

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

January 2025

## El Campo Elks BPOE # 1749



# Chili Cook-Off & Auction



## Sat., Feb. 1, 2025

Elk Grounds – Hwy. 71 North, El Campo

### COOK-OFF CATEGORIES

Chili • Pinto Beans • Wild Game  
Chicken Noodle Soup • "Chopped Challenge"

### Team Entry

Fee \$140

for 4 Members,  
\$25 fee for each  
additional Category

### PAYOUT OVERALL WINNERS

\$500 / 1st • \$300 / 2nd • \$200 / 3rd

### TURKEY SHOOT GOING ON ALL DAY

\$3.00 PER SHOT / PAYOUT EACH ROUND.

Anthony Twardowski 979-332-6045

anthony.twardowski.jr@outlook.com

for rules or entry.



Benefits  
Lodge  
Charities



or Facebook Elk's Lodge 1749

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

# Hoop Shoot Set for Jan. 11

The El Campo Elks Lodge will hold its annual "Hoop Shoot" free throw contest Saturday, January 11 at 8:30 a.m. at ECHS gym.

The contest is open to all area youngsters 8-13 years of age, with the date of age determination being April 1, 2024. (i.e. How old the shooter will be ON THIS DATE). This is not an "El Campo only" contest, but covers an area



approximately 40-50 mi.

surrounding....or half-way to the next available Elks Lodge.

There is NO ENTRY FEE and no preregistration is necessary.

There are three age categories: 8-9, 10-11, and 12-13, with boys and girls competing separately.

Any questions regarding the upcoming "Hoop Shoot" event should be directed to Elks Hoop Shoot Director George Matthews at 979-541-6807.



## 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 .....  
 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  
 Veterans Committee ... Anthony Twardowski

### HOUSE COMMITTEE

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

### BULLETIN STAFF

Donnie Roddy & Chris Wendel

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 El Campo, TX 77437  
 (979) 543-3701

## Lodge Hamburger Meal Fundraiser

The Lodge had a successful fundraising event. Thanks to all who bought or sold meal tickets.

THANKS to those who came out, worked and donated to the event.

Special thanks to the following: Daniel Juranek (preparation and cost of the pinto beans, KULP plate give aways), Chad Hensley (Charcoal), Tim Drapela (Hamburger dills), Frito-Lay (assorted chips), Mikeskas (burger spices).

Steve Maples  
 Chad Hensley  
 Chris Wendel  
 Vicki Limmer  
 Patrick Gwosdz  
 Tim Drapela  
 Bruce Korenek  
 Erin Kutac

Duck Schulz  
 Daniel Juranek  
 Robin Hensley  
 Joanna Cranek  
 Tracy Oldag  
 Anthony Twardowski  
 Clayton Ott  
 Cody Korenek

Randy Fitch  
 Jack Swanson  
 Eddie Pool  
 Jamie Appling  
 Margarita Gonzales  
 Moose Rodriguez  
 Theresa Dutcher



**Take a look at the Lodge Legend (to left) and take note of the number of positions needed to run YOUR LODGE. You are needed to help fill those positions and committees.**

It's easy to enjoy the benefits when others do the work, that's human nature.

When a few of the members do most of the work, it's easy for the few to get burned out or become stagnant. For any organization to continue functioning with current and future projects, new life blood and ideas are necessary.

There are many committee positions being run by officers and trustees that you could use YOU! Everyone has different time commitments, but see if you have something to offer, every little bit helps and benefits everyone.

If you are interested in serving YOUR LODGE, contact Chris Wendel and volunteer!

**February 4th is the date set for nominations for 2025-2026 Lodge year, with elections concluding at the February 18 meeting.**

## Exalted Rulers's Message

by Patrick Gwosdz • 979-332-7242  
pgwosdzsr@sbcglobal.net

### Happy New Year, Fellow Elks!

First, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our Hamburger Supper such a success. Your hard work in selling tickets and supporting the event was truly appreciated.

I also want to express my gratitude to all who participated in Wreaths Across America. Thanks to your efforts, we laid beautiful wreaths to honor our veterans, showing them the respect and remembrance they truly deserve. It was a moving and meaningful way to honor those who have served our country.

