

Benevolent & Protective order of the Elks

ELK CAMPO *Elks*



El Campo Elk Lodge #1749 A Fraternal Organization

Find us on
Facebook

www.Elks.org • www.TexasElks.org • elcampoelks1749@gmail.com • (979) 543-3701

ELKS - Working Today For A Better Tomorrow

April 2024

El Campo Elks BPOE # 1749



Beef

Fajita



Cook-Off & Auction

Sat., May 4, 2024

Team Entry Fee \$140

COOK-OFF DIVISIONS:

Beef Fajitas • Beans

Salsa • Guacamole

Margarita

Volunteers needed!



**No alcoholic beverages
to be brought on site,
due to TABC regulations.**

**SPIRIT WAGON
QUEEN OF HEARTS
SILENT AUCTION**

Overall 1st Place \$500

Overall 2nd Place - \$300

Overall 3rd Place is \$200

**plaques will be awarded to 1st,
2nd, 3rd place division winners.**

Contact is Chad Hensley

(979) 541-3239 or chadwayne73@yahoo.com

for rules or entry. Also on Facebook Elk's Lodge 1749



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

FRIED CHICKEN TO GO SET FOR APRIL 7

The KCs have graciously agreed to help with a **Fried Chicken To Go** meal on **Thursday, April 7** at Columbus Hall. Plates will be \$12 per plate and serving is set to begin at 11 am.

Assistance from Lodge members is desperately needed – 25-30 people to help prepare trays, and 8-10 people to collect money. Please contact Chris Wendel at 979-541-9443 to sign up to help.



Elks Campo LODGE 1749

LODGE OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler Patrick Gwosdz
 Leading Knight Connie Lisembee
 Loyal Knight Efrain Rodriguez
 Lecturing Knight Vicki Limmer
 Chaplain Howard Middleton
 Esquire Theresa Dutcher
 Inner Guard Anthony Perez
 Secretary Chris Wendel
 Treasurer Eddie Pool
 Tiler Jamie Appling
 Alternate to Grand Lodge ... Chris Wendel
 Sweetheart Vicki Limmer

TRUSTEES

Trustee & BoD Chair Roy Schulz
 1 Year Trustee Randy Fitch
 2 Year Trustee George Matthews
 3 Year Trustee Michael Kasper
 4 Year Trustee Roy Schulz
 5 Year Trustee Tracy Oldag

COMMITTEE

Accident Prevention... George Matthews
 Activities Tim Drapela
 Americanism Donnie Roddy
 Auditing & Account..... Tracy E. Braden
 Chili Cookoff Chad Hensley
 Clay Shoot Chad Hensley
 Community Activities Roy Schulz
 Drug Awareness Stacy Amestoy
 Elk National Foundation ... Chris Wendel
 Fajita Cook-Off Eugene Bustamante
 Flag Day Allen Collins
 Fraternal Committee Chris Wendel
 Government Relations Tim Drapela
 Hoop Shoot George Matthews
 House Committee Tim Drapela
 Lodge Bulletin Chris Wendel
 Membership Chris Wendel
 PER Association Donnie Roddy
 Public Relations Gary Tupa
 Standing Relief Donnie Roddy
 Swimming Pool Tommy Morton
 Youth Activities George Matthews

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Chris Wendel: Secretary,
 Members: Chad Hensley, Tim Drapela,
 Randy Fitch and Roy Schulz

BULLETIN STAFF

Donnie Roddy & Chris Wendel

*Published monthly by
 El Campo Lodge No. 1749
 El Campo, TX 77437
 (979) 543-3701*

AUSTIN, TEXAS - VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

2024 BPOE GRAND LODGE CONVENTION

JOIN THE HERD!

**This year, Texas is in charge of
 the Grand Lodge Convention** →

JUNE 23, 2024– July 3, 2024

**400-500 TX VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO
 MAKE THIS CONVENTION SUCCESSFUL**



SCAN ME

MEMBERSHIP & LODGE PARTICIPATION

Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. If you have a need for applications or want to propose a candidate via website, contact me and I can assist. You can also go to Elks.org and submit an email invitation to a prospective Member. This link is located at the top left of the Elks.org website. You must be registered at this site to use this function. It is easy to register. The registration link is at the top right on the Elks.org website.

