

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,

Seems like just a few weeks ago we were talking about school being out, now here it is back in session for the fall. Time certainly seems to be flying by these days. With that same thought in mind, the end of September will mark one year since we made the purchase of our new lodge home. Wow, that's just unbelievable! I know we haven't made it to the point we thought we'd be by this time, "Open" that is, however things are looking up. After finally getting the Right-of-Way approval from the TXDOT, the underground work has been completed, with only the tie-in's and testing to be performed. Then, we can finally request our occupancy permit and look at opening. Exciting and nervous times! Hopefully we can be open by our purchase anniversary on Sept. 30th. I can't thank the team enough for their 'stick-to-it-ive-ness' and commitment to seeing us become fully operational and ready to serve our community to the fullest! THIS IS OUR MONTH....I CAN FEEL IT!

In the meantime, we have several things coming up. One that we can for sure utilize to continue building our membership is on Saturday, Sept. 13th, we will be hosting our very first Soccer Shoot at the lodge. I'm excited to invite the community out to participate and get to know us. We'll certainly need as many members on hand as possible, so please make plans to be there and have fun with the contestants and families. At some point we'll be having our soft opening, which could be another chance to involve the community, introduce them to our home and welcome them in to the herd. Sept. 18th -20th is Homecoming at the Texas Elks Special Needs Children's Camp in Ottine, TX, located in Palmetto State Park. If you've never been, you've been missing out. This is our big fund raiser for the camp, full of fun, games, cook-off's, raffles, a live auction and much more.... It's a Wonderful time to meet with like minded Texas Elks, see old friends and make new ones. I hope to see many of you there.

I'm so excited about this Wonderful Herd, all the good we've done, and all the good we're going to do moving forward. There are many needs in our community and we, as Elks, have so much to share. With that in mind, let's focus on the available grants and get some needs met!

As always, THANK YOU for allowing me to be a part of this herd of Outstanding Elks! I am so humbled and proud to serve you all.

*"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 Lodge #2888

Fidelity



A Note from Our Treasurer

Greetings Fellow Elks,

We are entering the most exciting time in the life of our Lodge. We should have our occupancy permit and be open for business before the end of this month. Just as soon as we receive the occupancy permit, we will be opening the bar Thursday through Saturday from 4pm to 9pm. Please show up and show your support.

While this is an exciting time, it is also a scary time. Over the next month, we will be paying out the majority of the remaining funds from the FTET grant for the water line extension, sprinkler final, plumbing hook-up to the new meter and bar inventory.

Now we have to work together to keep this Lodge open. It's already past time to start planning some fund-raising events that support the Lodge, but we've got to get going. I am more than happy to assist anyone that is willing to head up a fund-raising event.

At the last meeting, I had copies of the Lodge Budget and Building Budget for member's review. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding these budgets or Lodge finances in general.

Helen Van Dien
Treasurer
Navasota Elks Lodge #2888

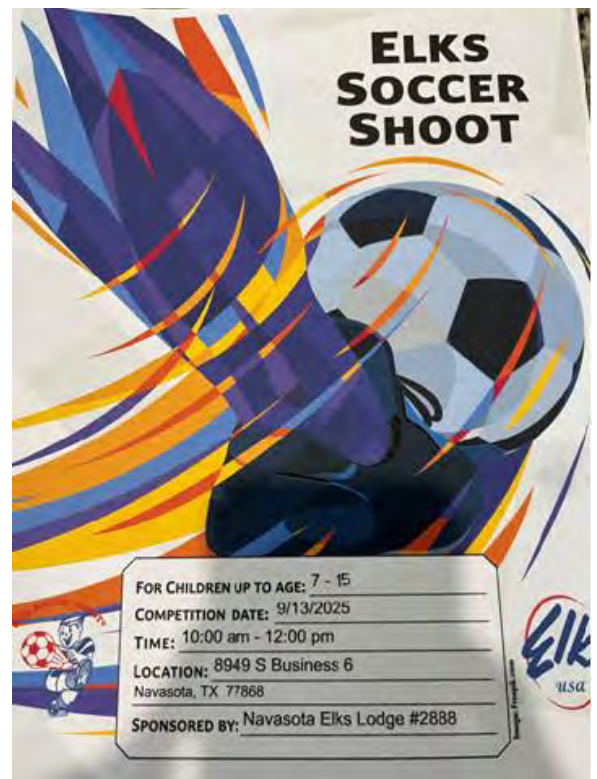


Hey, Kids! ***Elks Soccer Shoot*** ***at Navasota Lodge #2888***

Join us at the lodge on Saturday, September 13, 2025 for Soccer Shoot! This program is open to all youth ages 7-15 years, and all skill levels. You could move on in the series and have the opportunity to win scholarship money.

Volunteers are needed to work this event. For more info and to get signed up, contact Evonne, 979-204-2661.

Elks Care - Elks Share



Your House Committee Update

We've begun stocking the bar and getting more kitchen items. Our **House Hours will be Thursday – Saturday from 4 pm until 9 pm**. We may stay open longer if we have active customers or we may close a bit earlier if we don't.

