



Message from the Exalted Ruler, Lowell D. Neinast

Greetings from the Exalted Ruler,

Let me start by saying how honored I am to have once again served as the Exalted Ruler of Houston Lodge #151 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

The following words are from my first article as Exalted Ruler in April of 2023.

"I am looking forward to a fun and productive year in Elksdom. I feel that we have a new officer team who are all in this for the right reasons. I am proud to be an Elk and even more proud to be a member of Houston Lodge #151. As we begin a new year, **I want to assure you that every member of this lodge is important to our existence.** I realize that not everyone wants to be involved on the officer level, and that is okay, **you are still a vital part of this lodge. Your opinion matters, as does your support for the lodge.**

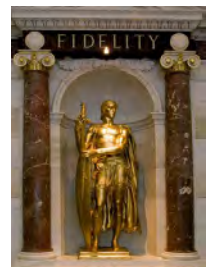
Elksdom is alive and well. The Great State of Texas is leading the way in new lodges and is continuing to grow in membership. Be proud of the obligation you took to become an Elk. Invite someone to come with you to an event at the lodge. Let us work hard to get our membership active and involved in the great programs the Elks organization offers."

None of that has changed. The State of Texas will see a positive gain in membership this year, however our lodge did not gain in membership. Folks, we must try harder. I made you a promise that I would personally bring in three new members during my year as Exalted Ruler. I brought in five new members and look forward to initiating two of my good friends in March, my last initiation as the current Exalted Ruler. There have been rumors that I would be leaving Houston at the end of my term and yes, I started this rumor. After some serious thought, I realized the Houston Lodge is where I grew up. I have more than a few reasons to stay put. I am not going to be extremely active in Houston as I am taking on a new role on the State level for the Texas Elks State Association. Starting in June, I will be the new State Membership Chair. This position, along with being on the District Deputy team, will require a lot of traveling. Please know my heart is with Houston Lodge #151 and I will continue to serve this lodge to the best of my ability. You are in good hands with your new slate of officers.

Thank you once again for allowing me the opportunity to lead our lodge for the 2023-2024 Elk Year. For my last choice for volunteer of the month, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to every member who has given their all to help our lodge this past year. As you know, the Volunteer of the month gets a parking space in front of the parking area. My volunteer of the month is all active members who have given their all to help keep our lodge going. The parking space will be a first-come first-served spot for those of you who have helped this year. God bless us all and pray for Chairty, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity.

Yours in Elksdom,

Lowell D. Neinast PER
Exalted Ruler





FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DUES, DUES, DUES. We need you.

Our new officers for 2024-2025 have been elected. Let's all plan on getting out to the Lodge and supporting them. Exalted Ruler Elect Cindie Pridy is looking for dedicated members to step up to the plate this year.

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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Trustees have been working hard all year to accomplish many great things for the Lodge and at the same time trying to keep the Lodge fiscally sound. We are now beginning to work on the 2024-2025 budget and projects for the incoming Lodge year.

The Lodge Board of Directors continue to work diligently protecting and managing the assets of the Lodge for the members of Houston #151, even with these difficult economic times.

We welcome any member to attend our regularly scheduled monthly Board of Directors and House Committee meeting to provide constructive comments and recommendations for the future success of our Lodge.. The meetings are the second Thursday of each month.

Fraternally,

Sally DiPalma PDDGER
3 Year Trustee





FROM THE LEADING KNIGHT

As the end of another Elk year arrives it's time for me to "Thank You" for the privilege of serving as your Leading Knight. While we have added many new and wonderful members to our Elk family, we have also felt the pain of saying goodbye to beloved brothers and sisters. But their virtues are written upon the tablets of love and we know we will be joined with them again when our work here is finished. Sickiness and distress seemed to be in overdrive this year so keeping our fellow Elks in our prayers is always needed.

As Elks, we can be extremely proud of the accomplishments of 2023-2024. A record-breaking amount of money was raised in Texas to support our Children's Camp in Gonzales, through grant funds Houston 151 was able to help many children in need of specialized hearing devices and custom wheelchairs, tremendously improving their quality of life. Our veteran's program saw a resurgence since the pandemic as we were able to host well attended events at the lodge. Community outreach was evident by the large turnout at the annual Easter Egg hunt and the Trunk and Treat Halloween party. Over \$13 million in scholarships will be awarded nationally to 500 high school seniors; we are waiting to hear how the six candidates Houston 151 faired.

