

Elk Call

Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity
August 2025

Navasota Lodge #2888

8949 S Business 6, Navasota, Texas 77868

www.navasotaelks.org



A Fraternal Organization

From our Exalted Ruler...

Greetings Navasota Elks,

Things are really starting to heat up here in Navasota. Summer is in full swing with the heat index climbing, our herd is seeing a very nice growth spurt, and best of all, plans are reaching their apex with the lodge construction! In case you haven't heard, we finally received Right-of-Way approval from TX Dot, which allows us to begin construction on the water main for the sprinkler system. This is the last big hurdle to jump in order for us to receive our occupancy permit and finally be able to Open for Business! How exciting is that?! Construction is set to begin on Aug. 4th, with plans to be completed in a couple weeks. Although there is still much work to be done as we move forward, we will now be able to write our own story, not having to depend solely on dreams, prayers and borrowed money. What an exciting time to be a member of the Navasota Elks!

With that being the case, it is imperative that we begin to shift our focus to completing the Grand Lodge Programs, getting out and serving our community with our Elks Veterans Program, Youth Activities, Drug Awareness Program (DAP), Americanism, and over-all being a positive reflection of the Elks and the community. Quoting our Grand Exalted Ruler, "Remember, you are what you are perceived to be, so let's 'BE THE DIFFERENCE.'" We also have 4 Grants available to share with the community, the Gratitude, Freedom, Beacon and Spotlight grants, totaling \$12,000.00! Let's get out there and identify those needs and get them fulfilled. If you'd like to know more about the grants, and who is eligible, simply go to <https://www.elks.org/cip/>. There you can learn all you need to know about how to apply and share with the community.

We have so much to look forward to here in Navasota, our future is very bright. It's going to take every one of us to pull together and make this lodge one of, if not the, very best in Texas. Although, keep in mind, the more the merrier, so let's get out there, introduce ourselves and bring in some new members!

Please make every effort to come to the meetings and events. We're growing and you don't want to miss it! It's also where you'll find out what's going on and how you can take part.



Before I close, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize this Fantastic Team of Elks! At the beginning of the month tragedy struck the hill country, affecting many of our Elks family, as well as the entire community. Being the Elks we are, we stepped up and made a difference by raising funds and donating needed items for the Families, First Responders, Search and Rescue personnel, and everyone who was impacted. This makes my heart, and the heart of Elkdom, swell and throb. Thank You All for being you, for being a part of this lodge, and living the motto, "Elks Care, Elks Share"!

I want to shout out a special Thank You to Louis and Nancy Vidotto for helping to organize and package the goods, and graciously volunteering to load and haul the trailer, and deliver the goods to the Kerrville Lodge. Your hearts are on full display, and I'm proud to have y'all represent the Navasota Elks!

*"The faults of our members we write upon the sand,
their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory"*

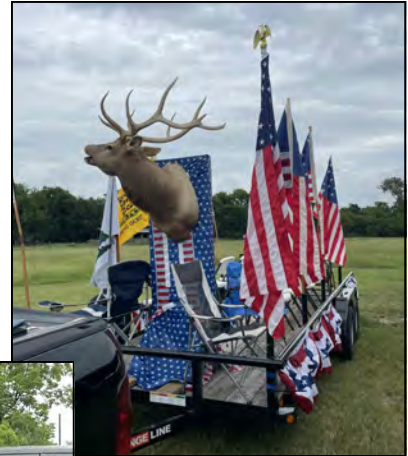
**Darrin L. Van Dell
Exalted Ruler
Navasota Elks #2888**

Fidelity



Freedom Fest and Fourth of July Parade

Great turn out and 4 spots for Navasota in Parade, thanks to all who came out and participated!



Welcome New Members!



Bill Leese, Iris Abernathy,
Margie Davison, Rhene Demontigny



Andrew Davison, Mac Vaughn, Susan Demontigny



Kirsten Leese, Barbara Rizzo, Barbara Young

Your House Committee Needs Help!

As we get closer to opening, we realize we don't have what we need for the bar. If you have any bar related items (non-liquid) that you would donate, please let us know at hcnelkslodge2888@gmail.com. We have some glassware and 3 shakers. Please let us know as soon as possible. THANK YOU!

Beth Leopold
House Committee Chair
Navasota Elks Lodge #2888
hcnelkslodge2888@gmail.com

HC members: Joel Henenberg, Jo Kelley, Beth Leopold, Calandra Van Dell, and Helen Van Dien
Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



The Elks Hoop Shoot is a free throw contest for children from 8-13. It is free to all contestants and provides an opportunity for youth to compete, connect and succeed through hard work and healthy competition. Please start talking with youth now about this event and help to promote our youth at the national competition. For more info contact Evonne, 979-204-2661.