We need to have a bartender during our open hours, so please send us your TABC certifications if you'd like to help out and keep the bar open. We'll have a bulletin board with our hours posted, along with the new House Rules. We may need to amend both as we grow. We're working on some "signature" drinks so send us some good recipes. Cheers!!

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.

Elks Hoop Shoot will be held at 10 am on October 18, 2025 at Rock Gym in Navasota.



9/02	Davis Use	9/19	Jessica Krouse
9/03	Evonne Bellis	9/25	Kirsten Leese
9/09	Courtney Blair	9/26	Mike Kelley
9/09	Andrew Pendleton	9/26	Donald Wesley
9/16	Brian Slesnick	9/29	Jeff Van Dien

LODGE MEETINGS

will be held this month on
September 11 and September 25
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!



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 just weeks away! This is 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 be set with the items I will be making, and the beautiful Elk art, a diamond art piece, that my committee member Jo Kelley made. Raffle tickets for "Elk Moon" are available now at the Lodge 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 any of these bring these items 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 (Christine Gomez, Helen Van Dien, Jo Kelley, Evonne Bellis) 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 Elks 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.

PER Association Fund Raiser

Help us to raise the American Flag outside our new home!

All proceeds go to the purchase and installation of our first flagpole.

HENRY 30-30 COLOR CASE HARDENED LEVER ACTION RIFLE

ONLY 250 TICKETS SOLD!

DRAWING TO BE HELD

DECEMBER 11, 2025



MSRP \$989.99

Tickets \$20

Contact (text or call) any Past Exalted Ruler below for tickets:

Kaisha Hampton: (979) 777-4307; Darrin L. Van Dell: (608) 322-8820
Larry Baughman: (979) 777-4308; Mike Hobbs: (714) 318-9371
Christine Gomez: (281) 467-3046; John Gomez: (832) 675-4493
Robert Miller: (346) 337-7744; John Gray: (956) 454-8803





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.

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)

I have tickets for sale for the Loyal Knight Justice Bike. Come see me at the next lodge meeting! Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

FUNDRAISER
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION
2024
Harley-Davidson
BREAKOUT I17
CUSTOM LOYAL KNIGHT JUSTICE BIKE
DONATION: TICKETS ARE \$10 EACH OR 3 FOR \$25
SPEAK TO YOUR LODGE ENF CHAIR OR CONTACT TEXAS STATE ENF CHAIR DAVID ZINDT FOR TICKETS
DRAWING TO BE HELD OCTOBER 25TH, 2025
Winner responsible for all applicable taxes, title fees and license requirements. Proceeds not be credited to win.



Jeff Van Dien
Elks National Foundation (ENF)
Committee Chair
Navasota Elks Lodge #2888 2 Year Trustee
jtvandien@gmail.com or (940) 230-1446

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
2011-2012-2013-2014
2015-2016-2017-2018-2019
2020-2021-2022-2023-2024

Please support our Lodge Sponsors!

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**2025-2026
Lodge Officers**

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



**2025-2026
Committee Chairs**

Activities <i>Karen Cook</i>	House Committee <i>Beth Leopold</i>
Americanism <i>Karen Cook</i>	Lodge Activities <i>TBD</i>
Audit and Accounting <i>Robert Miller</i>	Membership <i>Christine Gomez</i>
Community Projects <i>Nancy Vidotto</i>	PER Association <i>Kaisha Hampton</i>
Drug Awareness <i>Jerry Henenberg</i>	Public Relations <i>Robert Miller</i>
Elks Memorial Day <i>Helen Van Dien</i>	Ritualistic <i>Mike Hobbs</i>
Elks National Foundation <i>Jeff Van Dien</i>	Soccer Shoot <i>Evonne Bellis</i>
Flag Day <i>Karen Cook</i>	Standing Relief <i>Darrin Van Dell</i>
Fraternal <i>Louis Vidotto</i>	State Major Projects <i>Calandra Van Dell</i>
Government Relations <i>Darrin L. Van Dell</i>	Veterans Service <i>Karen Cook</i>
Grant Coordinator <i>Kaisha Hampton</i>	Youth Activities <i>Evonne Bellis</i>
Hoop Shoot <i>Evonne Bellis</i>	Webmaster <i>Joel Henenberg</i>
	Newsletter Editor <i>Jo Kelley</i>



Find us on Facebook

Navasota Elks Lodge #2888

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6 Ritual @ Houston Lodge #151 8:30 am
7	8 TESA Membership via Zoom 7pm	9	10 PER Meeting 6:30 pm House Comm 5:30 pm at Lodge	11  Lodge Dinner/ Social Hour 6 pm Lodge Meeting 7 pm	12	13 Soccer Shoot 10am-12pm At Lodge
14	15 Ritual Training 6 pm	16	17 BoD Meeting 6:30 pm	18-20 HOMECOMING AT CAMP OTTINE September 19-20		
21	22 Ritual Training 6 pm	23	24	25 Lodge Dinner/ Social Hour 6 pm Lodge Meeting 7 pm	26	27
28	29 Ritual Training 6 pm	30				



Working for our businesses.

936-825-6600

navasotagrimeschamber.com

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