

VISALIA ELKS

1298 BULLETIN | "The Herd"

Visalia, California – February 2024 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks



Lodge Meetings

Wed February 14, 2024 – Business
Wed February 28, 2024 - Initiations

House Committee Meeting

Wed February 14, 2024

Trustee Meeting

Wed February 14, 2024

(You must call or e-mail in advance to be on the agenda)

Bunco Night

No Bunco in February due to the Farm Show being that week.

Taco Tuesday

No Taco Tuesday in February

Poker Night

February 1st and 15th - Seat Cards handed out at 6pm - Cards are dealt at 6:30pm

Veteran's Breakfast –

February 11th – 8:30-11am

Cook Your Own Steak Night

No Cook Your Own Steak dinner in February

Visalia Elks Lodge Bulletin

Periodical of the;
Visalia Elks Lodge #1298
Volume 23/24 Edition #10

News Submission Deadline

Submissions must be received on the 20th of each month to be included in the next newsletter. **Send to:**
kristy@rknstudio.com

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT:
[FACEBOOK.COM/VISALIAELKSLODGE](https://www.facebook.com/visaliaelkslodge)



“EXALTED RULER’S CORNER”

Dear Members of Visalia Elks Lodge #1298,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the upcoming nominations and elections for our lodge, it is crucial for us to actively participate in the democratic process that shapes the future of our organization. Your engagement is vital in ensuring the continued success and growth of Visalia Elks Lodge #1298.

The nominations for our 2024-2025 officers will be held on Wednesday, February 14, during our 7:30 lodge meeting. Elections, as needed, will be conducted at our following lodge meeting on Wednesday, February 28, and we encourage all eligible members to exercise their right to vote. Your voice matters, and by casting your vote, you contribute to the collective decisions that shape the direction of our lodge.

We are committed to transparency and fairness throughout the election process. If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming nominations/elections, please feel free to reach out to me or any other lodge officer.

Let us all come together to support the principles of our organization and elect individuals who will lead with dedication, integrity, and a shared commitment to the values of Visalia Elks Lodge #1298.

Thank you for your continued support and active participation in our community.

Fraternally,
Russell McKinney
Exalted Ruler
Visalia Elks Lodge #1298

Lodge Officers 2022/2023

Exalted Ruler	Russell McKinney
Leading Knight	Kevin Colopy
Loyal Knight	Joe Paddock
Lecturing Knight	Steve Williams
Esquire	Eva Rasmussen
Chaplain	Camille Fisher
Inner Guard	Pam Taves
Tiler	Keith Carlos
Secretary	Wendy O'Connor
Treasurer	Chuck Fishel

Trustees:

1-Year	Rodney Jared
2-Year	Victor Perez
3-Year	Tom O'Connor
4-Year	Ron Marshall
5-Year	Scott Taves

Past Exalted Rulers *

Ronald Mathis	1976-77
Larry Paxton	1978-79
John Peters	1989-90
Jim Hay	1991-92
Robert Casey	1992-93
Al Hack	1995-96
Rob Van Wagoner	1999-2000
Joe Alberti	2004-05, 05-06, 15-16
Ted Donald	2006-07
Jan Lee	2016-17, 17-18
Ray Lewis	2018-19, 19-20
Ron Marshall	2020-21
Eli Ledesma	2021-22
Mike Saulque	2022-23

*Active in Good Standing

Past Exalted Rulers from other lodges:

Ken Bridges	Tulare # 1424
Pat Dugan	Tulare #1424

Member News:

Orientation and Initiation. Next Orientation is March 27, 2024 at 5:30pm. Ball Room #2

Orientation is MANDATORY for all candidates. Because of our current situation, only candidates and sponsors will be allowed to attend.

This is the beginning of the learning process of the BPOE and what we are all about.

Dinner will be served at 6:30pm and candidates will have dinner on us.

Only members and candidates are allowed in the lodge room. The members lounge will be closed during the initiation and lodge meeting. Expect about an hour. No beverages are allowed in the lodge room.

Note to Sponsors: Please make reservations for your candidates and notify them of the above listed times. Sponsors should escort their candidates to orientation, dinner and initiation. **Attire is business casual.**

**NO SHORTS, FLIP FLOPS,
"T-SHIRTS OR JEANS
DURING THE INITIATION...**

Candidates for voting this month

No New Membership Voting in February. Nominations and Voting for New Officers 2024/25 will be at both meetings in February.

