

March 2024



# Elk Call

*Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity*

**Navasota Lodge #2888**

P. O. Box 1451, Navasota, Texas 77868



March 25 is the one-year anniversary of our lodge. We set some goals at the lodge institution. We fell short on a few but exceeded all expectations on most. We have not reached 100 members and we have not identified a permanent location. Those were the goals we missed. The goals we exceeded had to do with our host, VFW Post 4006, our Navasota community at-large, and Elkdom in general. We worked with the VFW Post to offer a social night on the first Friday of the month. The program started strong and has kept the pace throughout the year. Elks, veterans, and the community enjoyed meals, fun and games, and karaoke. Everyone, including our Sweetheart, has enjoyed the fun. We look forward to continuing this program. Come out and join us.

We were awarded a grant to support our veterans' programs. We will host a veterans' appreciation event this month. Check the calendar for dates and times. Come out to the VFW Post 4006 to honor our veterans. Remember, as long as there are veterans, they will never be forgotten. For the community, we began the year with the Grimes County library's summer reading program. We gave out dictionaries to all the participants and donated the remaining dictionaries to the library. All the dictionaries were gone by the time we came back at the end of the summer to conduct an Elks drugs awareness program.

Navasota Elks participated in the back-to-school backpack program at the beginning of the school year. We gave out school supplies and drug awareness items to hundreds of Grimes County children. Speaking of Grimes County children, the Navasota Elks are a major sponsor of the county's special Olympics. Not only will Navasota Elks help at the event, but we also donated grant money to fund the event!

Another bright spot in our year is our Sweetheart, Calandra Van Dell. Her hard work throughout the year and especially at Homecoming has raised money for the Texas Children's Camp for special needs children. Her hard work and your donations have made the life of hundreds of special needs

children and their parents. Way to go Calandra! Her husband, Darren Van Dell was selected as the TESA State vocalist. Come to any state event and hear how a Texan sings the national anthem. We are very active in the Navasota community. There is not a city event without Navasota Elks participation. We have participated in all the city's weekend celebrations and parades. Our Christmas and veterans' appreciation parade floats made the Navasota Examiner newspaper, front page for the veterans' float!

Navasota Elks participated in all State and District events in force! No other lodge in the district had more members attending district events than Navasota. Most lodges sent three, four, or five members to district interlodges. Navasota sends 14+! If there was a traveling trophy for attendance, Navasota Elks would have it for the entire year. This dedication also extends to State conventions and conferences. Navasota Elks lodges ranks first or second in attendance at each event.

Lastly, ALL our good work comes from you. All the above events were one of our members' ideas. Without you, none of this could happen. We are eligible for more grants in the coming year. That means we need your help identifying community causes where we can help. Come to the lodge meetings, social, or community event and share your ideas with us. Where do you think we can help the community? Also, bring a friend or family member. We are always looking for additional members.

Mike Callahan, PSP  
Advisor to Navasota Elks  
Lodge #2888





Hello my fellow ELKS!

As the 2023-2024 Sweetheart Year is coming to an end, I can't help but feel happy and blessed. Happy because as Sweetheart I think we did amazing for our 1st year as an official lodge. Blessed for being chosen and trusted in this position; and I couldn't have done it without the help of my very supportive husband, Darrin, my committee (Jo Kelley, Helen Van Dien, Evonne Bellis and Katy Ardoin), as well as the members of our Lodge. Last but not least, Mike Callahan for your outstanding support of not only me but our lodge as whole. All your purchases of merchandise paid off. We, and I say WE because its not about me its about US, won't win district Sweetheart and that's ok. I was never here to compete, just to do the best work I could do with what I was given. The drive is not only our children but my sweet niece Zoey Lynn. If you know you know!! In red pig alone, we surpassed in the first quarter of the year what any other Lodge turned in last year alone. That's amazing not having a lodge where we get to socialize all the time. So thank you all! I love each and everyone one if you. Our last red pig turn-in for the year is March 28, our 2nd meeting in March. I ask you to please fill those pigs, or a donation is great! Sweetheart challenge coins are still available to purchase for \$20 each; Lodge car decals at \$5 each, and that will continue into the coming year until gone. Let's get them sold out! Truck tickets still available and they can be purchased up until April 11th.

April 1st starts our new year. A Sweetheart will be chosen. (My arm is kinda getting twisted a little to continue.) Anyhow, Red Pig Adoption will continue, and in the 1st quarter of the year, April- June, a competition will take place again. A match of up to \$1000 will be made with the goal to collect that in the 1st quarter again. A grand prize will be given as well. I myself will make sure it's a good one. I'd like to see everyone stay consistent so we can do a competition every quarter. That's the goal!