The Lodge cannot exist without Membership. Delinquent Members do nothing to help the Lodge and the Membership of a delinquent Member does nothing for them. There are activities that you as a Member might like to see the Lodge conduct.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT! WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Leadership in the Lodge has been the same Members for years. It does not involve that much time to take a leadership role in the Lodge. Please consider getting involved in your organization. Contact me if you have any questions or would like more information of becoming more involved and helping the Lodge remain a viable community asset.

COME OUT TO A MEETING, FUNCTION OR EVENT - WE PROMISE NOT TO BITE!

Chris Wendel, Secretary - 979-541-9443 or elcampoelks1749@gmail.com

MEETING DRAWING

At each meeting, as Members enter the meeting room, they donate \$2 that goes into a drawing pot. We have a can with all the current Members numbers in the can. At the appropriate time during the meeting we draw a number from the can. If that Member is present, they collect the pot. If the Member drawn is not present the pot is not given out. The drawing continues at each meeting. Once the pot reaches \$500, if the 1st number drawn is not present, we continue drawing until a Member at the meeting is drawn. They then receive ½ the pot. Come out to a meeting and maybe your number will be drawn!

We also have a meal prior to each meeting.

Secretary's Corner

by Chris Wendel • cfw3662@live.com • 979-541-9443

Dues statements have been sent out in 2023-2024 Lodge year.

PLEASE REMIT YOUR DUES A.S.A.P. WHEN RECEIVED

The Lodge year runs from April 1 to March 31. We started the 2023-2024 Lodge year with a Membership of 249 - we have gained 19 so far this year with three (3) candidates scheduled for initiation March 5. The efforts of the Members (YOU) to recruit new Members is always appreciated.

DUES STATEMENTS ARE BEING SENT FROM THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

IF YOU NEED SOME CONSIDERATION FOR ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR LODGE DUES PLEASE CONTACT LODGE SECRETARY CHRIS WENDEL

TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS - 979-541-9443 or

elcampoelks1749@gmail.com

We do have an option of paying by credit card if you so desire. Give me a call and we can get your dues processed. There is a 5% convenience fee we have to add to recoup fees.

VENMO IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO PAY YOUR DUES!

NO FEES! Pay as a FRIEND @Elks1749

Chris Wendel, Secretary

979-541-9443 • elcampoelks1749@gmail.com



Exalted Rulers's Message

by Patrick Gwosdz • 979-332-7242

pgwosdzsr@sbcglobal.net



Welcome to the kick-off of our 2024-2025 Elk year.

I would like to first thank you for providing your trust in me leading the Elks this year.

This is a roll I am gladly ready to serve you in and help build our local Elks Lodge.

Also, a shout-out to the 2024-2025 Officers and the roles and responsibilities they are each taking on this year.

I look forward to each of our meetings and seeing each of you there. Our Lodge will grow and better help our community with each member contributing and being active members in not only our meetings, but our fundraisers as well.

Our first fundraiser will be on Thursday, April 7, 2024. This will be a FRIED CHICKEN DRIVE-THRU meal with cooking provided by the KCs. The location will be at the Columbus Hall (formerly the KC Hall). We will need volunteers to help serve the meal and handle the line and tickets.

Several amazing Elk Ladies are stepping up to contribute to Sweetheart fundraisers this year. Vicki Limmer will be heading this up, so read her post on what they have planned for some fun events this year. Thank you ladies for helping out and giving your time to continue our Lodge being successful.

I want to end by sending a thanks to Daniel and Ann Ott for their roles this year as ER and Sweetheart. They both did an amazing job with lots of fun activities and fundraisers, so our Lodge could continue the tradition of helping El Campo out where needed.

Looking forward to a great year,
Patrick Gwosdz

THANKS TO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

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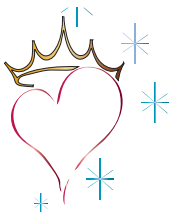
Chris & Mary Jane Wendel

For only \$10 a month, your business or organization can be a newsletter sponsor.

Sweetheart's Corner

by Vicki Limmer • 979-578-2546

vickilimmer@gmail.com



Greetings from the New Sweethearts for the 2024 – 2025 Elks New Year. Ann Ott (AKA Annie Oakley), you're a hard act to follow. I'm not sure we can top your energy and drive from last year, but we'll try. You did a great job and we applaud you.