A break out session for all who are interested in helping with Hoop Shoot this year will be held at Interlodge on Saturday, August 2 at Navasota Elks #2888.



Veterans Committee CrockPot Cook-Off August 28, 2025

As you are already aware, dinner is available on Thursday Lodge Meeting nights. Tickets are sold each week when meetings are held for \$10/person. The Committee that hosts these meals will receive those funds for their committee, minus 20% to cover the cost of items used for serving. On Thursday, August 28, the Veterans Committee will host a Crock-Pot Cook-Off. Enter your best CrockPot dish for \$15, which also includes your meal for that evening. Attendees will judge the meal. Prizes for Best Dish, Best Looking Dish, and most Flavorful Dish will be awarded. For more information and to get registered, contact Karen Cook at kalmcook@bellsouth.net or by text at (706) 853-9449.

If your committee would like to host a meal for the Lodge on a meeting night, contact House Committee Chair Beth Leopold at hcnelkslodge2888@gmail.com, or any other member of the House Committee to confirm that a date you might want is available.

LODGE MEETINGS

will be held this month on
August 14 and August 28
with Social Hour and Meal (\$10) at 6 p.m.,
followed by meeting at 7 p.m.

***Get active in your Lodge!
Please make every effort to attend!***



8/04	Jeff Hampton
8/10	Iris Abernathy
8/14	Tanya Tullos
8/30	Mitchell Pratho



Hello Fellow Elks!

Red Pig is solely from our members and guests, whether it be you filling a pig on your own, writing a check to donate, or dropping change/cash in the pig banks at the lodge. There are a few Red Pigs at the lodge and will be more coming when we open. Donations were down by 70% in Red Pig this last year than we did the year before. Please remember to bring your filled Red Pig!

Challenge Coins are still available. We have them marked down to \$12 from \$20 to get these sold. Get with me at meetings or message me and I can mail them to you.

On June 13 we dropped two new styles of hats with either Texas or American flag. These are posted on the Lodge Facebook page as well as the "Follow the Herd" shirts. All the proceeds go to Sweethearts to help fund our camp. The items are \$22 each. Just like the challenge coins, I can mail them. Just need shipping info to get the shipping cost.



HOMECOMING is one of the biggest event/fundraisers of the year for Sweethearts. It is September 19-20 at the camp in Ottine, Texas. We'll have a live auction along with lodge table to sell things, play games, etc. to raise money. Our lodge's live auction item this year is AWESOME! Sweetheart Committee has completed the item. We just need a few items to complete our item with some bottles of good spirits to be included on the cart. If you purchase a spirit, you can bring it to the lodge or make a monetary donation and we will shop for those items. We'd like for you to include a recipe of your favorite beverage made with the spirit to put in a drink recipe book. If you have any favorite food recipes, feel free to add that as well! Payment options are shown at the bottom of this article if you prefer to make a donation.

Our table is pretty much set with the items I will be making, the beautiful Elk art that my wonderful committee member Jo Kelley made. Raffle tickets for "Elk Moon" are available now through Homecoming. 1 ticket = \$5, 12 tickets = \$10, or a stretch of 32 tickets for \$20. Ticket sales start now and will be available through Homecoming. You need not be present to win.



The help we need with our table is simple. Lottery tickets and any gift cards in any amount (\$5 or above from anywhere) for a money tree as a raffle. Please bring these to any of the lodge meetings that you may be attending. If I am not there to collect them, our ER Darrin, Nancy our Secretary, or any Sweetheart Committee members can take them. This project is so important as it is the Texas State major project. All funds raised at the table and from live auction go to the Children's camp.



Calandra Van Dell
Sweetheart
Navasota Lodge #2888
cvandell48@gmail.com

*pay options for donation (please indicate in notes what you are donating for)
Venmo~ @Calandra-VanDell (last 4 digits of ph# 3081)
Cashapp~ \$CalandraVanDell
FBpay through messenger (I am listed as Calandra Van Dell on facebook)
Paypal @cvandell48@gmail.com (please friends and family only)
Business Square, will just need your phone number to send you a link.



As a lodge our membership is small, but a large percentage of our members support ENF. This year (2025-2026) Navasota is currently number 3 of 60 in the state with average per member giving at \$10.89/member. That also puts us at number 35 of 2,200 in the nation.

Our membership is growing. I will continue to ask new members for their support so that we can keep our percentage of participation up.

I also ask that any current members not contributing to ENF, please consider doing so. You can donate online or simply bring a contribution to the lodge and I will submit it for you. Of course, current contributors can also consider adding an additional monthly or one-time contribution.