Moving forward we need to keep our positive momentum going. Painting classes and monthly movie nights have grown in attendance but we need to continue to add fun and interesting activities for our members of all ages. Of course, our lodge is only as strong as its membership so new members are always welcome. We have a new group of excited Officers, Trustee, and appointed positions coming on board that will be installed Friday evening, March 15, 2024. Installation is at 6:30 p.m. with dinner to follow. I hope to see all of you there!

Fraternity Yours,
Cindie Pridy, Esteemed Leading Knight



Effective March 1,

Members may only write a check for the amount of the purchase.

No cash back. The Lodge has a ATM machine in the dining room.



FROM THE PAST EXALTED RULERS ASSOCIATION

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

I want to start off my last article as PER Association President by letting you all know that it has been an honor and pleasure to have served as your Lodge's PER President for 2023-2024. Best wishes to all the incoming PER officers for 2024-2025. We had a fairly successful year but did not accomplish all the goals I had in mind. We have started discussing a PER project for next year. Three items have been briefly discussed for the project, and they are an outdoor bar by the pool, new carpet throughout the Lodge or new chairs for the meeting room. More on that later.

Your PER Association's biggest fund raiser, the PER Reverse Draw is scheduled for March 16th at 6pm. Each ticket purchased comes with an Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage. There are still tickets available to purchase from any of your PER's. If you buy one from me it will come with a Grandpa Smurf autograph. There are only a total of 200 tickets to sell, so if you have not purchased yours yet see any PER. By purchasing a ticket you will be helping the PER's cover the cost of the PER project. You could win one thousand dollars at the drawing. Keep your eyes open for future events happening in March by referring to the March calendar and the weekly What's Happening e-blasts and Facebook posts.

I closing I would like to say that the day of October 31st of this year will mark 25 years ago that I was initiated into the Order. I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but over the years I have learned a lot about our Lodge and the Order of Elks. It has taken a lot of listening and patience but I can honestly say that I have enjoyed the past 25 years, and look forward to many more years at your Lodge.

I would like to sign off by borrowing a quote from John D. Rockefeller, who was the founder and long time CEO of the Standard Oil Company. This is not intended to insult or aggravate anyone, not at all. It is meant to be some food for thought. It goes as follows: "A wise old owl sat on an oak; the more he saw the less he spoke; the less he spoke the more he heard; why can't we be like that old bird?"

Fraternally,

Mike Betenbaugh PER
Houston Lodge 151 PER Association President.

FROM THE LODGE SWEETHEART



Elks Family:

Thank you all for your kind and generous hearts! It is amazing what we can do when we put ourselves out there! Since you have given your time and more, we have provided approximately 350 special needs children and children in foster care the opportunity to try new things and meet new friends at Ottine Camp. We have also gifted kids hearing aids, wheel chairs and more. Let's keep the good work going while having fun!

This Sweetheart is getting refreshed and ready to kick start with pick 10. Astros Spring Training is happening now and I say pick your top 10 teams. Let's see who can choose most accurately! Rank them all if you can.

Astros home season opener is March 28th 3:10 PM. March 28th we are drawing for the Texas Quilt donated by Gigi Hill! Thank you Gigi!

Look forward to more fun! Paint with friends!

MARK THE DATES:

Come on by and paint with friends as Lynn Harris guides us. We have Painting Like Bob Ross /Paint with a Twist Saturday March 30th starts at 2:00 PM, Sunday April 7th 1:00 PM, and Sunday April 28th 1:00 PM. All supplies and instruction are included for \$35. Snacks provided.

FUN AND GAMES is in the works! Tuesday night fun look for the races coming up!

Troy Lynn Betenbaugh
Houston 151 Sweetheart



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A Fraternal Organization

Elks Care – Elks Share

MARCH 2024



Jim Grissom
Rachel Agriesti
John Gerber
Mother of Kara Leos
Mother of Kathy Hinkle
Lynn Harris
Bonnie Griffies
Alexanne Albert
Charlene Hudson
Robert Hood
Brother of Tom Player
Sister of Renay Bennett
Pat Moffett
Cindie Pridy

To Our Absent Members ...

