



## Message from the Exalted Ruler, Lowell D. Neinast

Wow! It is already February of 2024. They say the older you get the faster time goes by. I believe this to be a true statement, but still wonder who "they" is. January proved to be an interesting month with weather and events around the lodge. I hope everyone survived the freezing temperatures with minimal damage.

This month's article may seem a little ill-mannered to some, but I want to be honest when writing it. We are missing opportunities at the lodge. We are having very little turnout at our events, and this is not a good thing. There are members who try their best to provide fun opportunities for our members to enjoy, yet very few show up. We also have mandatory meetings in Elks that are suppose to be attended by our officers, and of course, members are always welcome. The District Interlodge are some of those meetings which occur. For the past several years Houston Lodge #151 has taken home the traveling trophy for the most participants attending the Walk of Lodges at District Interlodge. At the most recent Interlodge, held at Clear Lake Lodge on January 20, 2024, Katy Lodge was awarded that honor and took home the traveling trophy. I mention this because we are at the time where we need to elect officers for the 2024-2025 Elk Year. Becoming an officer in this organization takes responsibility and commitment.

I truly understand that we all have lives and commitments outside of the Elks. Prior to taking your obligation you were told that by taking the obligation it would "in no way interfere with your duty to yourself or your family, or conflict with your religious or political opinion." While this is true, when you become an officer in this organization, there are different responsibilities. Something to consider. We need officers who take their commitment to their positions seriously. Officers are the managers of the lodge, and the lodge is a business.

The last thing I want to do is discourage people from running for an officer position. All I ask is that you assume the responsibility that comes with the position you hold. We have an Officer Training coming up on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Liberty Lodge. All officers and members wanting to become an officer are expected to attend. Believe it or not, you can get a lot out of these trainings. It would be great to have our lodge represented well at this training event.

Enough about that. Ladies and gentlemen, what can we do to get you involved in activities at the lodge? I am willing to listen to your ideas. If it is possible and has the potential to get members back to the lodge, we can try to make it happen. We need your support. I personally miss seeing a lodge full of people who joined this organization because they believed in what we do as an organization. I have not given up hope because I know we have good members with good hearts. Let us make it happen. Let us bring our lodge back to the fun, energetic lodge I know it can be. We cannot do it without our members participating.

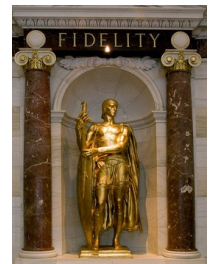
I have prayed as to whether I should send this article, but we all know it had to be said. I apologize if you are offended.

A special shout out to the volunteer of the month, David Rawlins. David has volunteered in the kitchen on a regular basis and continues to be involved. Thank you, David, for all you do.

Bring a friend to the lodge and let us show them we really are the Best People on Earth.

Yours in Elkdom,

Lowell D. "Noley" Neinast  
Exalted Ruler





## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

It's February already. That means nomination and election of Officers for the 2024 -2025 Lodge year.

Now that we are all back, it's time to get to work. We need help with recruiting new Elks, I know that there are many of you who have friends or family that would be a good fit for our wonderful organization.

Dues notices have gone out and you will notice a \$5.00 increase. This is not the fault of the Lodge it is an increase to the Grand Lodge Assessment that we are required to pay. Don't shoot the messenger.

We still need to bring in some new members and to come out and support the activities of the Lodge. We have some enthusiastic new members who are really stepping up to the plate. Please come out and support their efforts.

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 LOYAL KNIGHT

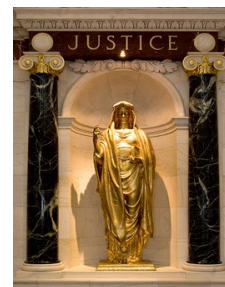
Hello my brother and Sister Elks

Well the holidays have come and gone. I hope that everyone had a great holiday seasons. The Elks year is rapidly coming to a close but we still have a few things to do. District interlodge is coming up in Clear Lake and I hope everyone will come out. It is interesting to see things done on the district level and to meet Elks from other lodges.

We have had some great events in the past few months and have more planned. If you see Cindy Harris please tell her thanks for a great job she has done with planning these events, also if you have anything in mind let her know so we can get new and fresh ideas for events. Events at the lodge is what brings us together and helps the lodge social quarters out. Last but not least if there are any problems please let me or another officer know so that we can take care of the issue.

Fraternally yours,

Loyal Knight  
Richard Novak Jr.





## FROM THE PAST EXALTED RULERS ASSOCIATION

February 2024 Tracks article from your PER Association President.  
Greetings to all our members of Houston Elks Lodge 151 and all Friends of Houston 151,

I would like to start this month's article by stating that is close to the time that all the members of your Lodge will have an opportunity to elect new Lodge officers for the Elks year 2024-2025. Being a Lodge officer requires a commitment, involves quite a bit of work but at the same time also comes with the satisfaction that you know you will be serving an organization that does good things for our veterans, active duty military personnel, first responders, kids who attend the camp at Ottine, and members of our local community. If you would like to get more involved in your Lodge run for an elected office. We encourage members who have never run for an office before to do so. If you would like to run let someone know so that they can nominate you when the time comes.