Doing things a bit differently this year. The Sweetheart will operate as the Sweetheart Social Team, including: Vicki Limmer, Theresa Dutcher, Jamie Appling, Joanna Cranek, Tracy Oldag, Tracy Braden, Christy Freeman, Erin Kutach and Ann Ott. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated. Would

Elk's Lodge 1749

love to hear from you if you are interested in helping out. We've found that the activities throughout the year are fun but time-consuming, and since there is great strength in numbers, we've formed the group.

Our goal has and always will be investing in our community through fun and exciting events, and assisting in any way we can the Lodge and Lodge events. Some of the activities we have in mind will be ones you'll recognize, like Bunco and dominos. Other events are new ideas we'd like to try. Please consider coming out to the Sweetheart events. We are an interesting, diverse group, love meeting others and have a blast while raising money. It's a win – win!

Looking forward to the New Year, and to assisting our new Exalted Ruler, Patrick Gwosdz.

Sir, we have your back!

May 4 set for Annual Fajita Cook-Off

Mark your calendars and get your fajita recipes ready for the Annual Fajita Cook-Off. Set for Saturday, May 4 the event will again be at the Lodge grounds with cook-off divisions in Beef Fajitas, Beans, Salsa, Guacamole, and Margaritas. Team entry fees is \$140. Entry form and rules are found on Page 5-6.



Tickets will available at the Lodge.



El Campo
Elk's Lodge 1749

Spring Drawing

Drawing during June 1, 2024

(Drawing to be held at @ the Lodge)

\$20 each/6 for \$100

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

- 1 **\$1,000** Gift Card
- 2 \$500 Gift Card
- 3 \$500 Gift Card
- 4 \$500 Gift Card
- 5 \$250 Gift Card
- 6 \$250 Gift Card
- 7 \$250 Gift Card
- 8 \$250 Gift Card

All prizes shall be awarded pursuant to federal and state law and all reporting and tax withholding shall be pursuant to federal and state law.

Splash! Day!

MAY 30 - FREE HOT DOGS

Starts June 7 4:30-7



NEW MEMBERS

New Member initiated at the March 5 meeting

Kasey Escobar proposed by Christy Freeman
Cullen Braden proposed by Tracy Braden

Candidates to be initiated at April 2 Lodge meeting:

LuAnn Groves proposed by Deborah Brown.
(Lodge #2865 - Charlevoix, MI.)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Happy April Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 02 Collins, Allen | 14 Maples, Stephen |
| 02 Wendel, Chris F | 15 English, Mark |
| 05 Kocian, Dorothy | 16 Krenek, Thomas |
| 05 Labay, Lawrence | 18 Appling, Jamie |
| 05 Weinheimer, Edmund A | 18 Bustamante, Eugene |
| 06 Sorrel, Gordon | 19 Mitchell, Randy |
| 06 Urban, Kylie | 20 Borak, Calvin |
| 08 Jasso, Esperanza | 20 Ritz, Blake |
| 08 Jung, Ryan | 22 Citzler, Kyle Edward |
| 10 Zarate, Courtney | 23 Manske, Charles |
| 11 Burrow, Eric | 24 Escobar, Jesse P |
| 13 Mikeska, Gerry | 26 Oldag, Tracy |
| 14 Allgayer, David | 30 Cerny, Brent |

El Campo Elks Lodge 12th Annual Beef Fajita Cook-Off

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Elks Lodge Facility - 3030 N. Mechanic St.

SPIRIT WAGON – QUEEN OF HEARTS – SILENT AUCTION

Entry Fee: \$140 (Non-refundable) covers one entry in all categories

\$25 per entry for additional entries

Overall: 1st Place \$500, 2nd Place \$300, 3rd Place \$200

Plaques awarded to 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place division winners.

Fajitas - Guacamole - Beans - Salsa - Margaritas

Plaque for OVERALL Winner

	Extra Entries		Extra Entries		Extra Entries		Extra Entries		Extra Entries
Salsa		Guacamole		Beans		Fajitas		Margarita	

ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST BE 21 YEARS OF AGE

Team Name: _____

Chief Cook: _____

Team Members: _____

e-mail address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

If you have any questions, you may contact
 Chad Hensley @ 979-541-3239 • chadwayne73@yahoo.com
I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL RULES STATED!

Please keep the attached rules for reference.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN WITH YOUR ENTRY

SIGNATURE: _____ **Printed Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

EL CAMPO ELKS LODGE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT, DAMAGE, OR ACCIDENTS

Please read the attached General Rules and Event Release Form. The signature is for all team participants.

