

Texas Rebekah News

May 2026



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Rebekah Assembly Secretary

Pam Isenhower
27210 Kendall Ridge Lane
Cypress, Texas 719/775-9726

Retirement Center

Lavonne Cannaday, Director
2302 S. Oak Grove Road,
Ennis, Texas 75119
972/875-8641 or director@ofrc.org

Grand Lodge Office

James Curtis, Secretary
3440 W. Second Avenue
Corsicana, Texas 75110
james.curtis@gllooftx.org



Rebekah Assembly of Texas
www.texasrebekahs.org
President, Arlene Martin
Vice-President, Mari McDonald
Warden, Micki Jones-Hollaway
Secretary, Pam Isenhower
Treasurer, Amy Cantrell



Calendar of Events

May:

3 Fish Fry, Athens Lodge #961

9 W & O Meeting

10 Mother's Day

June:

5-7 54th Annual Canadian War Memorial Weekend

6 Garage Sale, Smithville Odd Fellow & Rebekah Lodges

13 W & O Meeting

21 Father's Day

July:

16-29 Pilgrimage for Youth

August:

14-20 Sovereign Grand Lodge Session, Frisco, Texas



Rebekahs! Let us know what is happening in your lodge. Are you having a fundraiser, are you doing a service project? If it's scheduled, we will put it on our calendar of events. These items should be sent in as soon as they are scheduled by your lodge. If they have already happened, send photos and some information so that we can share your work with other Rebekahs.

Items should be emailed to texasrebekahnews@gmail.com no later than the 20th of each month. **Items received after the 20th, will not be included in that month's newsletter.**

CODE TALK

Sovereign Grand Lodge Code of General Laws

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- Chapter III, Section 1, Part B. (1):
- **B. Eligibility:** a person of good character who believes in a Supreme Being, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe sponsored by a member of the Order, shall be eligible for membership.
- (1) Qualifications as to Character: the authority to determine character shall vest in each lodge, however, membership shall not be denied on the basis of their age (other than that of minimum age to join the branch of the Order to which application is made), disability, ethnicity, gender, race, sex, sexual orientation, religion or other social identity is deemed an offense against the Order and shall be cited as specification under the charge of conduct unbecoming an Odd Fellow.
- Chapter III, Section 2, Part B **Rebekah Lodge**
- (1) at least sixteen (16) years of age shall be eligible for membership.
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The Great Wall of Ennis

The staff at Summit Windows treated the residents and staff of the IOOF & Rebekah Retirement Center to a “wall” of donuts! Thanks so much Summit Windows for this special treat.



Did you know?

If you have ten years continuous membership as a Rebekah or Odd Fellow, you are eligible for the lowest rates available at the IOOF Retirement Center in Ennis!

For more information, call Lavonne Cannaday, Director at 972/875-8641

Warden's Musings

Hope everyone is getting some well needed rain this month. Will sure make the flowers pretty next month.

As I'm writing this, I'm thinking of our President and Grand Master, Arlene and Jason, as they get the honor of visiting the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. Safe travels to you both!

If you see a young person that might be interested in joining the Order please have them reach out to me. They can text me @903-521-5669 or email me mickijones80@gmail.com

Youth News

We are happy to report that the IOOF Texas Youth have a new Facebook page! Please go to: **Tra Jr Oddfellow on Facebook** and join their page.

Check back with us to see how our youth groups are revived and progress.

Without our youth, our Order cannot survive. Let's follow them on social media to see how we can help them and the Order.



IARA Fundraiser

Texas' own Pam Isenhower, 2025-2026 President of the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies, is selling plush ladybugs, ladybug timers and pins, and ladybug and cardinal magnets. If you are interested in supporting our IARA President by buying any or all of these items, please email Peggy Idom at perkypeggy34@yahoo.com



Rebekah of the Year

Submitted by Mary Jo Creamer



On Thursday April 2, Mari McDonald, Vice president, Rebekah Assembly of Texas made her official visit to Smithville Rebekah lodge 180.

One of our members, PNG Nancy Conaway, received the award for Texas' Rebekah of the Year from our past president Christina Jones-Hollaway and Mari presented the award to Nancy as part of her visit. We are so very proud of Nancy as I have been in the lodge for over 30 years and do not remember any member of our lodge receiving this award. Nancy was so very surprised as well as excited. We have been blessed with such a wonderful Rebekah in our midst.