As we move into 2025, I encourage you to stay up-to-date on the upcoming events and activities at our Lodge. There's always something exciting on the horizon, and we look forward to continuing our work as a team and supporting our members and community.



## Secretary's Corner

by Chris Wendel

• cfw3662@live.com • 979-541-9443



**Dues statements for upcoming Lodge year have been sent out in January for 2025-2026 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 2024-2025 Lodge year with a Membership of 253 - This is a gain of 3 Members. The efforts of the Members (YOU) to recruit new Members is always appreciated. **PLEASE REMIT YOUR DUES. THE LODGE NEEDS YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND DUES.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:elcampoelks1749@gmail.com)

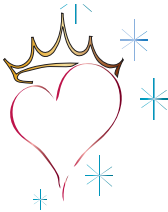
## MEETING DRAWING

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.**

## Sweetheart's Corner

by Vicki Limmer • 979-578-2546  
[vickilimmer@gmail.com](mailto:vickilimmer@gmail.com)



Good- bye 2024 and Happy New Year to all. Sweethearts were honored to help Elks place live "Wreaths Across America" wreaths on deceased Veteran's graves in December. We also had enough donated wreaths to place on every veteran's grave at Community Cemetery. Reminder: **Cookbooks are still available.** Start the new year off right with great, somewhat (?) healthy recipes. You can purchase one at Elks Lodge, Wylie Spray Center, EC Prosperity Bank, Fun Town RV (Wharton), R & R Printing or from any of the Sweethearts.

Sweethearts January **Big Event will be BINGO** for cash prizes. Mark your calendar for **Thursday, January 23rd at 6:30 PM.** Come early as dinner will be provided. Not sure of the menu yet but IF it's cold, probably stew, chili, soup and chicken & dumplings. In other words . . . lots of choices. **DOOR PRIZES** will be given!

Until then, see you at the Lodge.



# Wreaths Across America

Elks Lodge 1749  
December 14, 2024



This year across the country we reflect on our nation's Veterans and active-duty Service Members who have and continue to fight for the Freedoms we enjoy. The El Campo Elks, with the help of a few local Veterans, participated in the National Wreaths Across America Day Ceremony.

There are many men and women serving in all branches of the military, here at home and in places we may never have been or heard of. We honor them and their families for the sacrifices they make to keep our country safe. In a time of uncertainty this is more important than it has been in many years, the keeping of our freedom.

Wreaths Across America lay wreaths at the graves of soldiers across America, wherever they might lie.

Buck Wenglar laid a wreath in memory of those who served in the United States Army.

Nicco "Cowboy" Metoyer laid a wreath for those who served and are serving in the United States Marine Corps.

Tom Hauser laid a veteran's wreath in honor of those who served and are serving in the United States Navy.

Dave Wagner placed a wreath in memory of those who served and are serving in the United States Air Force.

Doug Wenglar laid a wreath in honor of the 93,129 United States Servicemen from all



Veterans pictured above are: Dave Wagner & Tom Hauser

branches whose last known status was either Prisoners of War or Missing in Action.

Anthony Twardowski, Jr., representing the US Space Force.

Spencer Thigpen representing the US Coast Guard.

Thomas Wilson representing the US Merchant Marines.

Here at the Elks Lodge in El Campo we are honored to be able to Serve our community with this ceremony, honoring all that have given everything and

those that are still giving their commitment to keeping our country free and allowing us the ability to live without the fear of reprisal in our own country.

## Sickness & Distress

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

### Best wishes to these Members with their health issues

**Efrain "Moose" Rodriguez** is reported to have much improved health.

**Anthony Perez** treatments are going well. He is gaining strength and mobility.

**Bubba Dornak** recovering from bone marrow transplant.

**Beverly Eddings** recovering from broken arm.

**Andy Wendel** is recovering from back surgery.

Riggs Macek, grandson of **Daniel & Ann Ott**, ongoing health issues.

Cole Amestoy, son of Member **Stacy Amestoy**, is recovering at home from surgery.

### Condolences to the families below on their losses.

W.C. Howard, father of Member **Scott Howard**, passed away November 24, 2024.