Upcoming events for February include our monthly steak night, Veterans appreciation dinner, Souper Bowl soup contest, Lodge dating game, PER fun and games, Valentines Day dinner, and another movie night. Check out the weekly what's happening eblasts and calendar for details. We are starting to see an increase in attendance at some of our events. For example there were 72 steaks cooked at the January steak night. Come on over to your Lodge and spend time with fellow Elks.

Fraternally,

Mike Betenbaugh,  
Houston Elks Lodge 151  
PER Association President.

## FROM THE LODGE SWEETHEART



Happy Valentines Elk Family!

St. Valentine was a clergyman who ministered to persecuted Christians. Originally a Christian Feast Day honoring martyr St. Valentine eventually becoming a day of courtly love to what is now Valentines Day celebrating love and romance! Many things change and we gain new perspective and meaning.

As each of us get to know The Elks organization and our fellow Elks, what we stand for and who we help, my hope is we find our moment to serve.

You need to know each minute you help and dollar you spend with the lodge helps our local community, special needs children and our veterans!

I look forward to many Sweetheart fun and games, lunches, dinners, and raffles. Let's have fun!

Thank you,

Your Sweetheart  
Troy Lynn Betenbaugh





Jim Grissom  
John Gerber  
Rachel Agriesti  
Charlene Hudson  
Dave Hall  
Mother of Sally DiPalma  
Mother of Kara Leos  
Brother of Tom Player  
Bonnie Griffies  
Sister of Martha Gutierrez  
Darlene Pullen  
Wayne Harvey, Son of Pete Harvey  
John Farley  
Robert Hood  
Kathy Hinkle  
Lynn Harris

*To our absent Brother....*  
Herbert "Herb" Hammond



# Happy Birthday!

## Birthdays for the Month of FEBRUARY

02	Frances Flor
03	Kevin W. Dunlap
	Deena Marie Ramos
05	Scott Gillentine
07	Lynda L. Greene
10	John H. Lee
	Joseph Stonecypher
11	Monique Carlisle
13	James P. Aviolii
17	Kara Gail Leos
18	Terrie Lynn Wetz
21	Robert Ybarra
22	Robert E. Hood
24	Daniel McGettrick
25	Porter D. Barnum
	Don Cullum
27	Forrest D. Long Jr.
28	Jo Ann Ortiz



## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

David Rawlings





# Upcoming Events

Watch for email and facebook updates and weekly "What's Happening"

## February 2024

- Feb. 2**      **Steak Night 6pm**
- Feb. 6**      **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**
- Feb. 9**      **Sweetheart Dinner 6pm**
- Feb. 10**     **PER Fun & Games Night 4pm**
- Feb. 11**     **Super Bowl Game with Souper Bowl Cook Off**
- Feb. 13**     **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**
- Feb. 14**     **Valentine's Day Dinner Event**
- Feb. 16**     **Movie Night 6:30pm**
- Feb. 18**     **Veteran's Appreciation Party**
- Feb. 20**     **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**
- Feb. 23**     **Fish Fry Dinner for ENF 6pm**
- Feb. 24**     **Sweetheart Painting Event w/ Lynn Harris**
- Feb. 27**     **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**

## March 2024

- Mar. 1**      **Steak Night**
- Mar. 5**      **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**
- Mar. 9**      **Officer Training at Liberty Lodge**
- Mar. 12**     **Lodge Meeting**
- Mar. 15**     **Officer Initiation 6:30pm**
- Mar. 16**     **PER Reverse Draw Dinner Party**
- Mar. 19**     **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**
- Mar. 26**     **Lodge Meeting 7:30pm**

**Wednesday Wings n Things 5pm – every Wednesday**

**BINGO 7pm (gates open at 6pm) – every Thursday**

## 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	Troy 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*

## February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 BINGO 7pm	2 Steak Night Dinner 6pm \$10	3 Hall Rental OOD
4 Memorial Service for Becky Jordan 2pm at Clear Lake Lodge Hall Rental OOD Andy M.	5 <del>Lodge Closed</del>	6 Membership Mtg 7 pm Lodge Meeting- PER NIGHT 7:30pm w/ officer nomination and PER meeting to follow	7 Wings n Things 5-6:30pm Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30pm	8 BINGO 7 pm House Committee and Board Meeting 6:30 pm	9 Sweetheart Dinner 6pm Chicken Pot Pie	10 PER Fun & Games Night 4 pm Hamburger & Fries \$10
11 Super Bowl w/ Souper Bowl Cook off (Renay B.)	12 <del>Lodge Closed</del>	13 Dinner 6pm \$11 PER Spaghetti Lodge Meeting 7:30pm w/ officer nomination & voting Tracks Deadline (Mardi Gras begins)	14 Valentines Day Dinner Party (Cindy H. chair) Baked Fish, Veg. & Potato Queen of Hearts 7:30pm drawing	15 BINGO 7pm	16 Movie Night 6:30pm (Cindy H. chair)	17 State Hoop Shoot in Dallas
18 Veteran's Appreciation Party Noon (Kara L.)	19 <del>Lodge Closed</del>	20 Lodge Meeting 7:30pm	21 Wings n Things 5-6:30pm Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30pm	22 BINGO 7pm	23 Fish Fry Dinner for ENF 6pm \$11 (Renay B.)	24 9am Ritual Certification Class in Temple Painting Like Bob Ross w/ Lynn Harris at Houston Lodge
25	26 <del>Lodge Closed</del>	27 Lodge Meeting 7:30pm	28 Wings n Things 5-6:30pm Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30pm	29 BINGO 7pm		