In 2025-2026, ENF has budgeted over \$48 million to Community Investments programs, State Elks Association Grants, Scholarship programs, Veteran Service program, Hoop Shoot, and Drug Awareness program. Our lodge can benefit from every one of these programs.

I have tickets for sale for the Loyal Knight Justice Bike. Come see me at the next lodge meeting!

Do you contribute to the Elks National Foundation? What if you could donate without having to think about it? Well, you can! Enroll today and become a member of the Fidelity Club—the ENF’s monthly giving program. If you have already become a member of the Fidelity Club, please consider an increase in your gift for the 2025-26 year.

Find out more about how your donation will benefit our Lodge by clicking on the link below.

[Secure.elks.org/FidelityClub](https://secure.elks.org/FidelityClub)



Jeff Van Dien
Elks National Foundation (ENF)
Committee Chair
Navasota Elks #2888 2 Year Trustee



Our Lodge is currently collecting school supplies to be included in our annual BackPack Give Away. Items needed are:

- Spiral Notebooks, single subject, wide ruled
- 24-count crayons
- Pink erasers
- #2 pencils
- Note paper 100 count, wide ruled



The times and specific locations of each give away will be announced soon for Navasota, August 5th; Plantersville, August 6th; and Bedias, August 7th. **Volunteers are needed to help with distribution, and to spread the word about Navasota Elks.**

A drop-off box is located in the Lodge for donations. Thank you!

Thank You to our Lodge Sponsors



Sponsors are included each month in our newsletter for the '25-'26 lodge year. Talk to those businesses in your area and invite them to become sponsors. A one year membership and one year advertising in our newsletter is included in sponsorship. To find out how your business or businesses in the area can become a sponsor and be included in the newsletter, please contact Christine Gomez, Membership Committee Chair at 281-467-3046.

If you are currently a member of Navasota Lodge #2888, own your own business and your membership dues are in good standing, your business can become a Lodge Sponsor for the 2025-2026 year.



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President
Licensed Agent



Bert Miller
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Please support our Lodge Sponsors!

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**2025-2026
Committee Chairs**

Exalted Ruler
Darrin L. Van Dell

Leading Knight
Jeff Hampton

Loyal Knight
Louis Vidotto

Lecturing Knight
Robert Kilpatrick

1 Year Trustee
Karen Cook

2 Year Trustee
Jeff Van Dien

3 Year Trustee
Kaisha Hampton

Secretary
Nancy Vidotto

Treasurer
Helen Van Dien

Esquire
Evonne Bellis

Chaplain
Mary Suzanne Neal

Inner Guard
David D. Tullos

Tiler
Andrew Cook

Accident Prevention
Jeff Van Dien

Activities
Karen Cook

Americanism
Karen Cook

Audit and Accounting
Robert Miller

Community Projects
TBD

Drug Awareness
Jerry Henenberg

Elks Memorial Day
Helen Van Dien

Elks National Foundation
Jeff Van Dien

Flag Day
Karen Cook

Fraternal
TBD

Government Relations
Darrin L. Van Dell

Grant Coordinator
Kaisha Hampton

Hoop Shoot
Evonne Bellis

House Committee
Beth Leopold

Lodge Activities
TBD

Membership
Christine Gomez

PER Association
Kaisha Hampton

Public Relations
TBD

Ritualistic
Mike Hobbs

Soccer Shoot
Evonne Bellis

Standing Relief
TBD

State Major Projects
Calandra Van Dell

Veterans Service
Karen Cook

Youth Activities
Evonne Bellis

Webmaster
Joel Henenberg

Newsletter Editor
Jo Kelley



Find us on Facebook

Navasota Elks Lodge #2888

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/221595737089774>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Interlodge at Navasota 2888 8 am - 3pm
3	4 Ritual Training 6 pm TESA Membership via Zoom 7pm	5 Secretary Training via Zoom - 7 m Grimes County BackPacks 10 am - 1 pm	6 House Committee at Lodge 5:45 pm Plantersville BackPacks 4-6 pm	7	8 Bedias Back to School Event 4 - 6 pm	9
10	11 Ritual Training 6 pm	12	13 PER Meeting 6:30 pm	14 Lodge Dinner/Social Hour 6 pm (Sweetheart Comm) Lodge Meeting 7 pm	15	16
17	18 Ritual Training 6 pm	19	20 BoD Meeting 6:30 pm	21	22	23
24	25 Ritual Training 6 pm	26 Lodge Membership Meeting via Zoom 7 pm	27	28 Lodge Dinner Crockpot Cook Off/Social Hour 6 pm (Veterans Comm) Lodge Meeting 7 pm	29	30
31						



Working for our businesses.
936-825-6600
navasotagrimeschamber.com

Find the Grimes County Chamber calendar of events at their website.