effort into trying to come up with new and fun things to do at the Lodge. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

Please make the effort to get more involved with your Lodge.

As always thank you for being a member and for all that you do.

Fraternally,
Jim Grissom

Lodge Secretary, Area Special Representative - Texas Gulf Coast District

Message from the State Membership Chairman



Membership Is What You Make It!

Greetings Houston Elks,

As the Texas State Membership Chair, I wanted to write about what membership really means in this organization. Each of us joined the lodge for a reason. Somewhere along the line, that reason may seem to get lost. We stop coming to meetings, special events, or the lodge altogether. At some specific time, at some specific event, the reason we joined the Elks disappears. I would venture to say, in most cases, it was because someone made us mad. If you joined the Elks for the charitable work we do, the support to veterans we offer, working with special-needs children, supporting and working in the community to make a difference, social time with friends and family, then why should you let one individual or one circumstance drive you away? I think it is important for all of us to take a step back and remember our obligation. The same obligation we all took at the altar.

No matter what the reason you joined the Elks might be, being a member of this organization can be rewarding. Meeting new people, working with and in the community, or just gathering in a social setting all have their benefits. The Elks are one of the only fraternal organizations today that



have stuck to their core values as to who can be a member. We are all American Citizens who believe in God. Are we perfect? Absolutely not! Each member of our organization is a crucial part to our success. Every member should feel as though they belong in the lodge. It is up to each of us to make sure that happens.

With that being said, Houston currently has approximately 50 delinquent members who have not paid their dues this year. The delinquent list is posted on the bulletin board. If you recognize a name on the list, please reach out and remind them that they too are a valuable part of this organization. Membership is the responsibility of every Elk. When we work hard to fulfill our obligation, and when we follow our golden rule "Do unto others as we would, they should do unto us" we can achieve anything. Let us work together to get our members back and build a lodge that becomes the benchmark of Elkdom.

"Your Commitment is Our Success"

Lowell D. "Noley" Neinast
PER / T.E.S.A Membership Chair

Did you know?

Several members of our lodge also serve at the Grand Lodge, state, and district levels.

Grand Lodge	
Grand Lodge Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler	John Atwood
Grand Lodge Member of Judiciary	John Atwood
Grand Lodge Area Special Representative - Gulf Coast District	Jim Grissom
Grand Lodge Special Representative to Galveston Lodge	Sally DiPalma
Grand Lodge Special Representative to Huntsville Lodge	Andy Mishaga
Texas Elks State Association (TESA)	
TESA Past State Presidents	Mike Callahan, Andy Mishaga
TESA Trustee – Gulf Coast District	Andy Mishaga
TESA Convention Committee Members	Connie Lisembee, Terri Wetz
TESA Jacket Sales Chair	Ramona Mishaga
TESA Membership Chair	Lowell Neinast
TESA Texas Shadow Member	Al Olmos
TESA State Major Project Chair	Sally DiPalma
TESA Fund Drive Committee Member	Sally DiPalma
TESA Texas Elks Children's Services Inc (TESCI) Director - Gulf Coast District	Sally DiPalma
TESA TESCOI Alternate – Gulf Coast District	Renay Bennett
TESA Past Exalted Rulers (PER) Secretary	Ramona Mishaga
District	
District Leader – East District	Renay Bennett
District Leader – Gulf Coast District	Sally DiPalma
Gulf Coast District Interlodge Secretary	Ramona Mishaga
Gulf Coast District Most Valuable Student Contest	Cindie Pridy
Gulf Coast District Ritual Chairman	Lowell Neinast
Gulf Coast District PER Association Treasurer	Joy Olmos



Elks 101

This month, we'll take a look at how Grand Lodge divides Elksdom into areas and how the state is divided into districts.

Districts include multiple states. Texas is part of Area 6, and the area leader is John Amen. John Atwood is the Grand Lodge Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, representing all of Texas. Jim Grissom is the Grand Lodge Area Special Representative for the Gulf Coast District.