ELKS LODGE UPDATES

TACO TUESDAY PRICE CHANGE

Price for Taco Tuesday will now be \$12 a plate beginning January 1, 2024.

FRIDAY LUNCHES ARE BACK

1st & 3rd Friday of the Month starting at 11:30am



VISALIA ELKS 1298 PER ASSOCIATION

GUN RAFFLE BENEFITING THE BUILDING FUND

Tickets for the raffle are \$20 each. Please see Mike Saulque at reach out to him at 559-679-7013 for more info.

GIVING FEELS GOOD

Find out how you can support the work of the Major Project by giving a gift in memory of a loved one. Explore BLT Legacy Giving at chea-elks.org

KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S NOT GETTING THE BULLETIN?

Help them get the info they need by visiting our website: www.visaliaelks.org and subscribing to the mailing list (on the home page on the right side). You can even do this from your phone. Once they enter their name/email into the subscription form, they'll get an email to confirm their subscription. After it's confirmed, they'll receive the monthly bulletin and the weekly **What's Happening This Week** email that is sent out on Mondays.

VISALIA ELKS COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Auditing Accounting	Ray Lewis PER
Americanism	Richard Grissom
Beqs. & Living Trusts	Melanie McKimmons
Business Practices	Wendy O'Connor
Drug Awareness	Thomas Higgins
Government Relations	Ray Lewis PER
Hoop Shoot	Suzanna Aguilera-Marrero
Insurance & Safety	Ron Marshall / Rodney Jared
Lodge Activities	Wendy O'Connor
Membership Retention	Ron Marshall
National Foundation ENF	Melanie McKimmons
National Foundation Grants	Kevin Colopy
Nat Vets Service	Rebecca Peterson
Officers Training	Eli Ledesma PER
Public Relations	Stacey Marshall
Major Project	Melanie McKimmons
Ritual Training	Ray Lewis PER
Scholarships	Bill Flores
Youth Activities	Diane Rouse

Kitchen & Event Volunteer Thanks

01-09-24 Taco Tuesday

Team Leader: Jamie Duncan

Crew: Bill & LaDean Pearce, Mike Wiebe, Laurel Flores

01-10-24 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Danny Carrell – Smokin' Hot

Crew: Lori Carrell, John Babb, James Plough, Jelenia Crenshaw, Robin & Bill Meyst, Kimberly & Nathan Stoll, Randall Hardcastle, Dwayne Petersen, David & Devony Smith, George Gambill, Cissy Archuleta, Laurel Flores

01-14-24 Veteran's Breakfast - Served 302 guests

Team Leader: Tom Hansen

Saturday Prep Crew: Ed & Jane Shields, Rae Crawford, Ron Vasquez, Eric Bush, Scott Reeder and Phil Maroney

Sunday Breakfast:

Hostesses: Judy Staley, Michelle Nelson and Melanie McKimmons

Front Lounge: Eric Fishel and Chuck Fishel

Omelet Cooks: Janie Donald, Lori Jackson, Scott Nelson, Kevin Colopy, Ron Marshall and Rodney Jared

Kitchen Cooks:

Scot Reeder – Gravy

Phil Fortney - Bacon

Russell McKinney and Brian Fishel – Sausage, Potatoes

Servers:

Sark Davidian (Bacon)

Amy Gordon (Sausage & Potatoes)

John Kennedy (Pancakes & French Toast)

Maria Silva (Biscuits and Gravy)

Dishwashers: Nick Gordon, Richard Break, Shane Souza & Ted Donald

Back up Cooks: Eric Bush, Jorge Montano, Ron Vasquez & Phil Maroney and Eva Rasmussen

Bussers: Girl Scouts

Kitchen & Event Volunteer Thanks (cont.)

01-23-24 Taco Tuesday

Team Leader: Jamie Duncan

Crew: Bill & LaDean Pearce, Stacy McNabb, Mike Wiebe, Laurel Flores

01-17-24 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Ruckin' Fidiculous

Crew: Rod Jared, Stacy Jared, Michelle Nelson, Debbie Chavez, Bobbie Chavez, Chuck Fishel, Cissy Archuleta

01-19-24 Cook Your Own Steak Night

Team Leader: Jamie Duncan

Crew: Bill & LaDean Pearce, Stacy McNabb, Larea Rivera, Toni Coop, Rob & Sabrina Shahan, Phil Moreno, Eva Rasmussen, Rebeca Mexicano, Tom O'Connor, Cissy Archuleta, Cesar Vargas, Kevin Colopy, Eli Ledesma, Russell McKinney, Keith Carlos, Marco Vargas, Laurel Flores