Hebert Hammond
Dave Hall
Mark Williams





Birthdays for the Month of MARCH

02	Douglas Plance
03	Lynn Harris
08	Alberto Olmos
10	Kay G. Cox Gerald (Jerry) Margoni
13	Richard Schneider
15	Roseanne Willis
16	Vicki Lynn Herbert
17	Chase Schaefer
20	Bruce Mills John R. Moore
21	Sally Ann DiPalma
22	Andrew C. Dice Kristen Dube
24	Michael McDonald
28	Michael J. Callahan
31	Roy J. Shepherd

Upcoming Events

MARCH

- 1 *Steak Night***
- 2 *Celebration of life service for Herb Hammond***
- 10 *Daylight Savings Time begins***
- 15 *Officer Installation 6:30pm***
- 16 *Celebration of life service for Dave Hall 10 am***
PER Reverse Draw Dinner Event 6pm
- 30 *Children's Easter Egg Hunt 10am***
Painting like Bob Ross by Lynn Harris 2pm \$35

APRIL

- 5 *Steak Night***
- 7 *Painting like Bob Ross by Lynn Harris 1pm \$35***
- 20 *Gulf Coast District Inter Lodge meeting at Houston 151***
- 21 *Gulf Coast District VP & DD Clinics at Houton 151***
- 28 *Painting like Bob Ross by Lynn Harris 1pm \$35***

Lodge Meetings every Tuesday 7:30pm

Bingo open to Everyone every Thursday -Gates open at 6pm



LODGE OFFICERS 2023- 2024

Exalted Ruler	Lowell Neinast, PER
Est. Leading Knight	Cindie Pridy
Est. Loyal Knight	Richard Novak
Est. Lecturing Knight	Jack Grabbe PER
Secretary	Jim Grissom, PDDGER SRDL
Treasurer	Joy Olmos, PDDGER
Tiler	Chris Novak
Esquire	Ramona Mishaga, PER,PFL
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

Installation of Officers 2024-2025

**Exalted Ruler Elect Cindie Pridy,
Cordially invites everyone to attend
the Installation of Officers
for Houston Lodge #151
on Friday, March 15, at 6:30 pm
Dinner will follow the Ceremony**



Saturday
March 16th

PER Reverse Raffle

Feeling
LUCKY

Come join us for a fun filled day of food, and great fellowship.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. with the drawing after dinner.

Dinner: Corn beef, cabbage, potatoes, salad and dessert
Purchase your tickets for a chance to win \$1000 from any PER. \$20.00 a ticket

Elks
HOUSTON #151

Easter Egg Hunt

March 30th



Your **HELP** is needed!

Please bring wrapped non chocolate candy to fill easter eggs for our hunt . A box for collection will be placed in the lodge beginning Tuesday February 27th. Easter is early this year and the stores are stocked now . Also start spreading the word to friends & family.



Happy Birthday Elksdom ! 156 years



The Kitchen Wizard's



Veteran's Appreciation Party



March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Steak Night Dinner 6pm \$10	2 Celebration of Life for Herb Hammond 2pm
3	4 LODGE CLOSED	5 Dinner 6pm \$11 Chicken Casserole (Ann & Renay) Membership Mtg 7pm Lodge Meeting 7:30pm w/ PER Meeting to follow	6 Wings n Things 5-6:30pm	7 BINGO 7 pm	8	9 Officer Training at Liberty Lodge
10 Daylight Savings Begins	11 LODGE CLOSED	12 Dinner 6pm \$11 PER Lasagna Lodge Meeting 7:30pm	13 Wings n Things 5-6:30pm	14 BINGO 7pm House Committee and Board Meeting 6:30 pm	15 Officer Installation 6:30 pm	16 Celebration of Life for Dave Hall 10 am PER Reverse Draw Dinner Party 6pm \$20 Corn Beef n Cabbage
17 	18 LODGE CLOSED	19 Lodge Meeting 7:30pm Tracks Deadline	20 Wings n Things 5-6:30pm	21 BINGO 7pm	22	23 Sweetheart Retreat at Ottine Hall Rental 1pm OOD Ramona
24 Palm Sunday	25 LODGE CLOSED	26	27 Wings n Things 5-6:30pm	28 BINGO 7pm	29 Good Friday	30 Childrens Easter Egg Hunt 10am
31 Lodge Closed 	PER Annual DINNER PARTY 6pm	Lodge Meeting 7:30pm				Painting like Bob Ross w/ Lynn Harris 2pm

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