Welcome to the Winter Edition of the Texas Elks Newsletter

In winter
all the singing is in
the tops of the trees - Mary Oliver

A message from our State President

Texas Elks Reverse Downward Trend in Membership!
Fred Adams, President 2018-2019  
Texas State Elks Association - Goals Update

Deb and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone, we sincerely appreciate your hard work and donations this year. Together we have accomplished so much, but we are not quite done yet... **Let’s finish strong!**

Remember my five areas of focus to reach my goal? “Let’s put Texas Elks on a path to long term growth.” Here’s how:

First, you did an unbelievable job responding to my request to establish a Membership Committee in all your lodges. With your focus on Membership Committees the actual member headcount is taking care of itself. We have unquestionably reversed our downward trend. Last year we lost 336 members and 240 the year prior. We’re all working hard and the results are just amazing. As of late February, we are down about 170 members but have 248 candidates awaiting initiation. Will we break-even this year? That all depends on you.

Second, a member who is proud to be an Elk will pay their dues. We say Elks are the best kept secret in our communities, but more importantly our Lodge’s great work is often the best kept secret from our members. Surveys showed only 10% of our members know of our great work. How can you take pride in something you don’t know about? To correct this, we are emphasizing aggressive communication with social media as its focus. A member will watch a 2-3 minute video, but might only scan an email or newsletter. Social media is exploding in Lodges. Improved communications is showing strong results and I feel this is one of the reasons we’re now setting recruiting records.

Third, how many times have you heard, “I’m not going to support something that pulls dollars out of my lodge?” Elks National Foundation and Sweetheart programs rely on lodge fundraising, but these programs are the backbones of our community support. These programs build pride, support our Clubs and provide great recruiting tools. We cannot grow without them. Thankfully, our ENF team is returning a second year. What a great way to use social media to emphasize fun, offer an updated pin set or focus on letting members know how funds return to Texas. We’re asking our lodge sweethearts to meet as a group at every Interlodge building the team and sharing best practices. We’ve incorporated our TESA Sweetheart into our Interlodges, and we emphasize District social events increasing fund raising, building pride and having some fun.

Fourth, we must not close another lodge. It takes a long time for a lodge to slide down the slope to closure. To counter this, we have developed a simple VP Survey. We not only intend to help lodges improve their operations, but also identify lodges headed for trouble. We can then work with the lodge, the District management team and TESA resources to put it on a path to growth.

Last, a lodge cannot expect long term survival without planning for and developing its future Officers. To counter this, we introduced a Succession Plan. The last three Texas lodges closed because no one would step up into a leadership role. An interesting side note, these three lodges were financially viable, each worth $1-200,000 plus. This is a multi-year program with a step-by-step process to help lodges identify and develop members who are “willing and able” to serve as Officers. Again, my Goal is to Put Texas Elks on a Path to Long Term Growth. I’m targeting changes in TESA that will live with us growing Elks for years to come.

Last year Texas Elks donated $25 million to our communities. Fantastic! But, if we get off the path to growth, we won’t be able to sustain our current level, much less grow. So I ask, are you happy with the path your lodge is on? TESA has tremendous resources for you to get help and get back on the path.

Taken separately, each of my five areas of focus would have a positive impact on Texas Elks, but taken together, there is nothing that can stand in our way to success. The potential for growth in Texas is absolutely tremendous!! It is up to each of us... and Deb and I ask your help.

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**Elks Day at the Races 2019**  
**Hot Springs, Arkansas.**

Elks Day at the Races takes place every year at Hot Springs Arkansas. Every year the current Grand Exalted Ruler and his wife visit the Hot Springs Elks Lodge #341 to represent the great order of Elkdom and to present the trophy to the winner of a designated race at Oaklawn for that day. (hence called Elks Day at the Races!) This year it was race #1 and this year TEXAS had a great showing. Any Elk can attend this event. It will occur again next year in February. If you are interested in attending next year to increase Texas’ participation you can contact Debbie Salazar or Mike Muldoon at the Hot Springs Elks Lodge for more information.
Pictured above: Left to right the “Texas Group” at the Elks Day at the Races. Ella Johnston-Leger, Gladys Williams, Chuck Williams, PGER, Mark Dickson, Michael T. Luhr, GER, Barb Luhr- First Lady, Carol Ann Dickson, Ed Salazar, PSP, and Debbie Salazar.