Adeline Kasper, mother of Member **Michael Kasper** passed away November 20.

Member **Michael W. Kasper** passed away December 5.

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

cfw3662@live.com.



# SWEETHEART

# PIGGY CHALLENGE



**Stuff a Pig with \$100**  
or donate \$100 to the Sweetheart's Fund  
**for a Steak Dinner**

with steak, baked potato, salad, dessert & bar drink  
Date TBA for January at Elk's Lodge.

All donations to benefit the  
Texas Elk's Camp for  
Special Needs Children



**DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

Contact Chris Wendel at  
elkcampoelks1749@gmail.com / 979-541-9443.

# 42 Elk's Lodge 1749 Domino Tournament January 9

3030 N. Mechanic  
\$25.00 entry fee for 5 games & Free meal  
Be there by 6:00pm to register. • Tournament begins 6:30 pm

Prize payout is for  
1st, 2nd, and 3rd places

**Dominoes  
N Stew**



FREE STEW  
FOR ALL PLAYERS  
Non-players can  
purchase  
by the bowl

For more info call Patrick  
at 979-332-7242



To participate in the  
Piggy Challenge, contact  
Chris Wendel and send in  
your Tax Deductible \$100  
(or more) ASAP.  
Reservations are only made  
when paid for.

**979-541-9443**  
elkcampoelks1749@gmail.com

### THANKS TO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

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

- Drapela Construction**
- First Church of God**
- Helping Hands Ministry**
- R & R Printing**
- Chris & Mary Jane Wendel**

## NEW MEMBERS

CANDIDATES ELECTED and AWAITING INITIATION

November 19 meeting

Jason Wysocki proposed by Anthony Twardowski, Jr.  
Lauren Hamilton proposed by Joanna Cranek

December 17 meeting

Cody Korenek, proposed by Jamie Appling

## January Birthdays!

- |                      |                     |                       |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 02 Middleton, Howard | 17 Dluhos, Silvan J | 26 Garcia, Cathy V    |
| 10 Drapela, Tim      | 18 Englund, John W  | 30 Edelstein, Ronnie  |
| 12 Rothbauer, Gina   | 18 Mikeska, Nick    | 30 Lucio, Rey         |
| 13 Okunade, Stacy    | 19 VonDerAu, Robert | 30 Socha, Kirk        |
| 13 Stovall, Guy      | 20 Cerny, Garrett   | 31 Bergstrom, Russell |
| 14 Davis, Sydnee     | 22 Ryan, Bob        |                       |
| 16 Cranek, Joanna    | 26 Clapp, Curtis    |                       |

# El Campo Elks Lodge Chili Cook-off

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual

### Saturday February 1, 2025

**Check in time from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

**Cooking start time: After check-in Turn in:**

- **“Chopped” Challenge - 11:00 AM**  
*(Ingredients distributed @ 10:00 AM)*
- **Chili - 11:30 AM**
- **Beans - 12:00 PM**
- **Wild Game - 12:30 PM**
- **Chicken Noodle Soup - 1:00 PM**

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Cook: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CASH PRIZES FOR OVERALL SCORES - \$500 \$300 \$200**

**El Campo Elks Lodge will not be held responsible for theft, damage, or accidents.**

**ENTRY FEE: \$140.00 for 4 Members (Covers all categories)**

**TABC rules do not allow alcoholic beverages to be brought on to premises!**

**\$25 fee for each additional category**

Extra Entries		Extra Entries		Extra Entries		Extra Entries		Extra Entries	
“Chopped” Challenge	#	Chili	#	Beans	#	Wild Game	#	Chicken Noodle Soup	#

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

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### CHOPPED CHALLENGE RULES

Ingredients for CHOPPED CHALLENGE will be distributed at 10:00 AM. Entry must include the ingredients distributed. Any other ingredients may be added to the entry preparation. a.

Entry must be cooked within the confines of your cook-off space.

- b. Turn in time for CHOPPED CHALLENGE will be 11:00 AM.
- c. Entry to be turned in using clam shell tray (to be provided).