As of now, Karaoke on 1st Fridays will continue. Please come out and support the Sweethearts in the 50/50 drawing. Remember, it's about our children. You do not have to be present to buy tickets, you can purchase them in advance, with your name being placed on those tickets. If your ticket is drawn and you are not there it will be held for you. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything. I hope I at least made you all proud.



Calandra Van Dell  
Sweetheart 23-24  
*Having a Difference Doesn't make a Difference.*

### LODGE MEETINGS

will be held this month on  
**March 14 and March 28**  
with Social Hour at 6 p.m.,  
followed by meeting at 7 p.m.

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

3/06	Erin Pendleton
3/23	Calandra Van Dell
3/28	Larry Mitchell

## Lodge #2888 Officers for the Elks Year 2024-25

With the end of the 2023-24 Elk Year approaching, listed here are the new officers for Navasota Elks Lodge #2888. These positions will be effective beginning April 1, 2024 thru March 31, 2025.

**Exalted Ruler:** Darrin Van Dell

**Esteemed Leading Knight:** Karen Cook

**Esteemed Loyal Knight:** Jeff Hampton

**Esteemed Lecturing Knight:** Louis Vidotto

**Secretary:** Nancy Vidotto

**Treasurer:** Helen Van Dien

**Board of Trustees:**

Three Year Trustee: Jeff Van Dien

Two Year Trustee: Robert Kilpatrick

One Year Trustee: Mike Kelley

**Esquire:** Evonne Bellis

**Chaplain:** TBD

**Inner Guard:** TBD

**Tiler:** TBD

All of these folks will attend the Officer Training to be held at Liberty Elks Lodge on March 9, and will be initiated at our lodge meeting on March 28.

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Navasota Elks Lodge #2888 will once again volunteer at the Navasota ISD - Grimes County Special Olympics on March 26th. Volunteers will meet at Navasota Stadium at 8:15 a.m. and Opening Ceremony starts at 9:00 a.m. Navasota Elks Lodge applied and received the Beacon Grant from the Texas Elks Association. The grant will allow Navasota Lodge to be a recognized sponsor for the 2024 Special Olympics. Kaisha Baughman, Exalted Ruler, presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to Lauren Puenta from Navasota ISD Special Olympics. Navasota Elks who will be recognized as a Platinum Sponsor.





# TEXAS ELKS

Good Day, Texas Elks!

As you know, Texas will be hosting the Elks National Convention in Austin June 30 – July 4, 2024.

It is customary for the Grand Lodge Host State to provide Grand Lodge dignitaries with “Goodie Bags” in their hotel rooms. I have been given the opportunity to create these Goodie Bags and thought it would be nice for each Lodge or District to provide something representative of your Lodge or District, to help tell the tale of our great state and show what Texas Elks are all about! Of course, personal contributions of items are also welcome.

Some ideas:

- .. Either home made or purchased
- .. Non-refrigerated food items
- .. Small
- .. Lightweight
- .. Non breakable. Some Goodie Bag items may be traveling in checked luggage.

We estimate that 40 of each item will be needed for the Goodie Bags. A printed sheet with names of all who provide items will be included in each bag. When donating, please tell me how you would like me to list your donation(s).

Examples:

<i>Texas Lodge</i>	<i>Lodge #XXX</i>	<i>Lodge location</i>	<i>name of item</i>
<i>John and Mary Doe</i>	<i>Title, if desired</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>name of item</i>

The deadline to provide these items is Texas Elks State Convention, June 6-8, 2024 in Mesquite, Texas.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Shan Clark  
817-908-1550  
[shanmclark@outlook.com](mailto:shanmclark@outlook.com)

**[CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER NOW](#)**

ELKS GRAND LODGE CONVENTION 2024



## Texas Elks State Association

along with Tripp's Harley Davidson of Amarillo, Texas

### FUND RAISING FOR ELK NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Helping Veterans, Kids and  
Community with Grants & Scholarships

### Grand Prize 2023 HARLEY DAVIDSON SOFTAIL STANDARD

(Winner responsible for all applicable taxes,  
title fees and license requirements.)



1/1 Custom Brotherly Love Elk Bike

**DONATION**  
\$10 each or  
3 for \$25

**DRAWING TO BE HELD  
OCTOBER 26TH, 2024**

Need not be present to win.