Above: Mark and Carol Ann Dickson, Denton Lodge #2446 on tour with the Grand Exalted Ruler in the Press Box.

Below: Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T Luhr and his wife Barb waiting to present the trophy to the winner of race #1.

Below: Grand Exalted Ruler speaking at the Hot Springs Elks Lodge #341 after the Day at the Races.

Below: Donald and Ella Leger, Debbie and Ed Salazar, and Mark and Carol Ann Dickson at the dinner at the Hot Springs Arkansas Elks Lodge.
Beaumont Elks Lodge #311 received all SIX Elks National Foundation Grants this year for a total of $20,000 which includes the IMPACT GRANT. Congratulations to Beaumont for all their dedication to the community.

Below: Scott Willson and Darrell Berwick (members of Beaumont Elks Lodge) help with demolition of Boys Haven Middleton Hall. This is the Beaumont Elks IMPACT Grant program.
Beaumont’s Impact Grant - Working with Boy’s Haven

Boys’ Haven of America, founded in 1945, is a 24 bed, nonprofit General Residential Operation whose mission is to provide at-risk boys with a safe place to live. Over the past two years, Boys’ Haven has served over 80 boys and young men ages 5–17, who have been removed from an unsafe home environment by Child Protective Services. The boys have experienced the trauma of emotional, physical, and/or sexual abuse and are generally in great need of guidance, safety, structure, and stability. Boys’ Haven strives to provide a safe and stable living environment in which these young men can begin to heal from past trauma and learn skills necessary to become productive citizens who are committed to family and community.

The first phase and the reason for the grant, is to re-purpose the current living area and kitchen of an existing cottage to make it into the common kitchen and dining hall/community room. This part of the project will consist of demolition and reconstruction of interior walls to create the needed space.

The Beaumont Elks will organize and plan work days for demolition and preparation of the facility for reconstruction. During the demolition, Elks and volunteers will remove baseboards, paneling, quarter round, electrical face-plates, insulation, etc.

The reconstruction will be overseen by a local contractor who is very familiar with commercial building codes and include remodeling the current kitchen area and bathroom facilities. After the major construction is complete, the Elks will again be there to paint the new walls, thoroughly clean, and organize the new facility. We will work closely with Boys Haven to make sure the reconstruction meets all state agency standards. Based upon a scope of work provided to us by a local contractor, we feel a working dining hall/community room could be completed in short order. The second phase of the project will consist of Elks implementing a mentoring and life skills program. Once the facility is complete, we will have the ability to interact more closely with the residents to positively influence their young lives by instilling the principals of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. We will develop a life skills and transitional living program which will consist of things that individuals from a conventional home life may take for granted. Important topics could include:

- Basic automotive maintenance - pumping gasoline, checking fluid levels, changing a tire
- Basic cooking / shopping skills - food safety, kitchen safety, proper measuring and recipe skills
- Basics of home finance - balancing a check book, creating a budget
- Help them to develop: social skills and manners, increased self esteem, proper hygiene, communication skills.

Submitted by Jean Hottmann, PDDGER, Beaumont Elks #311

Membership - GET YOUR Candidates INITIATED NOW!!!!!
Texas Elks State Membership Report – February 2019

Since 2005, there have only been two plus years. The last was in 2010. Currently, we are 1.3% below our starting year number and need 171 to break even.

The CLMS 2/24/2019 update shows 248 candidates in waiting. My push is ensuring the last weekend in March, Lodges have an Initiation and leave no candidates.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE BOOKS ARE DUE APRIL 7TH.

You’re already doing this...............

NEW

Community Service Award Guidelines!!!

Community Service is the "Heart of our Charitable Work"!

2018-2019 TESA Community Service Award Guidelines are now available - Click on the button to the left to get the latest information your Lodge will need to submit for the award.

Don’t miss the opportunity to show what your Lodge does for your community.