El Campo Elks Lodge 12th Annual Fajita Cook-off

PO Box 287 3030 N. Mechanic St. El Campo, TX 77437-0287

General Rules

Entry Fees are non-refundable and must be paid in full at check in or prior. Entry fee is \$140 - this covers one entry in each of the 5 food/drink categories. Each additional category entry is \$25.

Check-in time begins Saturday, June 4, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. at El Campo Elks Lodge facility at 3030 N. Mechanic St., El Campo, TX.

SALSA Category rules: JUDGING TURN IN TIME: 12:00 pm

1. All entries must be cooked on site from scratch the day of the cook-off. You may cut or chop your ingredients ahead of time.
2. Each contestant must turn in a minimum of one 16oz cup of salsa, we will provide container. You may garnish your dish. No team or identifying markings should be on container.
3. All ingredients must be edible. Ingredients may be canned or fresh. All salsas must be "homemade" not store bought.
4. Preparations may begin any time after check-in. Get there early to set up your space Judging will begin at 12:00 pm. No entries will be accepted once the judging begins.
5. Salsa will be judged on appearance, aroma, taste, texture, and originality.
6. Prizes awarded: Plaques for 1st Place; 2nd Place; 3rd Place.

Guacamole Category Rules: JUDGING TURN IN TIME: 12:30 pm

1. All entries must be prepared on site the day of the cook-off.
2. Each contestant must turn in a tray with Guacamole, we will provide container. You may Garnish your dish. No team or identifying markings should be on container.
3. All ingredients must be edible. Ingredients may be canned or fresh. All guacamole must be "homemade" not store bought.
4. Preparations may begin any time after check in. Get there early to set up your space. Judging will begin at 12:30 p.m.
5. Guacamole will be judged on appearance, aroma, taste, texture, and originality.
6. Prizes awarded: Plaques for 1st Place; 2nd Place; 3rd Place.

Pinto Bean Category Rules: Judging will be at 1:00 p.m.

1. All entries must be cooked on site the day of the cook-off. Minimum of three (3). pounds to cook. Beans may be inspected during check in.
2. Each contestant must turn in a minimum of one 16oz cup of beans, we will provide container. No team or identifying markings should be on container.
3. Preparations may begin any time after check in. Get there early to set up your space. Judging will be at 1:00 p.m.
4. Beans must be "homemade" not store bought. Nothing larger than bean itself to be turned in for judging.
5. Beans will be judged on appearance, aroma, taste, and texture.
6. Prizes awarded: Plaques for 1st Place; 2nd Place; 3rd Place.

Beef Fajita Cook-Off Rules: Judging will be at 1:30p.m.

1. All entries must be cooked on site the day of the cook-off. Beef fajitas may be inspected during check in. Beef skirt ONLY - no other cuts of meat.
2. Each contestant must turn in a minimum of twelve (12) beef fajitas ¼"- 3/8" thick – No garnishing of any type. No meat other than beef skirts may be used for the fajita competition. Containers (tray) will be provided. No team or identifying markings should be on container.
3. Preparations may begin any time after check in. Get there early to set up your space. Judging will be at 1:30p.m.
4. Fajitas will be judged on appearance, aroma, taste, texture, and tenderness.
5. Prizes awarded: Plaques for 1st Place; 2nd Place; 3rd Place.

Margarita Category Rules: JUDGING TURN IN TIME: 2:00 pm

1. Participants must be at least 21 years of age with proper ID.
2. Participants must be entered in the Fajita Cook Off, in order to participate in this event.
3. Teams are required to use individual recipe items, no pre-mixed. All ingredients will be inspected by the committee prior to competition. Each contestant must turn in one sample in individual 16 oz. cup with no team markings present. Containers will be provided.
4. Frozen Margaritas are allowed. Power may be available depending on where you are set up. Otherwise provide your own.
5. Preparations may begin any time after check-in. Get there early to set up your space. Judging begins promptly at 2:00 pm. No entries will be accepted once the judging begins.
6. Contestants are allowed 15 minutes prior to judging to complete the drink.
7. Prizes awarded: Plaques for 1st Place; 2nd Place; 3rd Place.

ENF FUNDED DONATIONS

The Elks National Foundation (ENF) provides funds to Lodges through the Community Investment Program (CIP) to assist community needs. We were able to assist community non-profits and organizations through these funds.

