



## Message from the Exalted Ruler, Lowell Neinast

Greetings from the Exalted Ruler,

As we continue with the Holiday Season, I think about all the wonderful friendships I have made since I became an Elk over two decades ago. Not only have I made friends at this lodge, but throughout the nation, especially in the Great State of Texas.

I am truly thankful for that because I realized my Elk friends are really my only friends. As we approach Christmas, I would ask you to think about why we are here as Elks. True, most of us enjoy just spending time at the lodge, but I can't help but believe that we are here for a greater purpose.

When you took your obligation, you were asked if you believed in God. You answered "I DO" or you wouldn't be a member. I bring this up because I, for one, love Christmas for the reason it became CHRISTmas. We often forget that part of the holiday and concentrate on the commercial side of things.

This month we will be celebrating this season with a few events. On December 3, we will have our Annual Elks Memorial Service at 1:00 PM. Our Annual Lodge Christmas party and gif exchange will be held on December 15, and our annual Veterans Christmas Party will be held on December 16. We also have movie night on December 8, where we will be showing "It's a Wonderful Life", a true Christmas classic.

I truly hope that you find it in your heart to come to the lodge during these events and celebrate with us as we support our calling to help others, including ourselves. As we celebrate the holiday season, I want to let you know that I am thankful for every one of you and truly appreciate what you do for our organization.

I also realize that we have lives outside of Elksdom and that too is extremely important and, for most of us, completely understood.

I want to take a moment to send a special shout out to a very deserving volunteer of the month, Mrs. Ann Grissom. Thank you, Ann, for never giving up and continuing to be a significant part of Houston Lodge #151.

Yours in Elksdom,  
Lowell D. Neinast  
Exalted Ruler





## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

I want to wish everyone a safe and joyful Holiday Season.

I also want to thank everyone for the kind thoughts and prayers expressed to me during the latest chapter in my hip replacement saga.

Everything in the office is back to normal, functioning and in compliance with the requirements of our organization.

Thanksgiving Dinner at the Lodge was a great event and well attended, thanks to all who participated and cooked for the event.

We are doing much better on bringing in new members, many thanks to all that worked to achieve this. Don't stop now, we still have until April in this Lodge year.

Hope to see you soon at the Lodge and as always thanks for all that you do for our Lodge and our great order.

Fraternally,

Jim Grissom  
Secretary and Gulf Coast District Leader



## FROM THE ESTEEMED LEADING KNIGHT

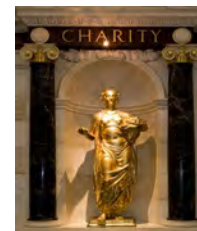
Have you ever wondered why the traditions of initiation and ritual are so important? It's a way for Elks to keep their history and culture alive as a unique organization dedicated to Americanism and linked to the destiny of our country.

If you listen to the messages relayed to new members as they pass through each station you will hear that Brotherly Love is best exemplified by our motto: the faults of our Members we write upon the sand, their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory. Justice requires strict performance of the duties of membership but is not blind to protecting the cherished rights and privileges we are ensured as Elks and will do so with all its power and authority. Charity teaches us through a legend that the greatest of all the virtues is the Charity of thought, word, and deed; and that our influence in life is determined by the good deeds we do. Finally Fidelity speaks to carrying forth the solemn obligation assumed as a new member and being guided by the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity but; adhering to this same sense of duty and respect for virtue as a member of society.

By telling our story to new members and by listening to it anew, we solidify the purpose and cherished privileges that we as Elks enjoy; the fraternal duties and fellowship that we share. Watch when the officers are giving the civilian salute to the flag. You will notice their thumb is tucked under their four fingers onto their palm. The four fingers represent the four pillars of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity; the thumb represents the members protected by the pillars, and the hand is placed over the heart. Isn't it interesting how even the smallest things can have such significant meaning.

Fraternally Yours,

Cindie Priddy,  
Leading Knight



## FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Merry Christmas to my Elks Family! At the Holiday Season it's time to reflect of the year gone by and to appreciate our gifts of family and friends. I hope the new year brings you good health and prosperity.