Each state has an Elks association, and we are proud members of the Texas Elks State Association (TESA). You can see that [many of our members hold state offices](#). Within TESA, we have several districts, and our lodge is part of the Gulf Coast District (along with Clear Lake, El Campo, Galveston, and Katy). To see all of the districts and lodges in Texas, [click here](#) (login required).

We participate in activities with other lodges fairly often. We had a district picnic at the Clear Lake lodge in July, and we will visit Katy for an interlodge meeting August 15. All members are welcome at interlodge meetings. The lodge that has the most members present at interlodge gets the traveling trophy. Houston lodge 151 currently holds the trophy, and we would love to keep it!

[Please let us know](#) what topics you would like to for us to cover in this section.

Contacts

To submit an item for	Contact
Weekly What's Happening	Ramona Mishaga
Calendar	Ramona Mishaga
Monthly Tracks newsletter	Kathy Klimpel



Sweetheart news



Homecoming at Ottine will be here before we know it. We need items that we can sell in our general store as well as live auction items.

All of the money we raise goes to providing scholarships for special needs kids to attend summer camp free of charge.



We are gathering items like the following:

- Home-canned goods, including jams, jellies, preserves; salsas; pickles, etc.
- Hand-crafted items like soup mix or candy mix in a jar
- Candles in clear bags
- Crocheted, knitted, and quilted gifts
- Any gift items

We also need:

- Items for the gift baskets that we are required to raffle during the day
- Ideas for Interactive activities for the attendees

Please contact me for more information or to donate items or cash.

For information on lodging and the schedule of activities, click [here](#).

Spotlight on a member – Frank Duffy



What made you become an Elk?

My stepdaughter saw the sign and went inside to talk to Jim Grissom. We were impressed with the social and charity aspects, so my wife, stepdaughter, and I all joined.

How long have you been an Elk?

We joined in December 2025.

What do you do at the lodge?

I cook for the bingo crowd every Thursday, and I help out in the kitchen and around the lodge as needed.

What do you do outside the lodge (job, hobbies, etc.)?

I retired as a fire inspector in Connecticut before moving here. I'm an assistant usher at St. Thomas Episcopal. I'm a model railroad enthusiast.



Gulf Coast District



The Gulf Coast district had a picnic at the Clear Lake lodge on Saturday, July 28. Several of our lodge members attended.

Our sweetheart, Serena Goetsch, raised over \$700 with her basket raffle.



All of the lodges in the district donated stuffed animals to give to kids in crisis. If you know of an organization that can use the stuffed animals, please contact [Connie Lisembee](#).

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks was founded "To promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship."

The Elks are

- A fraternal order with hundreds of thousands of members and a 150+ year history
- A network of nearly 2000 lodges in communities all over the country
- A generous charitable foundation that each year gives millions in scholarships, an inspiration to youth, a friend to veterans, and more

Riddle of the month



What did the cucumber say to the pickle?

[Click here for the answer.](#)



Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A.

A Fraternal Organization

Mission statement: To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.

Elks.org

The [Elks website](#) provides a wealth of information for members. Here are just a few examples:

- [Programs, including scholarships and Hoop Shoot](#)
- [Documentation for officers, members, and lodges](#)
- [The Elks Magazine](#)
- [Licensed vendors](#) – where you can find a wide variety of Elks-branded products
- [Monthly newsletters from Grand Lodge](#)
- And much more

How you can help

“Elks care, Elks share” are words that we live by. Volunteering is essential to our lodge. WE NEED YOU.

Ways you can help:

- Volunteer to cook for a Tuesday or Friday dinner – or for bingo
 - Help with charity projects
- Take photos and help create an annual scrapbook for the Lodge
 - Help with landscaping and cleanup projects
 - Volunteer to help with bingo

Our success depends on all of us.