Thank you Mari, for your official visit.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, send us your email address at

texasrebekahnews@gmail.com

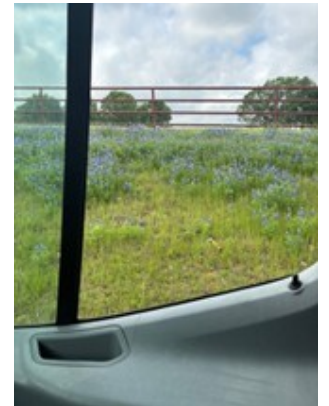


Bluebonnet Trails & Luncheon

It's been a busy spring for the folks at the Retirement Center in Ennis. And no spring is complete without a tour of the countryside to see all the bluebonnets and have a little lunch with friends.

Pictured above left: Cheryl Baldrige, Martha Schlotman, Kathy Dlabaj, Iva DeSmidt

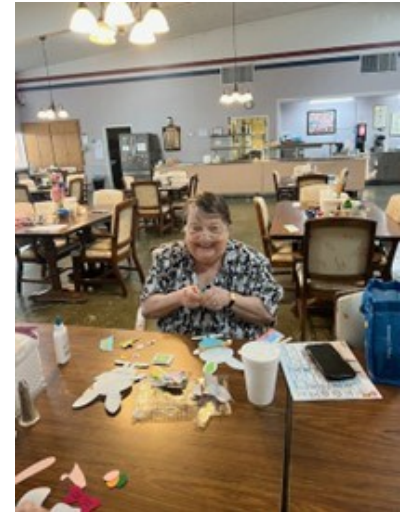
Pictured at left: Shirley Malone, Brenda Blaylock, Patsy Goss, Mack Newman and Ann Clagett.



Easter in Ennis

The Shenanigans at the IOOF Retirement Center

First, you make the decorations, then you decorate the house, then you color the eggs



Put the food out,



Hunt down the eggs then..



Party with people you love!!!



Palmer Rebekah Lodge Continues Service Through Hygiene Kits and Creative Fellowship

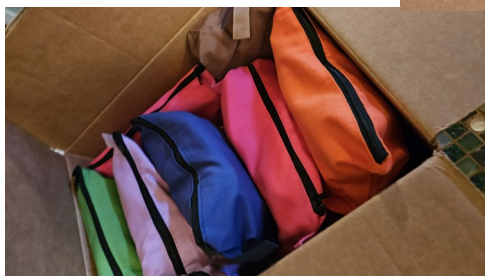
Palmer Rebekah Lodge is proud to continue its commitment to community care through its ongoing hygiene kit initiative. In our most recent effort, members assembled 55 hygiene kits, each filled with essential personal care items to support individuals facing hardship. These kits are thoughtfully distributed among the various “little pantries” throughout our town, ensuring that those in need have access not only to food, but to basic dignity items as well.

This project remains a cornerstone of our lodge’s outreach, reflecting the Rebekah spirit of compassion, service, and quiet generosity. As needs persist, so too does our dedication to meeting them—one kit at a time. For those who may wish to support this ongoing effort, a curated list of needed items can be found here: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/249J29D4NF2Z7?ref=list_d_wl_lfu_nav_7

In addition to our service work, Palmer Rebekah Lodge recently gathered for a jewelry-making party that blended creativity with fellowship. With an IOOF-inspired flair, members designed unique pieces that celebrate our shared values and traditions. These handcrafted items will soon be available for purchase as part of an upcoming lodge fundraiser, offering both a meaningful keepsake and an opportunity to support our continued charitable efforts.

Through both service and fellowship, Palmer Rebekah Lodge remains committed to making a positive impact in our community while strengthening the bonds that unite us.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,
Palmer Rebekah Lodge



Ramblings of Your V.P.

I'm sitting on my back porch right now. There's a nice breeze which is keeping me here despite the mosquitoes. The rustle of the pecan trees as they are moved by the wind is like a balm to the soul. Somehow, it is keeping out a lot of the other noise. The noise that gets in the way and makes you forget the good stuff. There's a lot going on right now but, there's always been a lot going on in the world. As we navigate through all the "stuff", some important, some important to us, some not so important, it's nice to stop and feel the breeze. The wind is blowing my crazy curly hair around and I look a bit nutty but I feel good. I feel nature and goodness and wonder and I feel blessed.