01-24-24 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Kim Burchett

Crew: Holly Derrington, Rae Crawford, Jane Shields, DeeDee Rains, Gerri Giotta, Christina Ritchie, Mindy Morgan, Phil Moreno, Don Smith, Danny Ludlum, Eva Rasmussen, Cissy Archuleta, Laurel Flores

01-31-24 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Becky Kennedy

Crew: John Kennedy, Rae Crawford, Camille Fisher, Phil Moreno, Russell McKinney, Eva Rasmussen, Rob & Sabrina Shahan, Jane Shields, Reuel Stevens, Laurel Flores

Please note: If you'd like your cooking team to get credit in the bulletin, please be sure to fill out the form and turn it into the office. We only publish what we get submitted.



*A Coin a Day so they can
Walk, Talk, See and Play!*

PURPLE PIG THANK YOU'S

Major Project/Purple Pig

THANK YOU and a Tip o' the hat from the Purple Pig

" A coin a day so they'll walk, talk, see and play "

Upcoming events:



1298 Cigar Club – February 8th at 6:30pm

If you enjoy a good cigar or you're just curious about cigars, this will give members an opportunity to meet at least once a month. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.



*Veteran's Breakfast
- 8:30-11:00am*

Veteran's Breakfast – February 11th

Eggs/Omelet bar, Potatoes, Bacon, Sausage, French toast, Pancakes, Biscuits and Gravy

8:30 to 11:00am

Adults - \$15.00 | Kids under 12yrs - \$12 | Veterans - \$8.00



**CRAB FEED – SOLD OUT
February 23, 2024**



**TEXAS ROADHOUSE - DINE TO DONATE -
February 27, 2024**



Letter from District Deputy Exalted Ruler to the East Central 0720

First of all let me thank each and every one of you as members and guests for a warm and spectacular welcome during our visitation, Cindy and I are so very humble to have you all as friends.

Each lodge with its warm welcome committee to the various delicious foods you've prepared. Can't thank you enough. As you know me and my committee of Auditor and safety inspector have completed our visitation of 12 lodges in our district, I hope you didn't take our visit as if we were pushy but as what it should have been seen as, tools to help your lodges keep in track with the status that Grand Lodge has set for us.

Most lodges displayed the opening and closing to the best of their ability, some tried but weren't very successful at its attempts, the others giving a great effort. I hope this isn't the last time your lodges use the open and closing for your meetings, and continue to strive to be better.

One thing that stood out is that most lodges avoided the opportunity to display an initiation which I would have been grateful to see, I hope you would consider sending me an invitation so that I may witness an initiation from your lodge.

On April 26-27 of 2024 East Central District will be hosting the Ritual Contest at the Porterville lodge. NOW is the time to start practicing even if you're not sure of who your next officers will be. We have been given all the opportunity to do better even if it's to read the ritual, Learn to pronunciation of the words correctly and getting excited to participate, It's been a long time since we've had 100% attendance.

We all want the same thing from our District and that's unity, so let's unite together and be a stronger district, let's let our fellow lodges know that they are welcome at any time.

Respectfully Submitted:
District Deputy Exalted Ruler to the East Central 0720
Rudy Guerra

VAGABONDS TRAVELS



The activity and traveling bugs have hit the Vagabonds for 2024 and starting off right here at our 1298 Lodge with potluck to watch the Super Bowl on February 11.

Vagabonds – **get your calendars out and mark the rally dates** listed below so you will be sure to save the weekends to have fun times with fellow RVers. **March 13-17** will be the Annual Casa De Fruta Rally. Next will be a rally at Orange Grove RV Park **April 11-15** followed by a rally at San Lorenzo Park in King City **June 20-24** and then back to Orange Grove RV Park in Bakersfield **October 16-21**.

The Vagabonds send sincere sympathy to the Parlier family in the recent passing of Anne Parlier December 25. Jasper (died in 2019) and Anne were not official Vagabond members but they were always supportive of the club members and interested in the Vagabond activities. Anne was one of "the best" and we are privileged to have shared many Wednesday night dinners and Veteran Breakfasts with Anne until health issues altered her activities. Our condolences to the family.

Safe travels to those on the road and see you at the February 21 RV Meeting.

