



The Elks Brief

Denison Lodge 238

Celebrating 134 years. 1892-2026

Official Publication of the Denison Elks Lodge #238 BPOE USA

A Fraternal Organization

February '26 Edition

[Click here to go to Lodge 238](#)

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Downtown Lodge

903-465-9610

301 W Gandy St. Denison, Texas 75020

Lakesite Social Quarters and RV Campground

903-786-2487

298 Elks Blvd. Pottsboro, Texas 75076



"So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Progress in Motion Update

As we move further into the new year, the steady work of strengthening Lodge 238 continues. Progress is happening because members are showing up, asking questions, and helping move the Lodge forward together.

At our January Lodge meeting, members approved updated bylaws and house rules. These now head to the Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee for review and final approval. Until that process is complete, our regular Lodge meetings will continue to be held at the Downtown Lodge. This step represents real momentum and reflects the care being taken to ensure our rules support how the Lodge operates today.

In early February, work is scheduled to address an issue with our septic system. This repair targets one of two potential problem areas and is intended to improve overall function. Because the cost fell within the Board's approval authority, it did not require a floor reading. We'll continue to monitor the outcome and keep members informed as we learn more.

We've also received bids related to repairs to the flagpole and resetting dock pins (poles supporting the dock) in response to requests from the Army Corps of Engineers. These items are still under review, and updates will be shared as they become available. We hope to see progress by next month's Elks Brief.

Members may notice some pricing adjustments at the Social Quarters in the coming weeks. These changes are part of a broader effort to better align pricing with current costs and expenses. This work is about building healthier operations so the Lodge can remain strong and sustainable long term.

Transparency remains a priority. Going forward, Board of Directors meeting agendas will be posted at least three days in advance on the door of the green trailer. Minutes from the prior Board meeting will also be posted, giving all members easy access to information and helping everyone stay connected to what's happening.

February is also an important month for Lodge elections. Nominations will be taken at our regular Lodge meeting on February 11, with elections held at the February 25 meeting. Both meetings will take place at our downtown Denison Lodge location.

Progress like this doesn't happen on its own—it happens because members stay engaged and involved. As we keep moving forward, continued participation and shared effort will ensure Lodge 238 remains active, welcoming, and positioned for a strong future.



2025-2026 SWEETHEART Tabitha Lenard

A Message of Hope ❤️

Every child deserves the chance to live their best life and to feel valued, supported, and celebrated. This Valentine's Day weekend, you can help provide the most meaningful gift of all—the gift of opportunity. Through your generosity, we are able to support essential services such as educational programs that make a real difference in the lives of our Sweetheart children.

February 13 • Dinner at 6:00 PM

Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and a special Valentine's dessert. \$15 per dinner includes one free Jeep ticket.

Semi-casual evening with a Black Hat Competition (any black hat—ball cap, cowboy, top hat, mafia, etc.), 50/50, guess-the-amount candy jar, and other activities.

Please come support our Sweetheart children—they truly appreciate all that we do for them. ❤️

A Word from the Board

January concluded with a week-long winter weather event that caused property damage, including to some porches and carports. Fortunately, no injuries were reported. The Lodge is grateful that everyone remained safe, and we wish our members well as they assess and address any damage.

During the storm, many members and neighbors stepped up to help one another—running errands to grocery stores and pharmacies and checking in on those who were homebound while roads were unsafe. That willingness to look out for each other reflects the very best of who we are as a lodge and as a community.

As we move into February, members are encouraged to review the calendar for upcoming events and activities. Additional activities that arise throughout the month will be shared on Facebook. Nominations and voting for officer positions will also take place this month, and member participation is strongly encouraged as we look ahead to the next lodge year.

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A Word from the Board (cont.)

February is also an exciting time for our Hoop Shoot program, with regional and state competitions approaching. Hoop Shoot continues to be one of our most meaningful youth programs, and we wish our participants the very best as they advance.

Fraternally yours,
Board of Directors

A Word from the Secretary

We made it through January—despite closures and some truly extreme weather—and we couldn't have done it without one another. Our membership and community really showed up, reminding us just how strong we are when we come together. While there's still important work ahead and help is needed, we have deep faith in our incredible volunteers and know that, together, we'll find our way back to 100%.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged our bartenders as we adjusted to the new social quarters hours. Your kindness and positive feedback have meant so much and truly lifted their spirits.

Our amazing Board attended Interlodge in Dallas this month, and the training was inspiring. We returned energized, with a clear plan and renewed confidence in what we can accomplish. The message was clear: we can and will give back and grow—but we need more helping hands to make it happen.

A heartfelt thank-you to Mike Burg and Ashley Augustine for organizing an exciting upcoming auction benefiting our Veterans—we're so grateful for your dedication and can't wait for this wonderful event. Thank you as well to our Sweetheart, Tabitha Lenard, for hosting our upcoming Valentine's Day celebration on February 13.