The fact that I haven't let the mosquitoes run me into the house feels significant right now. It reminds me of my introduction into the lodge. After the first meeting, I didn't return for quite a while because it was quite like being in my back yard right now, there were mosquitoes, in the form of older members, buzzing around me and I got stung. I was about 32 years old and one of the members, who carried quite a lot of weight in the lodge was catty and rather nasty. She did it in front of a few other members, and they kept silent. I couldn't reconcile their behavior with the friendship, love and truth that was touted on all the brochures, so, I didn't go back.

An argument with my husband months later, sent me back to a lodge meeting one Tuesday night. The mosquitoes weren't as bad that night, perhaps because the "mean" lady ignored me, and I actually got to learn a bit more about the women and men that I was now associated with. I went home and had a good long think. The fact was that I truly enjoyed that meeting. It was like seeds had been planted and I was able to see what I might miss if I scurried inside every time the mosquitoes, in the guise of a jealous old woman, stung me and hurt my feelings.

So, I went back. I'm not saying that there's never any mosquitoes in the form of meanness, I'm saying that the breeze I get from the people who share friendship, love and truth with me, are worth sitting on the porch for. This Order, and my lodge, make me feel goodness and wonder and they make me feel blessed.

This month, I ask two things of my sisters and brothers:

- Take a good long look in the mirror. Ask yourself if you are a mosquito or the breeze. Do you sting others or shoo away the stingers. As humans, sometimes we let our hurts, pride and even jealousy overtake the goodness in us and we start buzzing the people around us and become hurtful.
- If you have mosquitoes, buzzing around you, I hope you will reach out to another Rebekah so they can help you feel the breeze.

Take care of yourselves and your Order my fellow Rebekahs.
And help me do the same.

In F, L & T

Mari McDonald



Directory of Rebekah Lodges in Texas

Andrews Rebekah Lodge #148

206 NE 5th, Andrews, TX

Pat Richards, Sec

prichards413@yahoo.com

Athens Rebekah Lodge #23

1301 Cayuga, Athens, TX

Barbara Curtis, Sec

jmcurtis162@gmail.com

Balch Springs Rebekah Lodge #78

12001 Crumpton Drive, Balch Springs, TX

Micki Jones, Sec

godschild_000@yahoo.com

Casa View Rebekah Lodge

meets @Cotton Patch Restaurantl, Rockwall, TX

Peggy Smith, Sec

peggy111749@gmail.com

Cypress Rebekah Lodge #22

meets at VFW, 21902 NW Frwy, Cypress, TX

Rena Healy-Findlay, Sec

renahealy@outlook.com

Denton Rebekah Lodge #18

1415 Eden, Denton, TX

Karen June Bays, Sec

kalenajune@yahoo.com

Harlandale Rebekah Lodge #179

no physical building at this time

Yvonne DeLuca, Sec.

yvonedeluca@aol.com

Home Rebekah Lodge #128

3440 W. Second Ave. Corsicana, TX

Nancy Chew, Sec

nancy.chewgliooftx.org

Loyalty Rebekah Lodge #166

400 W. Terrell, Burleson, TX

Linda Swanson, Sec.

lindaswanson1953@yahoo.com

Palmer Rebekah Lodge #25

no physical building at this time

Amy Cantrell, Sec.

aboxofjoy@yahoo.com

River Oaks Rebekah Lodge #467

1501 Hemphill, Fort Worth, TX

Vicky Fluty, Sec.

mytxnanaf@yahoo.com

Silver Leaf Rebekah Lodge #75

1501 Hemphill, Fort Worth, TX

Arlene Martin, Sec.

arlenemartin1955@gmail.com

Smithville Rebekah Lodge #180

406 Turney, Smithville, TX

Calley Harris, Sec.

lilbaby233377@gmail.com

Tyler Rebekah Lodge #142

220 1/2 W.Erwin, Tyler, TX

Vivian McElligott, Sec.

vnicklessmcelligott@gmail.com

Waxahachie Rebekah Lodge #381

208 1/2 Rogers, Waxahachie, TX

Savannah Williams, Sec.

savannah.o.williams@gmail.com