Beacon Grant - We received a \$4,000 Beacon Grant to support Helping Hands Ministry with a \$1,500 donation along with a \$2,500 donation to the Shattered Dreams project that was conducted at the ECHS.

Spotlight Grant - We received a \$2,000 Spotlight Grant that we used to donate to Manna Meals to assist in their program of meals.

Gratitude Grant - We received a \$2,500 to provide needed school items to El Campo Middle School and Northside Middle School.

That's \$8,500 in ENF funds received by the El Campo Lodge to assist the community.

When you remit your dues and add funds as an ENF donation we receive the opportunity to apply for funds to be used in the community.

You can also become a Fidelity Club Member of the ENF by providing a monthly donation using a credit card or bank debit. We have a couple of Members donating to the ENF in this fashion. This allows the Lodge to access an extra \$500 if we meet a certain level of Fidelity Club donations.

Please consider donation to the ENF through the Lodge to let us assist community needs.

SWEETHEART PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The Texas Elks Sweetheart Program was started in 1979-80. A Sweetheart works hard for a period of one year representing his/her Lodge. Since 1979 the hard work of all past Sweethearts in the state of Texas has earned a total revenue of over \$13 million dollars for the Texas Elks State Major Project.

During the year, the Lodge Sweetheart that raises the most money within each district becomes the Sweetheart for the District. At the State Convention in June each year, it is then determined which District Sweetheart raised the most money. The District Sweetheart then becomes the State Sweetheart for a period of one year and will represent all the Sweethearts across the state.

The Sweetheart Program is a very important part of what we "DO" as

Texas Elks! Family is the cornerstone of Elkdom. When we improve the life of a child – we also improve and impact their families as well.

The Sweetheart Program raises monies for our State Major Project. The Sweetheart for each Lodge in Texas is tasked with fundraising and educating their Lodge

members about the important work we do for Texas Elks Camp and Special Needs Grants. Each lodge turns in Sweetheart monies from 3 categories that is turned in to TECSI:

- Red Pig Donations
 - State Fund Drive Raffle Tickets
 - General Sweetheart Funds raised in a variety of ways!
- ASSIST THE UPCOMING LODGE SWEETHEART, ANN OTT, IN FUNDRAISING FOR THE KIDS!

Sickness & Distress

Members under the weather or have health concerns. Their addresses are included to drop them a line for condolences or well wishes.

Nancy Kennedy passed away 3/24/2024 Mother-in-Law of Members **Turk Krenek** (Cathy) and **Mike Payne** (Marsha).

George Matthews recovering from hip replacement.-

Please email or phone if there is a Member or their families on which to report. cfw3662@live.com.



A Fraternal Organization

B.P.O.E. #1749
P.O. BOX 287
EL CAMPO, TX 77437

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

ELKS SPONSOR & SUPPORT

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| Community Projects | |

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Read the Exciting News In Your Bulletin



"For a special Elk and family"



2024 Upcoming Events

APRIL

APRIL 1 - NEW LODGE YEAR BEGINS

April 2 - Regular Lodge meeting - 7:00 PM.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

APRIL 7 - KC FRIED CHICKEN at Columbus Club Hall. Serving to start at 11:00 AM

April 16 - Regular Lodge meeting - 7:00 PM.

April 25 - Literacy Advocates Bingo at Lodge - 6:30 PM.

MAY

May 4 - Beef Fajita Cookoff

May 7 - Regular Lodge meeting - 7:00 PM.

May 21 - Regular Lodge meeting - 7:00 PM.

May 30 - Splash Day at Lodge - free hotdogs!



APRIL 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW LODGE YEAR BEGINS	2 Regular Lodge Meeting 7 pm New Officer Installation Open 5-7pm	3	4	5	6
CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	CLOSED	
11AM 7 FRIED CHICKEN TO GO KC HALL	8	9	10	11	12	13
CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
14	15	16 Regular Lodge Meeting 7 pm	17	18	19	20 Interlodge Houston Lodge #151
CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
21 Interlodge Houston Lodge #151	22	23	24	25 Literacy Advocates Bingo 6:30 PM.	26	27
CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
28	29	30				Fajita Cookoff at Lodge
CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED

Please notify the Secretary of your address change. The whole National mailing process to all members works off the Elk's Magazine mailing list and we try diligently to keep it correct so that mail is properly received. Help us. Thanks!