Reflecting back on the projects completed this year by your Board of Directors, I would like to remind all Members that we work for you to make improvements to the Lodge and manage your physical and financial assets. Many of the completed projects include refinishing the patio surface, installing gazebos by the pool, fence repair, gutter repair, new dining and club furniture along with a cooler for the club

Our future plans and projects that are being considered are patio fan replacement, backflow cages, pool repair and tree trimming. In addition, we contracted additional upgrades to our new A/C systems and pest control. As we continue to move on these projects the Boards will keep the Lodge informed of further developments.

The Lodge Board of Directors continue to work diligently protecting and managing the assets of the Lodge and the members of Houston #151 even with the downturn in the economy. We welcome any member to attend our regularly scheduled monthly Board of Directors meeting and provide constructive comments and recommendations for the future success of our Lodge.

Fraternally,

Andy Mishaga, PSP  
Two Year Trustee



## Greetings to all our members of Houston Elks Lodge 151 and all Friends of Houston 151



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone at your Lodge. There are a lot of activities planned for the month of December. They are Steak Night on the 1st, our annual Elks Memorial Service on the 3rd, painting with a twist on the 9th, a soup cookoff on the 10th, our Lodge Christmas party on the 15th, and the Veterans Christmas party on the 16th. All of these events require a lot of folks to help with making them happen. The more people who can help the better the result of each event will be because of you, our volunteers.

How can we bring in more folks who might like to join our Lodge? A prime example of that occurred on steak night last month. On that night there were quite a few folks who had never been to our Lodge, and some of them put in applications to become members of the Elks. Some of those attending were Marines who celebrated the 248th birthday of the United States Marine Corp. This is how you increase membership in the Elks. Invite your neighbors, co-workers, and friends to the Lodge sometime.

In closing, all of us as Elks took an oath when we stood before the Altar when we were initiated into our Order. One of the most important things we as Elks need to and must do is to help take care of others who are less fortunate than us, no matter what their status in life is. We all need to keep this in mind, and do the right thing when it comes to supporting others.

Fraternally, Mike Betenbaugh,  
Houston Elks Lodge 151  
PER Association President.





## FROM THE LODGE SWEETHEART

Elks Family! Looking forward to another successful year. I could not do any of this without God, your help and participation.

First, I would like to acknowledge my patient and kind husband Mike Betenbaugh for his steady presence and work. Thank you Kristen Baker, Darlene and Mike Crisamore, Jesse Parra, Ann & Jim Grissom, Greg Lindsay, Brian Youngs, Charlene Hudson and Johnathan Novak for a great steak night! Thank you to Ramona Mishaga for all the e-blasts and ads

for our bulletin board. Thank you Amber for starting out a great year. Job well done.

We are continuing the Sweetheart year with Fun and Games TBA. Our quilt donated by Gigi Hill is being raffled for \$20 stretches. Drawing is in December.

Come find that next gift from our Holiday Market November 18th 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM! Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be there from 11 to 1. Thank you Christy Trevino for guiding us through and participating in our Holiday Market!

We have Paint With A Twist Saturday December 9th, 2023, 1PM to 4PM. \$30.00 All supplies and teaching/instruction included. Limited to 20 people.

Contact myself and or see the sign up sheet at the lodge.

Thank you all,

Troy Lynn Betenbaugh  
Houston 151 Sweetheart

To whom much is given, much is expected



Plan to come on over to Houston 151 on **Saturday Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** for a day of fun for everyone!

Beginning at 1pm enjoy;  
***Painting with a Twist by Lynn Harris***  
\$30 per person( includes all supplies)  
Make your reservations now as space is limited to 20 people. See sign up sheet on Lodge bulletin board

Then sign up to participate in the;  
***"Melt my Snowman" Soup Off***  
Cook your soup at home and bring it to the Lodge for judging in a crock pot. Turn in by 3:45 pm. Entry fee is \$10 per soup.