Your community service book is due by April 7th. The book will need to be sent to:

Teresa Blevins, ER
1140 Norwood Drive
Beaumont, TX 77706
409-540-2332
tblevins1@dow.com

Fort Worth Lodge #124
Elks National Foundation Grant's in Action

Fort Worth Elks Lodge #124 used our Beacon Grant to host a Special Needs Dinner & Dance. We call it our “Frog Prom”. We started hosting 5 years ago with children and their families from the Lake Worth High School (home of the Bull Frogs) Independent Living Skills class. Each this event continues to grow and is extended to the Special Needs Young adults in the area. This years Prom was held Feb 2 with a Mardi Gras theme. We had 27 from our special
needs community with a total attendance of 137. The smiles say how much this event means to the kids, their families and our Elks.

Submitted by: Cheryl Laney, Grant Coordinator, Fort Worth Lodge #129

Below: Fort Worth Elks were very busy this February using up the ENF Community Investment Grants.

We had a great time with the Promise Grant providing Back to School supplies for about 200 children and providing 35 Christmas Vacation Bags for the Children and Families enrolled is the Fortress for Youth Development Program. We closed out the Grant with Science Projects on February 11. We provided a variety of Science Kits that involved building electrical circuits, building robots, and analyzing bacteria for 98 children in grades 1-5. Fun for all.

Cheryl Laney, Grants Coordinator

Congratulations to all the new elected and appointed officers. Make sure you know when you will be required to attend your district officer training! Ask your Lodge Exalted Ruler for the information.

Tell your friends to Grow with Us!
Sponsorship's needed for awards & plaques for State Convention. $25 is all it takes - click on the button below and let Helen know that you will be a sponsor.
The State Convention is coming soon. We will install new state officers, learn about our programs, and have some lodge competition. The big competition will be our ritual competition. This year there will be three competitions:

**National competition** – the traditional ritual competition for Lodge officers who have memorized their part. Winning teams will represent Texas at the National convention.

**Texas competition** – any group of Elks can form a team, memorize their parts, and can compete. Winners will not advance further.
Reading competition – For lodges looking to get a competitive team started. Current officers can read their parts and get a feeling for competition. Winners will not advance further.

Ritual competition is a great team building activity for lodge officers, a fantastic way to improve our knowledge of Elkdom, and the best way to impress candidates. Exalted Rulers and secretaries, you will receive a ritual competition form within the next few weeks. Bring your team to the state convention and show off your skills.

See you soon,
Mike Callahan, PDDGER
TESA State Ritual Chair

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Brain Teaser - A chessy Riddle

Two girls played and completed 5 games of chess. Each of them won the same number of games and there wasn’t any tie in any game. How did it happen? (see the answer at the bottom of the page)

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Upcoming dates and events to mark down.

SW Region Hoop Shoot March 15-17
State Convention (Addison) June 6-8
Grand Lodge (St. Louis) June 30.-July 3
Homecoming (Ottine) Sept 20-21
Fall Conference (San Antonio) Oct 24-27

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TEXAS ELKS STATE ASSOCIATION
Elected Officers 2018-2019

President: Fred Adams  First Lady: Deb Adams
President-Elect: Andy Mishaga  First Lady Elect: Ramona Misaga
Secretary: Orville Weiss, PGE
Treasurer: Steve Weatherly

Appointed Officers 2018-2019

Chaplain: Debbie Salazar
Sgt-At-Arms: Robert ‘Bob’ Tiffany
Tiler: Billy Bryan
Photographer: Gordon Daniels
Vocalist: Harvey Brown

Vice Presidents

Central: Bob Patterson
East: Tim Kinkelaar
Gulf Coast: Sally DiPalma
North: Mark Dickson
North Central: Bill Flournoy
Northeast: Mike Cropp
PanWest: Becky Bridges
South: Pamela Crouch
Southwest: Joy Streater

Trustees

Gulf Coast: Kenneth ‘Ken’ Boyd - Chairman
Central: Jim DeHart
East: Wayne Culver
North: Mark Powell

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Answer to brain teaser:
The girls are the same person.
North Central: Duke Lane
Northeast: Fred Crabtree
PanWest: Grant Vaughn
South: Moseh ‘Moe’ Solomon
Southwest: Jim Stansbury

Ella Johnston-Leger, PDDGER
Texas Elks State Association Newsletter Editor
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409-658-4280

(Answer to the brain teaser - The two girls were not playing against each other and they played with different competitors.)

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