Frank and Kathy Kelly

FAX: (773) 755-4905

PHONE: (773) 755-4904
Email: RickG@elks.org



MEMBERSHIP-PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rick Gathen
Manager

A Fraternal Organization

2750 N. Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

MEDIA ALERT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

156th Anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

THE ELKS WERE FOUNDED ON FEBRUARY 16, 1868

Chicago, IL – As we approach February 16, 2024, Elks Lodges across the nation are gearing up to celebrate the remarkable 156th anniversary of the founding of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on February 16, 1868.

With a rich history spanning 156 years, the Elks have been unwavering in their commitment to community service, making a substantial impact through donations exceeding \$12 Billion. In the past year alone, their generosity reached \$399 million, reflecting their dedication to creating better communities.

Beyond financial contributions, the Elks actively invest in the future through annual college scholarships, awarding nearly \$5 million to support educational pursuits. Additionally, their commitment to community development is evident in the substantial investment of almost \$19 million through the Elks Community Investment Program. One of the hallmarks of the Elks' commitment is their support for veterans. Last year, the Elks contributed over \$39 million to Veterans Administration Medical Centers, clinics, and state care facilities, providing essential items, comfort, and organizing various activities.

Boasting nearly 1,800 lodges and a membership approaching 800,000, the Elks welcome individuals aged 21 and above who share a belief in God. To learn more about the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and to explore membership opportunities, visit www.elks.org or Join.Elks.Org.

Join us in honoring and celebrating 156 years of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, recognizing their enduring commitment to community impact, service, and fostering a sense of belonging.

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These good folks have donated to help keep our monthly newsletter coming to each and every one of our members. We appreciate their consideration. If you are interested in being a sponsor in future bulletins, please contact the office. The cost is \$100 a year and it can be prorated if needed.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Members with a birthday this month get a FREE dinner on any dinner of the month, including Friday Steak Night. (Excludes Prime Rib, Rib Nights, Fireside Dinners, Crab and Shrimp Feeds. Get A Free Beverage on your birthday in the lounge.

- 2 Chris Adams
Charles William Cornelius
Ernest R Garrison
Todd McRoberts
Stephen William Sobko
Danny Stewart
- 3 Robert R Aguilar
Sara Anne Doyle
Jim Smith
- 4 Gino Celillo
Laura Crawford
Monique da Costa
Doenitz Lopez
- 5 Michael Alaniz
Staci Niki Gallian
Corissa Garza
Joey Mackey
Deborah Miller
- 6 Steve Clinton
- 7 Garrick Freitas
Robert L Gentry
- 8 Julie Burger
Lisa-Marie Leal
Elias Ledesma
Christopher Lewis
Rebecca Ann Mexicano
- 9 Karen Barnett
Tyler Burgess
Vincent Doom
Chris J Hooten
Robert Wayne Scott
Russell Souza
- 10 John Field
Tom Hansen
Jeff Todd
Sheila Woolley
- 11 Randy Bloomfield
Jason Hutton
Greg Ritchie
- 12 Jeff Anderson
Angelica Morales
Trini A Nava
Steve Rodriguez
- 13 Viloeta Garcia
Teresa Lewis
Tim Penton
- 14 Tammy R Tashjian
- 15 Andy W Bryant
Craig Van Horn

- 16 David Warren Crawford
Donald Pearson
Fernando Rubalcaba
Darol E Ruffner, Jr.
Martin Sanchez
Ashley Tedder
- 17 Raylene Burke
Dean Hernandez
Ashley Reyes
Harry Jeffery Sanders
- 18 Michael A Burchett
Alfredo Saenz
- 19 Freddy Avalos
Ryan Dowling
Barbara Franco
Abraham Guillen
James H Parsley
Jessica Souza
Michael P West
- 20 Rodney Alexander
Jeremy Allen
Tom Babb
David Ray Hofstee
Scott Lunsford
Wendy O'Connor
Darla Rains
- 21 Larry Craig Gleason
Christopher Mirwald
Lori Urias
- 22 Jamie Duncan
Dwayne McGovran
Phil Mirwald
- 23 Rodney M Blaco
Julie Soria Costa
Lee Noriega
Edward Vincent Reynoso
- 24 Curtis W Hayes
Sam Sanchez
- 25 Charles Duck
John L Hull
David Renteria
- 26 Corey Evans
Myles Landin
Mark Manro
James P Silva
- 27 David Brito
Martin Oberle
- 28 Christopher Daniel Ludlum
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