State projects



Our main state project is the [Texas Elks Camp](#). The Lodge Sweetheart raises money throughout the year to support the Texas Elks Camp, which provides children with special needs and children in foster care an opportunity to try new things, meet new friends and make memories that will last a lifetime. [Click here for more information](#). And remember – every time you support a sweetheart-sponsored event, you are supporting this charity!



Texas Children's Elks Camp History

This is the third in a series of articles about the camp by Connie Lisembee

A Place to Grow, Belong, and Have Fun

At Texas Elks Camp, children with special needs and children in foster care are welcomed into a safe, caring environment where they can build confidence, make new friends, try new experiences, and simply enjoy being kids.

Throughout the week, campers are encouraged to make choices, take on age-appropriate challenges, and discover what they are capable of in a supportive setting. Many parents see meaningful growth in their child's confidence, independence, and self-esteem after just one week at camp.

The mission of Texas Elks Camp is to help every camper feel valued, supported, and capable. Through caring programs and the dedicated support of Texas Elks members, the camp helps children develop greater independence, self-esteem, and confidence while reinforcing the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive.

Families can feel confident knowing their children are supported by counselors, nurses, and counselors-in-training who care deeply about serving children with special needs. Staff members complete a week of intensive training, and many bring related experience or studies in therapeutic recreation, special education, elementary education, social work, nursing, or pre-med.

Each week, campers enjoy the full camp experience while parents have peace of mind knowing their children are well cared for and having the time of their lives. From swimming, hiking, scavenger hunts, and crafts to the many traditional camp activities youngsters look forward to, Texas Elks Camp gives every child the chance to join in the fun. Next month, we'll take a closer look at some of the ways campers make summer memories!

TESA Fall Convention is coming!



The Texas Elks State Association (TESA) Fall Convention will be in our home city in October. We encourage you to attend and/or help with lodge activities during the convention. (Details about lodge activities are coming soon.)

The convention will be held at the Marriott Westchase (off Westheimer, just east of Beltway 8) from Friday, October 23 – Sunday October 25.

[Register here](#). The cost is just \$20 for all sessions. You can add optional meals (at an additional cost) when you register.



Who wants more fun?

This is YOUR Lodge! We are always looking for ideas for activities to keep our members engaged. What kinds of things would you be interested in? Do any of these activities sound appealing?

- Dart tournaments
- Board game nights
- Movie nights
- Pool parties
- Craft parties – jewelry making, charcuterie board lessons, etc.

If you have any suggestions, please contact [Kathy Klimpel](#).



Officers

Exalted Ruler	Connie Lisembee
Leading Knight	Susan Midyett
Loyal Knight	Troy Lynn Betenbaugh
Lecturing Knight	Robert Marshall
Secretary	Jim Grissom
Treasurer	Renay Bennett
1 Year Trustee	Sally DiPalma
2 Year Trustee	Ann Grissom
3 Year Trustee	Chuck Dingas
4 Year Trustee	Ramona Mishaga
5 Year Trustee	Joy Olmos
Esquire	Andy Mishaga
Chaplain	Mike Betenbaugh
Inner Guard	George Gomez
Tiler	Al Olmos

Committee chairpersons/coordinators

Committees are shown in **bold**; subcommittees follow the main committee.

Auditing & Accounting	Andy Mishaga
Activities	Available
Community Project & Activities	Available
Youth Activities	Available
Hoop Shoot	Ramona Mishaga
Drug Awareness	Teri Finch
Fraternal	Jim Grissom
Americanism	David Rawlins
Elks National Foundation	Susan Midyett
Flag Day	Lowell Neinast
Membership	Kathy Klimpel
Lodge Activities	Available
Veterans Service	Chuck Dingas
Accident Prevention	Ramona Mishaga
Past Exalted Ruler (PER)	Andy Mishaga
Standing Relief	Connie Lisembee
Public Relations	Ramona Mishaga
Other	
Ritualistic	Mike Callahan
Soccer Shoot	Available
Government Relations	John Atwood
State Major Project (Children's Camp)	Sally DiPalma
Club Board	Connie Lisembee
Board of Trustees	Sally DiPalma
Charitable Gambling (Bingo)	Joy Olmos
Elk of the Year	Connie Lisembee
Lodge Bulletin	Kathy Klimpel
Elks Charities	Available
Scholarships	Cindie Pridy
Kids Christmas	Kathy Klimpel
Highway Cleanup	Available
Local Lodge Charity	Susan Midyett
TECSI Grants	Sally DiPalma
Friends of 151	Karen Schulz and Sue O'Neil
Lodge Sweetheart	Serena Goetsch
Special Elks Services	Available