For more info and to purchase tickets, contact me at [jtvandien@gmail.com](mailto:jtvandien@gmail.com) or (940) 230-1446.

**Jeff Van Dien**  
**Elks National Foundation (ENF) Committee Chair**  
**Navasota Elks #2888**



**OBTAINED A  
NEW MEMBER ?**

<https://www.elks.org/membership/join.cfm>

## Volunteers Needed—We can't do it without YOU!

Please come help support a family affected by Charge Syndrome. If you are old enough to babysit, you are old enough to come help. **No special skills needed!**

Our very own Navasota natives, Leigh Anne and Josh Fultz, have a beautiful daughter, Jadyne, with Charge Syndrome. The Fultz family looks forward to this retreat each year to spend time with other individuals and families walking the same path.

**Dates: April 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>**

**Location: Camp Allen, 18800 FM 362, Navasota**

**Times: Various available**

**Link for more info:**

<http://www.texaschargers.org/volunteers.html>



Please come out and help make this a great experience!

**Great opportunity for Volunteer Hours for High School Students too.**



**2023-2024  
Lodge Officers**

- Exalted Ruler**  
*Kaisha Baughman*
- Leading Knight**  
*Darrin Van Dell*
- Loyal Knight**  
*Karen Cook*
- Lecturing Knight**  
*Jeff Hampton*
- 1 Year Trustee**  
*Jeff Van Dien*
- 2 Year Trustee**  
*Mike Kelley*
- 3 Year Trustee**  
*Robert Kilpatrick*
- Secretary**  
*Nancy Vidotto*
- Treasurer**  
*Helen Van Dien*
- Esquire**  
*Evonne Ellis*
- Chaplain**  
*Adam Krantz*
- Inner Guard**  
*Jonathan Kern*
- Tiler**  
*Louis Vidotto*



**2023-2024  
Committee Chairs**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Accident Prevention</b><br><i>Mike Kelley</i>        | <b>Government Relations</b><br><i>Kaisha Baughman</i>   |
| <b>Activities</b><br><i>Karen Cook</i>                  | <b>Hoop Shoot</b><br><i>Evonne Bellis</i>               |
| <b>Americanism</b><br><i>Karen Cook</i>                 | <b>Lodge Activities</b><br><i>Karen Cook</i>            |
| <b>Audit and Accounting</b><br><i>Robert Miller</i>     | <b>Membership</b><br><i>Jeff Hampton</i>                |
| <b>Community Projects</b><br><i>Elease Hill</i>         | <b>PER Association</b><br>VACANT                        |
| <b>Drug Awareness</b><br><i>Hope Lohse</i>              | <b>Public Relations</b><br><i>Jonathan Kern</i>         |
| <b>Elks Memorial Day</b><br><i>Helen Van Dien</i>       | <b>Ritualistic</b><br><i>Mike Hobbs</i>                 |
| <b>Elks National Foundation</b><br><i>Jeff Van Dien</i> | <b>Soccer Shoot</b><br><i>Evonne Bellis</i>             |
| <b>Flag Day</b><br><i>Kaisha Baughman</i>               | <b>State Major Projects</b><br><i>Calandra Van Dell</i> |
| <b>Fraternal</b><br><i>Jeff Hampton</i>                 | <b>Veterans Service</b><br><i>Darrin Van Dell</i>       |
| <b>Grant Coordinator</b><br><i>Jennifer Pratho</i>      | <b>Youth Activities</b><br><i>Kaisha Baughman</i>       |



Find us on Facebook  
**Navasota Elks Lodge #2888**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/221595737089774>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Lodge #2888 Sweetheart Karaoke & Vets Dinner 6 pm-11pm	2
3	4	5  VFW Bingo 5:30-7:30 pm	6	7	8	9 Officer Training at Liberty Lodge
10  SPRING FORWARD	11	12 VFW Bingo 5:30-7:30 pm	13 Chamber Coffee @ P. A. Smith 9 am	14 LODGE MTG 6 pm Social Hr 7pm Meeting	15	16
17  Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	19 VFW Bingo 5:30-7:30 pm	20 Lodge BOD Meeting 6:30 pm	21	22	23
24  Palm Sunday	25	26 Special Olympics  VFW Bingo 5:30-7:30 pm	27	28 LODGE MTG 6 pm Social Hr 7pm Meeting	29  GOOD FRIDAY	30
31  Happy Easter						



Working for our businesses.

936-825-6600

[navasotagrimeschamber.com](http://navasotagrimeschamber.com)

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