We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to our Lot Lease holders for coming together and supporting one another during the weather shutdown. Your unity and care truly reflect the spirit of our community.

February is shaping up to be something special, and we're so excited to share it with you. We can't wait to see you at our upcoming events and continue building something amazing—together.

Jennifer Skitt
Secretary
(469) 704-7503



An Open Letter from our Treasurer

Brothers and Sisters,

I want to take a few minutes to clear up a common misunderstanding about how this Lodge operates and why our financial goals matter. This is a letter I read on the floor in our January 14 Lodge meeting.

We are a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization—but that does not mean the Lodge is “tax-free.”

Our tax exemption applies to our fraternal and charitable purpose, such as member dues and approved charitable activities. It does not mean we are exempt from taxes related to business operations or property ownership.

When the Lodge operates a bar or restaurant, we are engaging in commercial activity, similar to any other food-and-beverage operation. Under federal and state law, that activity is taxable regardless of how the proceeds are ultimately used. In addition, the Lodge is required to:

- Pay alcohol-related taxes
- Pay payroll taxes on employees
- Pay real estate taxes on Lodge property
- Pay personal property taxes on taxable equipment and assets

In short: We are tax-exempt as a fraternal organization.

We are not tax-exempt as a business or property owner.

Now, this brings me to the second—and equally important—point: the Lodge must make money.

There is a belief that because we are nonprofit, our goal should be to break even. That sounds responsible, but in practice it guarantees stagnation. Breaking even means we can maintain what already exists—but nothing more. It means:

- No new buildings
- No major road repairs
- No major improvements
- No meaningful upgrades to infrastructure
- No long-term planning

Most importantly, breaking even means no reserves.

(Continued on the next page...)

An Open Letter from our Treasurer (cont.)

We have already experienced flooding and serious property damage. Those events are not theoretical, and they will happen again. If our goal is to constantly end the year at zero, we are completely unprepared for emergencies when they occur. That puts the Lodge, its property, and its future at risk.

Generating a surplus—what people commonly call a profit—is not money going into anyone’s pocket.

It is how we:

- Reinvest in Lodge property
- Pay unavoidable taxes and rising costs
- Save for major repairs and future disasters
- Protect the long-term value of what we own

Making money is not contrary to our mission. It is how we sustain it.

A Lodge that only breaks even slowly falls behind. A Lodge that plans responsibly can improve, grow, and continue serving its members for generations.

This explanation is not about preference or politics. It is about reality, responsibility, and protecting the future of this Lodge. I hope this explanation was helpful in better understanding our business operations.

Chris Brown

Treasurer

(214) 883-7723

A Special Thank You

We would like to take a moment to thank two volunteers who went above and beyond in January. Susan Filtrante has been instrumental in her work with the Lot Lease and Membership teams, and Veronica Buten worked diligently to prepare our 2026 grants. A huge thank you to you both for your dedication and hard work!

Fraternally yours,
Board of Directors

Committee Descriptions & Vacancies

On the following page, you'll see a visual overview of our committee chairs. Those highlighted in green represent positions that have recently been filled—an encouraging sign of progress. Chairs highlighted in red remain open and still need volunteers. Each month, we will spotlight a few of these open roles so members can better understand where help is needed.

Americanism Committee

Promotes patriotism and respect for our nation's traditions through programs that honor the flag, support veterans and active-duty military, and encourage civic responsibility. [**Americanism Manual**](#)

Elks National Foundation (ENF) Committee

Supports and promotes the charitable programs of the Elks National Foundation, including scholarships, youth initiatives, veterans services, and community grants. We are seeking a volunteer to chair this committee and help coordinate amongst the affiliated subcommittees.

Standing Relief Committee

Provides support and assistance to members and their families in times of need, coordinating aid, resources, and outreach to ensure that no Elk is left without help during emergencies or hardship. We are currently seeking a volunteer to chair this Committee for when the need arises—like our recent winter storm.

Membership Committee

Focuses on recruiting, engaging, and retaining members and promoting the benefits of Elks membership. We are currently seeking a volunteer to help coordinate with prospective new members via email and guide them through the application process using pre-made templates.

Fraternal Committee

Promotes fellowship and camaraderie among members by planning social events and programs that strengthen friendships and foster a welcoming lodge environment. [**Lodge Activities Manual**](#)

Accident Prevention Committee

Promotes safety within the lodge and at lodge-sponsored events by identifying hazards, recommending precautions, and educating members on accident prevention and safe practices. [**Accident Prevention Manual**](#)

Please consider volunteering for one of these open positions.