ELKS LODGE OFFICERS



LEADERSHIP. SERVICE. COMMUNITY.



Our Lodge is guided by dedicated members who volunteer their time, talents and leadership to serve you and our community. Each officer plays an important role in keeping our Lodge strong today and for generations to come.



HOW OFFICERS ARE SELECTED

- ★ Nominations are taken from the floor by the Lodge Membership.
- ★ Nominees must be members in good standing and meet the eligibility requirements of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.
- ★ Elections are held annually by secret ballot of the membership.
- ★ Officers are installed at the beginning of the Lodge year (April 1 – March 31).



WHY IT MATTERS

Our officers are the stewards of our Lodge. They ensure we operate according to our Elks principles:

CHARITY • JUSTICE • BROTHERLY LOVE • FIDELITY

Through their leadership, we support our members, strengthen our community and uphold the Elks mission every day.

MEET YOUR LODGE OFFICERS & THEIR PURPOSE



EXALTED RULER (E.R.)

The Chief Executive Officer of the Lodge.

HOW SELECTED:

Elected annually by the membership.

Leads the Lodge and presides at all meetings. Works with the Trustees to carry out the decisions of the membership and ensures the Lodge is successful and welcoming.



LEADING KNIGHT (L.K.)

Supports the Exalted Ruler and the Lodge.

HOW SELECTED:

Elected annually by the membership.

The E.R.'s right-hand person. Assumes the duties of the E.R. in their absence and chairs important committees. Prepares for future leadership.



LOYAL KNIGHT (L.Y.)

Ensures the smooth operation of Lodge.

HOW SELECTED:

Elected annually by the membership.

Oversees Lodge activities and rituals. Acts as Lodge inner guard and ensures all meetings and ceremonies run properly.



LECTURING KNIGHT (L.T.)

The Voice of the Lodge.

HOW SELECTED:

Elected annually by the membership.

Inspires members with Elks principles and the history of our Order. Encourages fellowship, charity and community involvement.



SECRETARY (SEC.)

Keeps the records and communication of the Lodge.

HOW SELECTED:

Elected annually by the membership.

Keeps accurate records of meetings and membership. Handles correspondence, reports and ensures the Lodge stays in compliance.



TREASURER (TREAS.)

Guardian of the Lodge finances.

HOW SELECTED:

Elected annually by the membership.

Manages all Lodge funds, pays bills, collects dues and provides financial reports. Ensures responsible and transparent handling of Lodge finances.



TILER

The Guardian of the Door and the Membership.

HOW SELECTED:

Appointed annually by the Exalted Ruler.

Greets members and guests, checks membership cards and maintains order at meetings. The first face of our hospitality and security.



THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees are elected annually by the membership. They are responsible for the care, custody and audit of the Lodge property and finances. They advise the Exalted Ruler and ensure the Lodge is managed wisely and in the best interest of our members.



EVERY MEMBER CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our officers are here to serve you. Get involved, attend meetings and share your ideas. Together we can continue to build a stronger Lodge and a brighter future for all.



ONE LODGE. ONE FAMILY. ONE PURPOSE.

Elks Care – Elks Share



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR OFFICERS FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SERVICE!