Judging and tasting begins at 4pm.  
\$15 per person to participate.

*All proceeds to benefit the Houston Sweetheart program for our Kids*





## **Birthdays for the Month of DECEMBER**

03	Donna Cooley
05	Daniel M. Dube
07	Evelyn Flannery Micheal McMahon
08	Charles W. Zwememann
09	Rickey Dean Fisher
11	Micheal A. Flaniken
12	Rebecca Swinford
13	Ercel L. Hensarling Steve J. Ireby
16	Jeffrey B. Lemaster
17	Timothy Lewis
21	Ken Armond
22	Herbert M. Hammond Jeffrey Williams
23	Henry Gaas Curtis Dwight Raymond Louis A. Rushe
24	Jimmy A. Jaynes
25	Christopher R. Gillman
27	Donald Hughes
28	Henry J. Canahuati John Palomares Marilyn Walla
29	John H. Atwood



## **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

**Ann Grissom**



# Upcoming Events

- Dec. 1**      **Steak Night**  
**Dec. 3**      **Annual Memorial Service 1pm**  
**Dec. 5**      **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**  
**Dec. 8**      **Movie Night 6:30pm**  
                 *It's a Wonderful Life*  
**Dec. 9**      **Painting with a Twist & Soup Off 1pm**  
**Dec. 15**     **Lodge Christmas Party 6pm**  
**Dec. 16**     **Veterans Christmas Party**  
**Dec. 19**     **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**

## 2024

- Jan. 2**      **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**  
**Jan. 5**      **Steak Night**  
**Jan. 9**      **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**  
**Jan. 13**     **Houston Lodge Hoop Shoot 9am**  
**Jan. 13**     **Movie Night 6:30pm**  
**Jan. 16**     **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**  
**Jan. 20**     **InterLodge at Clearlake Lodge**  
**Jan. 23**     **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**  
**Jan. 27**     **District Hoop Shoot in Galveston**  
**Jan. 30**     **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**

**Wednesday Wings n Things 5pm – every Wednesday**  
**BINGO 7pm (gates open at 6pm) – every Thursday**  
**Sunday Football Fun Day Noon – every Sunday**  
*watch the game with friends and bring an appetizer to share  
with at least 10 others*





# HOUSTON LODGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>  
6pm

bring a dish to share –see the sign-up  
sheet on the bulletin board

*If you wish to participate in the gift  
exchange, bring a gift valued at \$25*





# **HOUSTON ELKS LODGE #151 HOOP SHOOT January 13, 2024**

**Hoop Shoot Location:**

**Stafford Early Childhood Center  
(Formally Stafford Intermediate School)**

**1350 Constitution Ave,  
Stafford, TX 77477**

**Registration is from 9:00 am - 10:00 am**

**Hoop Shoot Starts @ 10:00 am**

**Open to Boys & Girls ages 8 to 13.**

**Contestants must be at least 8 and no older than  
13 as of April 1, 2024, in order to participate.**

**Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available.**

**Questions Contact: Kenneth Boyd  
(281) 352-9676**





# ELKS HOOP SHOOT

**District Competition**

*Texas Gulf Coast #8560*

McGuire-Dent Recreation Center  
2222 28th Street  
Galveston, Texas 77550

**January 27, 2024 at 9am**



For more information scan here

**Sponsored by Galveston Lodge and community**



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A Fraternal Organization

*Elks Care – Elks Share*

**DECEMBER 2023**



# Houston 151 at the TESA Fall Conference in San Antonio





# HOLIDAY MARKET





# HOLIDAY MARKET





# Annual Thanksgiving Feast





# Annual Thanksgiving Feast





## LODGE OFFICERS 2023- 2024

Exalted Ruler	Lowell Neinast, PER
Est. Leading Knight	Cindie Pridy
Est. Loyal Knight	Richard Novak
Est. Lecturing Knight	John Gerber
Secretary	Jim Grissom, PDDGER SRDL
Treasurer	Joy Olmos, PDDGER
Tiler	Chris Novak
Esquire	Lynn Harris
Chaplain	Terrie Wetz
Inner Guard	Susan Midyett
1-Year Trustee	Renay Bennett , PER, PGCVP
2-Year Trustee	Andy Mishaga, PSP, PDDGER
3-Year Trustee	Martha Gutierrez
4-Year Trustee	Sally DiPalma, PDDGER
5-Year Trustee	Mark Sal Haney