### CHILI RULES

Each entry must consist of three (3) pounds of chili meat. Chili meat may be beef, pork or combination of both. No other type of meat **or beans** will be allowed. Chili may be inspected during check in.

- a. Chili must be cooked from scratch within the confines of your cook-off space.
- b. Turn in time for chili will be 11:30 a.m.
- c. Must turn in at least 24 oz. (in provided cup) for judging.

### BEAN RULES

Each entry must consist of three (3) pounds of beans. Beans may be inspected during check in.

- a. Beans must be cooked from scratch within the confines of your cook-off space. No commercial beans allowed.
- b. No large amounts of meats or vegetables allowed in turn in container.
- c. Turn in time for beans will be 12:00 p.m.
- d. Must turn in at least 24 oz. (in provided cup) for judging.

### Wild Game Rules

Entries must consist of Wild Game **other than seafood.**

- a. Entry meat for Wild Game may be inspected during check in.
- b. Entry meat must be cooked from scratch within the confines of your cook-off space.
- c. Entries may be cooked any way.
- d. Turn in time for Wild Game will be 12:30 p.m.
- e. Must turn in a quantity (in provided clamshell tray) for six (6) judges.

### CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP RULES

Entry meat must be cooked from scratch within the confines of your cook-off space.

- a. Entry meat must consist of chicken product. No other poultry meat accepted.
- b. Entry meat may be inspected during check-in.
- c. Entry meat must be cooked from scratch within confines of your cook-off space.
- d. Entry must contain noodles of any size or variety based on cooks preference.
- e. Turn in time for Chicken Noodle Soup will be 1:00 p.m.
- f. Must turn in a quantity (in provided cup) for judges

**EL CAMPO ELKS LODGE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT, DAMAGE, OR ACCIDENTS. If you have any questions you may contact Chad Hensley at 979-541-3239 or [chadwayne73@yahoo.com](mailto:chadwayne73@yahoo.com).**

**All Proceeds will Benefit Elks charities.**

**I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL RULES STATED! Please keep the enclosed rules for you to refer to.**

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN WITH YOUR ENTRY**



A Fraternal Organization

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

## ELKS SPONSOR & SUPPORT

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Drug Awareness Program | Welfare to Needy |
| Youth Scholarship      | Hoop Shoot       |
| Handicapped Children   | Youth Baseball   |
| Veterans Programs      | Boys State       |
| Community Projects     |                  |

Nonprofit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
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 El Campo, TX 77437

Read the Exciting News In Your Bulletin



"For a special Elk and family"



## 2025 Upcoming Events

### JANUARY

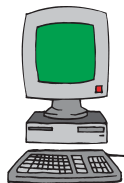
- JAN. 7 - Regular Lodge meeting - 7:00 PM
- JAN. 9- Dominoes Tourney, stew served, 6:30PM, Lodge
- JAN. 11 - Lodge Hoop Shoot at ECHS gym
- JAN. 21 - Regular Lodge meeting - 7:00 PM
- JAN. 23 - Sweetheart bingo 6:30 PM, Lodge

### FEBRUARY

- FEB. 1 Chili Cookoff
- FEB. 4 Regular Lodge meeting - 7:00 PM.  
 Nominations for 2025-2026 Lodge Officers
- FEB. 18 Regular Lodge meeting - 7:00 PM.  
 Election of 2025-2026 Lodge Officers

## Lodge Bulletin is Online

If you would like to view the bulletin on line, you can access it at [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org), enter "1749" in the keyword search field, click "go". The virtual website for El Campo Lodge will pop up. You can click on a number of items in the left side of the page to access. One of them is the bulletin.



## JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4
CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN 5-7 pm	CLOSED	OPEN 5-7 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
5	6	7 Regular Lodge Meeting 7 pm	8	9 Dominoes Tournament Lodge 6:30 pm Stew Served	10 HOOP SHOOT	11 Lodge Hoop Shoot at ECHS Gym
CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
19	20	21 Regular Lodge Meeting 7 pm	22	23 Sweetheart BINGO 6:30 PM LODGE	24	25
CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	OPEN 5-7 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
26	27	28	29	30	31	CHILI COOKOFF
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!