Lodge hours and standing activities

Lodge meetings	Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. – see calendar for exceptions in August Balloting for new members on the third Tuesday of each month Initiations on the last Tuesday of each month
Standing meetings	Second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. - Board of Directors and House Committee. All members are welcome to attend these meetings, but only committee members can vote. Third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. – Veterans' Committee
Lodge hours	Closed Monday and Saturday (except for special events) Open Tuesday – Friday at 4:00 Open Sunday – 12:00 noon
Activities	Wings and Things –Wednesday 5:00 – 6:00 (on the second Wednesday, a blue-plate special replaces the regular menu) Bingo Thursday – open to the public – 7:00 (gates open at 6:00) Steak Night – first Friday of the month – 6:30

Lodge hours are subject to change for special events. The Lodge will close at the discretion of the bartender.

Need more information?

[Contact any officer](#)

Call the lodge – 832-328-1151

Facebook pages

[Elks Lodge 151](#)

[Texas Gulf Coast District](#)

[Texas Elks](#)

[Grand Lodge](#)

Websites

[Elks main page](#)

[Texas Elks](#)

Answer to riddle of the month

You mean a great dill to me.



Calendar - August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						¹ Veterans Swim Party noon – 4pm <i>East District Interlodge at Crockett Lodge</i>
²	³ Lodge Closed	⁴ Lodge Mtg 7 pm w/ Balloting & PER Mtg to follow	⁵ Wings n Things 5-6 pm	⁶ BINGO 7 pm	⁷ Steak Night 6:30pm \$10	⁸ North Austin New Lodge Institution at Temple Lodge
⁹	¹⁰ Lodge Closed	¹¹ No Lodge Meeting	¹² BLUE PLATE SPECIAL 5 -6 pm HC & BOD mtg 6:30pm	¹³ BINGO 7pm	¹⁴ Friends of 151 Dinner 6:30 pm \$12 Hoagies, Potato Salad, Apple Pie w/ Ice cream	¹⁵ Gulf Coast District Interlodge @ Katy – 2:00 pm All members are welcome!
¹⁶ GC VP & DD Clinics @ Katy	¹⁷ Lodge Closed	¹⁸ Lodge Meeting 7 pm w/Initiation	¹⁹ Wings n Things 5 – 6 pm	²⁰ BINGO 7pm	²¹ PER Fish Fry Dinner 6:30pm \$15 and Dart Tournament	²² Lodge Soccer Shoot 10am
²³ ³⁰	²⁴ Lodge Closed ³¹ Lodge Closed	²⁵ No Lodge Meeting	²⁶ Wings n Things 5 -6 pm	²⁷ BINGO 7pm	²⁸ ENF Dinner 6:30pm	²⁹ Beautification Day at Houston 151 9am Kids Day at 151 Noon-4pm

Upcoming events

Date	Event	What you need to know
Friday, September 4	Steak night – \$10 – 6:30 p.m.	Bring your protein to be cooked to your specifications. Potato, salad bar. Desserts, and iced tea are included in the price.
Sunday, September 6	Labor Day Barbecue	Details to come
Friday, September 18 – Saturday, September 19	Homecoming at Texas Elks Camp (Ottine)	Members from across the state gather at the camp for fellowship and fundraising. Our Sweetheart will be selling items, and donations are needed. Click here for more info.
Friday, September 25	ENF dinner –6:30 p.m.	Tentative
Sunday, September 27	POW/MIA ceremony – 1:00 p.m.	Details to come
Friday, October 2	Steak night – \$10 – 6:30 p.m.	Bring your protein to be cooked to your specifications. Potato, salad bar. Desserts, and iced tea are included in the price.
Friday, October 23 – Sunday, October 25	Texas Elks Fall convention – Marriott Westchase, Houston	Info about lodge activities during this weekend to come



Lodge activities in July

Bingo party

The Hawaiian-themed party drew a crowd of over 100 players – even during the torrential rain that we got courtesy of Tropical Storm Bertha. This was the biggest crowd we've had since pre-COVID days. Bingo raised over \$2700 that night – about 3-4 times the weekly average.

Thanks to Joy & Al Olmos and Vanessa and Bobby Haynes – and all members who helped or attended - for making a special night!