**Bingo is at the Lodge every  
Thursday doors open at 6pm!**

**Volunteers are needed...  
Contact Joy Olmos**

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS/COORDINATORS 2023-2024

Accident Prevention	Mark Sal Haney
Americanism	Al Olmos PER
Auditing & Accounting	Ken Boyd PDDGER
Bar Manager	Ann Grissom
Bingo	Joy Olmos, PDDGER
Community Activities	Cindie Pridy
Drug Awareness	Richard Novak
Elks Memorial Day	Ramona Mishaga, PER,PFL
Elks National Foundation	Renay Bennett PER
Flag Day	Lowell Nienast PER
Fraternal Comm.	Jim Grissom PDDGER SRDL
Friends of 151	Ann Grissom
Grant Coordinator TECSI	Sally DiPalma PDDGER
Grant Coordinator CIP	Ramona Mishaga PER, PFL
Government Relations	John Atwood, SDGER,
Hoop Shoot	Ken Boyd PDDGER
Indoctrination	Mike Callahan, PSP
Investigation	Jack Grabbe PER
Kitchen Manager	Renay Bennett, PER
Lodge Activities	Cindy Harris
Lodge Bulletin	Ramona Mishaga, PER,PFL
Membership	Sally DiPalma PDDGER
Membership Retention	Jim Grissom, PDDGER,SRDL
National Veterans Service	Lynn Harris
PER Association	Mike Betenbaugh, PER
Public Relations	Ramona Mishaga, PER, PFL
Ritual	Andy Mishaga, PSP
Scholarship	Cindie Pridy
State Major Project	Trpy Lynn Betenbaugh
Veterans Services	Lynn Harris
Youth Activities	Cindy Harris



**Donate to**

**Elks National Foundation**  
*"it's the best buck you will ever spend"*

**elks.org**



**American  
Red Cross**

**Donate today!**

*your donations makes a difference*

## December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  Steak Night Dinner 6pm \$10	2  Hall Rental -5-9pm
3  Annual Memorial Service 1pm  Football Fun Day! Texan (home) Football Game at 3pm	4  LODGE CLOSED	5  Membership Mtg 7pm Lodge Meeting 7:30pm w/ PER Meeting to follow	6  Wings n Things 5-6:30pm  Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30pm	7 BINGO 7 pm	8  6:30pm Movie Night "It's a Wonderful Christmas \$1 Pizza  Market Night at Katy Lodge	9  Sweetheart Painting w/ a Twist party & Soup Off 1pm ( see flyer)  Hall Rental 6-10pm
10 Last Day to Sign up for Sweetheart Holiday Card Mailing  Football Fun Day! Texan(away) Football Game at Noon	11  LODGE CLOSED	12  No Meeting No Dinner	13  Wings n Things 5-6:30pm  Queen of Hearts drawing 7:30pm	14  BINGO 7pm  House Committee and Board Meeting 6:30 pm	15 6 pm Lodge  	16  Veterans Christmas party noon-4pm
17  Football Fun Day! Texan (away)Football Game at Noon	18  LODGE CLOSED	19  Lodge Meeting 7:30pm  Tracks Deadline	20  Wings n Things 5-6:30pm  Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30pm	21  BINGO 7pm	22	23
24  Football Fun Day! Texan (home) Football Game at Noon  31  Football Fun Day! Texan (home) Football Game at Noon New Years Eve	25 Merry Christmas    LODGE CLOSED  January 1, 2024 Happy New Year LODGE CLOSED	26  Lodge Closed  No Meeting No Dinner	27  Wings n Things 5-6:30pm  Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30pm	28  BINGO 7pm	29	30  