Exalted Ruler

Gene Handeland

Esteemed Leading Knight

Jamey Lenard

Esteemed Loyal Knight

Tabitha Lenard

Esteemed Lecturing Knight

Dan Kovach

Secretary

Jennifer Skitt

Treasurer

Chris Brown

Esquire

Open

Tiler

Open

Inner Guard

Steve Hejny

5-Yr Trustee

Larry Wilford

4-Yr Trustee

Carlos Murillo

3-Yr Trustee

Rick Berube

2-Yr Trustee

Michael Taylor

1-Yr Trustee

John Dooley

Chaplain

Josh Cole

Auditing & Accounting:

Open

Activities Committee

Ashley Augustine

Community Projects

Subcommittee

Open

Youth Activities Subcommittee

Jim Magellas

Larry & Jana Wilford

Steve Hejny

Hoop Shoot Subcommittee

Rick Berube

Stacie Hargrove

Drug Awareness

Subcommittee

Open

Fraternal Committee

Open

Americanism Subcommittee

Susan Filtrante

Elks National Foundation

Subcommittee

Open

Flag Day Subcommittee

Open

Elks Memorial Day

Subcommittee

Open

Membership Committee

Chris Brown

Jamey Lenard

Susan Filtrante

Jennifer Skitt

Veterans Services

Subcommittee

Michael & Rebekah Berg

Accident Prevention

Subcommittee

Open

PER Association

Gene Handeland

Standing Relief Subcommittee

Open

Public Relations

Open

Ritualistic Subcommittee

Jack Duncan

Soccer Shoot Subcommittee

Open

Government Relations

Subcommittee

Open

State Major Project

Subcommittee

Open

Bulletin Editor

Chris Brown

Scholarship Committee

Stacie Hargrove

House Committee

Mike Mutchler

Sweetheart

Tabitha Lenard

Interlodge Chairman

Open

Grant Coordinator

Veronica Buten

Proposed for Membership

Veronica Ashley Harper
Jeffrey Wayne Ashley
Dennis Keith Wade
Robert Weis
Kellye Keitz
Lou Ann Obrero
Stephen Montgomery
Dennis Dougherty
Quinn Zachary Knight

Welcome New Membership

Brian Lee Gatewood
Shawna Kay Lively
Wayne DeGroat
Dawn Wilha
William Wilha

Lodge of Sorrow

Nothing to report at this time.

Birthdays

01 Nicole Brown
01 Billy Halterman
02 Sidney Laub
02 Robert Spence
03 Penny Stapp
04 David Langfitt
04 Robert Wilson
05 James Helm
05 Eddie Wagoner
06 Robert Fahey

06 Carlos Murillo
07 D'Ann Banister
08 Ray Maine
10 Tara Stevens
13 Todd Lewis
13 Joe Newsom
15 James Gorman
15 Thomas Maddock
15 Cory Taylor
18 Thomas Brown

19 John Dewey
19 Charles Matthews
20 Melissa Bowen
20 James Brown
20 Carolyn Morris
21 LeeAnn Branum
22 Brandy Earnhart
23 Tamie Pedraza
23 Cindy Summers
24 Bruce Skinner

Lakesite Social Quarters

February 2026

(903) 786-2487

Hours: Mon-Wed 6p-10p | Thur 6p-11p | Fri 6p-12a | Sat 6p-1a

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CLOSED 1	2	3	4 Game Night	5 Darts 7pm	6 Orientation Lakesite 6pm LRC Game 7pm	7
CLOSED 8	9 House Meeting Social Quarters Lakesite 6pm	10 BOD Meeting Green Trailer Lakesite 6pm	11 CLOSED Lodge Meeting Downtown 7:00pm	12 Darts 7pm	13 Sweetheart Valentine's Dinner 6pm LRC Game 7pm	14
CLOSED 15	16	17	18 Game Night	19 Darts 7pm	20 LRC Game 7pm	21 Country Night Potluck Dinner 6pm (sign up in SQ)
CLOSED 22	23	24	25 CLOSED Lodge Meeting Downtown 7:00pm	26 Darts 7pm	27 LRC Game 7pm	28

SWEETHEART VALENTINE'S *Celebration*

**13 FEB
2026**

**ITALIAN DINNER
50/50 - CANDY JAR
MONEY BOUQUET
Fun Starts at 6pm
BLACK HAT COMPETITION**

Ticket

\$15

Dinner purchase includes a Jeep Raffle Ticket

HOW TO REACH US

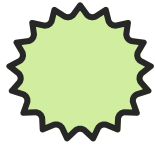
DON'T HESITATE TO ASK US ANYTHING!



FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING LOT LEASES OR ELK PROPERTY
DENSION238LOTLEASE@GMAIL.COM



FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING CAMPGROUND, DOCK OR BEACH
DENSION238CAMPGROUND@GMAIL.COM



FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING SOCIAL QUARTERS / HOUSE COMMITTEE
DENSION238SOCIALQUARTERS@GMAIL.COM



FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING ELSE
DENSION.LODGE238@GMAIL.COM



MORE INFO: 

VISIT OUR WEBSITE ELKS.ORG/238 