Kids' hamburger cookoff



On Saturday, July 25 several local children participated in a kids' hamburger cookoff. The lodge provided meat and fixings, as well as grills that the kids could take home. Each child was responsible for bringing their own spices and decorations.

Burgers were judged on taste and presentation. The kids got quite creative! Thanks to Tereza Legler for organizing the event. And thanks to Greg Lindsay for providing grilling accessories kits to the winners.



TEXAS GULF COAST DISTRICT 8560

INTERLODGE

AUGUST 15TH & 16TH

Elks

Elks

LOCATION:

KATY ELKS LODGE 2628

1050 Katy Fort Bend Rd.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH

- INTERLODGE MEETING @ 2:00 P.M.
- SWEETHEART MEETING @ 3:30 P.M.
- PER MEETING @ 4:30 P.M.
- DINNER SERVED @ 5:30 P.M.
(FRIED PORK CHOPS, BUTTER POTATOES AND SIDES.)
- FUN & GAMES @ 6:30 P.M.
- KARAOKE @ 8:30 P.M.
- ELEVEN O'CLOCK TOAST @ 11 PM



SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH

- VP CLINIC @ 10:00 A.M.
- DD CLINIC @ 11:00 A.M.



KATY



SOCCER SHOOT

★ PLAY HARD.



HAVE FUN. ★

➤ **Houston Elks Lodge #151** ➤

10150 W Airport Blvd, Stafford, TX 77477



Saturday, August 22, 2026



Signups start at 9:00 a.m.



Soccer Shoot starts at 10:00 a.m.



Open to youth ages 6 to 15 years of age



Awards and refreshments to follow





Fish Fry Dinner

at Houston 151

by

Capt. Grabbe & First Mate Earline

Friday, August 21

6:30 pm - \$15 per person

Enjoy delicious White Bass with all the
Fixings; Hush Puppies, Fries, Coleslaw, and Dessert



To our awesome
ELK MEMBERS

Please remember!

-  You have a **SUGGESTION**, please get involved in a **COMMITTEE!**
-  You have a **COMPLAINT**, please go to a **MEETING** or contact the correct person
(you can always private message on Facebook and we can point you in the right direction)
-  Do you have ideas that could help make our lodge even **STRONGER**? Consider **RUNNING** for a **LEADERSHIP POSITION** where your passion and dedication can make a positive **DIFFERENCE!**

NEGATIVITY *will* **NEVER** *solve issues!*

Let's stay **POSITIVE** ♥ practice **UNDERSTANDING** ♥
and always just be NICE! ♥

**YOU ARE A MEMBER
NOT A CUSTOMER**

THIS IS YOUR LODGE.



The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
is a fraternal organization built on
Brotherly Love, Justice, Charity, and Fidelity.
We are Elks. We care. We serve. We strengthen our communities.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MEANS:

 PARTICIPATE A few hands and a few hours make a real difference.	 LEARN Discover our history, share in our values, and grow as Elks and leaders.	 SERVE Support our communities through Elks programs and charitable service.
 BE KIND Respect one another. Welcome people. Strengthen our brotherhood.	 KNOW YOUR LODGE It is a benefit for members and qualified guests — not a public facility. Please follow lodge rules and be respectful of your fellow Elks.	 GROW OUR FAMILY Invite and sponsor family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.

YOUR LODGE NEEDS YOU.

PARTICIPATE ★ VOLUNTEER ★ LEARN ★ SERVE ★ SPONSOR

Ready Elks, Let's Go!

★ BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS ★



★ PART 1 OF 5 ★

HOW TO HELP A LODGE FAIL

★★★★★

- DON'T ATTEND MEETINGS.**
If you do, arrive late and leave early.
- NEVER VOLUNTEER.**
Assume the same few people will handle everything.
- CRITICIZE THE PEOPLE DOING THE WORK.**
Especially from the sidelines.
- DON'T WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.**
They'll figure it out on their own.
- SAY THE LODGE NEEDS YOUNGER MEMBERS...**
But never invite any.
- WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO PAY DUES.**
Then wonder why things are struggling financially.
- COMPLAIN ABOUT CHANGE.**
And complain when nothing changes.
- SUPPORT THE LODGE ONLINE ONLY.**
Avoid showing up in person whenever possible.
- TURN SMALL DISAGREEMENTS INTO BIG DIVISIONS.**
One bad interaction? Blame the whole Lodge.
- LET RUMORS SPREAD.**
Negativity travels faster than facts.
- EXPECT PERFECT EVENTS.**
Without offering time, ideas, or help.
- FORGET TO THANK VOLUNTEERS.**
Burnout builds quickly.
- TALK MORE ABOUT PROBLEMS THAN PURPOSE.**
Veterans, Youth, Community, Fellowship.
- ASSUME "SOMEONE ELSE" WILL SAVE THE LODGE.**
While good members quietly drift away.

**A LODGE RARELY FAILS ALL AT ONCE.
IT FADES WHEN GOOD PEOPLE SLOWLY DISCONNECT.**

♥ Perry, Iowa ♠ Perry Elks Lodge #407

*Help our
Lodge
succeed!*

★ PART 2 OF 5 ★

HOW TO HELP A LODGE SUCCEED

★ A 5-PART SERIES – MORE TO COME EVERY COUPLE OF DAYS ★

- SHOW UP.**
Even when you're tired.
- WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.**
Remember your first meeting?
- THANK VOLUNTEERS.**
A little appreciation goes a long way.
- SUPPORT LODGE EVENTS.**
Participation builds momentum.
- BRING IDEAS – AND EFFORT.**
Both matter.
- REMEMBER OUR MISSION.**
Veterans, Youth, Community, Fellowship.

★ Introduce yourself to someone you don't know.

★ Invite a friend or potential member.

★ Stay a little longer after meetings.

★ Encourage ideas instead of dismissing them.

★ Offer solutions, not just criticism.

★ Mentor newer members.

★ Support fundraisers even if you can't attend.

★ Check on members who haven't been around.

★ Celebrate progress, not perfection.

★ Remember every volunteer started as "just helping once."

★ Keep traditions alive – while welcoming new ideas.

★ Be proud of the Lodge publicly.

★ Help create the atmosphere you want others to walk into.

★ A welcoming Lodge grows naturally.

★ Fellowship is built conversation by conversation.

★★★★★

BE THE MEMBER YOU HOPED THE LODGE WOULD HAVE.

*The future of the Lodge is not decided by a few officers.
It is decided by the habits of its members.*

★★★★★

STRONG LODGES ARE BUILT BY ORDINARY MEMBERS

★ DOING SMALL THINGS CONSISTENTLY.

Perry Elks Lodge #407
♥ Perry, Iowa ♠

♥ Perry, Iowa ♠ Perry Elks Lodge #407



★ PART 3 OF 5 ★

WHAT NEW MEMBERS NOTICE

★ WHAT THEY SEE. WHAT THEY FEEL. WHAT THEY REMEMBER. ★

- NOBODY GREETES THEM.**
They came looking for fellowship. Instead, they stand alone wondering where they belong.
- EVERYONE SITS WITH THE SAME PEOPLE.**
A Lodge can feel full... and still feel lonely.
- MEMBERS COMPLAIN MORE THAN THEY CELEBRATE.**
New members hear what we talk about. They quickly learn what we value.
- NO ONE EXPLAINS WHAT THE ELKS DO.**
Veterans, Youth, Scholarships. Community service. Never assume people already know.
- QUESTIONS GO UNANSWERED.**
Every member was new once. Someone helped you.
- NEW IDEAS ARE DISMISSED.**
A Lodge that never changes eventually stops growing.
- MEMBERS TALK TO THEIR FRIENDS... BUT NOT TO THEIR FUTURE BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**
Growth happens one conversation at a time.
- NEW MEMBERS ARE TREATED LIKE GUESTS... INSTEAD OF FUTURE LEADERS.**
Tomorrow's officers are often sitting quietly in today's meetings.

REMEMBER:
A new member does not see our history. A new member sees our culture. They see how we treat people. They see how we communicate. They see whether they are wanted.

STRONG LODGES DON'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT.
Perry, Iowa

A NEW MEMBER DECIDES QUICKLY
"DID I FIND A LODGE... OR JUST A BUILDING?"

THEY GROW WHEN EVERY MEMBER HELPS OTHERS FEEL WELCOME.
Perry Elks Lodge #407

Reach out
to new
members

★ PART 4 OF 5 ★

WHY MEMBERS STOP COMING

★ NEGATIVITY IS CONTAGIOUS ★

- COMPLAIN ABOUT EVERY EVENT.**
No event is perfect. But no event survives endless criticism.
- FOCUS ON WHAT'S WRONG.**
Ignore what went right.
- SHOOT DOWN NEW IDEAS.**
Then wonder why nothing changes.
- TELL EVERYONE WHY IT WON'T WORK.**
Before anyone has a chance to try.
- TURN DISAGREEMENTS INTO DIVISIONS.**
Different opinions should not become different sides.
- REPEAT RUMORS.**
Negativity spreads faster than facts.
- CRITICIZE VOLUNTEERS.**
Eventually they stop volunteering.
- DEMAND PERFECTION.**
Offer no help.
- CELEBRATE FAILURES.**
Ignore successes.
- FORGET WHY WE'RE HERE.**
Veterans. Youth. Community. Fellowship.

A NEGATIVE LODGE ISN'T CREATED OVERNIGHT.
It happens one complaint... one rumor... one unnecessary argument at a time.

REMEMBER
The atmosphere of a Lodge is created by its members. If all we talk about are problems... Soon problems are all anyone sees.

STRONG LODGES DON'T NEED PERFECT MEMBERS.
Perry, Iowa

PEOPLE ARE DRAWN TO POSITIVITY AND DRIVEN AWAY BY CONSTANT NEGATIVITY.

THEY NEED MEMBERS WHO BUILD EACH OTHER UP.
Perry Elks Lodge #407

Make
everyone
feel
welcome



★ PART 5 OF 5 ★

WHAT THE ELKS REALLY ARE

★ WE ARE MORE THAN A LODGE. WE ARE A FAMILY. ★



A BROTHERHOOD AND SISTERHOOD OF ELKS.

United by friendship.
Bound by a shared purpose.
Stronger together.



WE CARE FOR VETERANS.

We honor their service.
We support their needs.
We will never forget.



WE INVEST IN OUR YOUTH.

We mentor. We encourage.
We build confidence.
We change lives.



WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.

From local projects to national impact,
our service leaves a lasting legacy
where we live.



WE SHARE LAUGHTER. WE SHARE LIFE.

Through good times and
challenging times, we are here
for one another.



WE STAND FOR INTEGRITY. WE LIVE BY OUR VALUES.

Charity. Justice. Brotherly Love.
Fidelity.



WE WELCOME ALL WHO WANT TO DO GOOD.

Different backgrounds.
Different stories.
One mission.



WE ARE ELKS.

We don't just say it.
We live it.
Every day.

★ REMEMBER: ★

Every kind word.
Every helping hand.
Every act of service.
Every moment of fellowship.
It all adds up to something
greater than ourselves.

BE PROUD TO BE AN ELK.
BE PART OF SOMETHING
THAT LASTS.

ONE PURPOSE.
MANY HEARTS.

♥ Perry, Iowa



ELKS BUILD BETTER LIVES.

Elks Leave the World Better Than We Found It.



VETERANS



YOUTH



COMMUNITY



FELLOWSHIP

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
TOGETHER, WE ARE ELKS.



A LEGACY OF SERVICE.
A FUTURE OF HOPE.

♠ Perry Elks Lodge #407

