



Visalia Elks Lodge 1298

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Dear Esteemed Members,

Many of you have been asking about "365" - what it entails, where the funds go, and how it works. Allow me to clarify. My goal this year, with the "365" campaign, is to challenge each member to donate one dollar a day to our lodge. This small amount can make a significant difference in fulfilling our lodge's needs and desires, particularly in funding important projects like the long overdue parking lot renovation, which has already been approved by the lodge and will commence this year!

The funds raised through "365" will benefit our lodge solely. Once the parking lot project is complete, the contributions will continue to support future construction projects. While we have made remarkable progress and have dedicated members who have generously contributed both time and money, there is still more to be done. If each member contributes just \$365 a year, we could cover the entire parking lot renovation without having to borrow a cent, and we'll be well on our way to achieving even more.

So, I challenge all our members, whether active, inactive, local, or traveling, to join me in this endeavor. Let's show the impact of our collective contribution in enhancing and growing our Lodge. Your support thus far has been incredible, and we are deeply grateful. We assure you that we will work tirelessly to make this year truly remarkable.

Thank you for your unwavering support!

Sincerely,

**Kevin Colopy
Exalted Ruler**

VISALIA ELKS

1298 BULLETIN | "The Herd"

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



Lodge Meetings

Wed May 8, 2024 – Business
Wed May 22, 2024 - Initiations

House Committee Meeting

Wed May 8, 2024

Trustee Meeting

Wed May 8, 2024

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

Bunco Night

May 14th – sign in starts at 5:30pm

Taco Tuesday

May 14th & May 28th

Poker Night

May 2nd & 16th - Seat Cards handed out at 6pm - Cards are dealt at 6:30pm

Veteran's Breakfast – Mother's Day

May 12th – 8:30-11am

Cook Your Own Steak Night

May 17th - 6pm – 7:30pm

Friday Lunches – May 3rd and 17th

Visalia Elks Lodge Bulletin

Periodical of the;
Visalia Elks Lodge #1298
Volume 24/25 Edition #2

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 the Visalia Elks Lodge,

Happy May! It's hard to believe it's been a month already.

I'll keep this ER corner short and sweet. I know I already gave you a full-page letter to read about our 365 fundraiser. If you haven't checked it out yet, please flip back a page and take a moment.

I'm thrilled about the success we've already had and all the great things we'll accomplish together.

Our Officer team competed last week in this year's district ritual contest, and everyone did an amazing job on their parts! We also had our first initiation last week, which was equally impressive!

Thank you to our officers for all their hard work. We have a lot of great events coming up.

Please check the calendar and come enjoy the beautiful weather and our fantastic lodge. See you this weekend at the Kentucky Derby party!

Fraternally yours,

Kevin Colopy
Exalted Ruler
Visalia Elks Lodge #1298

Lodge Officers 2022/2023

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

Trustees:

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

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
Russell McKinney	2023-24

*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 May 22, 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 May 8, 2024

David Anaya by Bryan Davis
Kathy Ashford by Ted Donald
David Cornado by Everette Crook
Brian Fisher by Darwyn Ward
Robert Garcia by Steve Martin, Jr.
Angela Hernandez by Greg Lopez
Drucilla Quesnay by Gene V Quesnay
Eric Saenz by Dorissa Garza
Angelica Sanchez by James P Silva
Thomas Jimenez by Ignacio Ruiz
Diamond Stanley by Lloyd Keeling
Charlie Thum by William G Flores

Reinstate:

Les Borges by Tom Casares



365 CAMPAIGN

VISALIA ELKS LODGE #1298 FUNDRAISING
A MEMBER PLEDGE TO DONATE \$1 A DAY

365 Campaign

– Kevin Colopy, ER is initiating this campaign for 2024.

Read more about it in the attached cover letter. "By pledging just \$365 per member annually, the equivalent of a dollar a day, we can unlock the resources necessary to fulfill our lodge's needs and aspirations."

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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MAY 27, 2024

See **Page 5** for details on how you can help your lodge.

VISALIA ELKS COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Auditing Accounting	Jan Lee PER
Americanism	Richard Grissom
Beqs. & Living Trusts	Melanie McKimmons
Business Practices	Wendy O'Connor
Drug Awareness	Abel Lopez
Government Relations	Jordan Mulrooney
Hoop Shoot	Suzanna Aguilera-Marrero
Insurance & Safety	Rodney Jared
Lodge Activities	Wendy O'Connor
Membership Retention	Ron Marshall
National Foundation ENF	Melanie McKimmons
National Foundation Grants	Joe Paddock / Kevin Colopy
Nat Vets Service	Rebecca Peterson / Herb Schneider
Officers Training	Eli Ledesma PER
Public Relations	Kim Batty
Major Project	Melanie McKimmons
Ritual Training	Ray Lewis PER
Scholarships	Bill Flores
Youth Activities	Cheyenne Carrell

Kitchen & Event Volunteer Thanks

4-3-24 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Lori Jackson

Crew: Mercedes Leos, Alvino Lopez, Sharon Lopez, Scott Reeder, Jeff Turner, Marco Vaca, Eric Bush, Pam Nelson, Laura Crawford, Peggy Gruber, Lucille Kreps, Laurel Flores, Eva Rasmussen

4-9-24 Taco Tuesday

Team Leader: Jamie Duncan

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

4-10-24 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Danny Carrell – Smokin' Hot

Crew: James Plough, Bill Meyst, LaRea Rivera, Cheyenne Carrell, George Gambill, Jelenia Crensha, Jose Marquez, Robin Meyst, Cissy Archuleta, Laurel Flores

4-14-24 Veteran's Breakfast - Served 315 guests

Team Leader: Tom Hansen

Saturday Prep Crew: Brian Fishel, Ron Vasquez, Jane & Ed Shields, Reuel Stevens, Chuck Fishel, Scott Reeder

Sunday Breakfast:

Hostesses: Judy Staley, Stacey Jared

Front Lounge: Chuck Fishel and Eric Fishel

Omelet Cooks: Scott Nelson, Kevin Colopy, Rodney Jared, Mike Saulque, Ron Marshall

Kitchen Cooks:

Jeff Turner – Gravy

Phil Fortney – Bacon

Brian Fishel – Sausage, Potatoes

Servers:

Maria Silva – Biscuits & Gravy

James Silva – Pancakes & French Toast

Amy Gordan, her daughter and Rae Crawford – Sausage, potatoes and bacon

Dishwashers: Nick Gordon, Richard Break

Back up Cooks: Eric Bush, Ron Vasquez & Shane Souza

Bussers: Girl Scouts

Kitchen & Event Volunteer Thanks (cont.)

4-16-24 Skip Nugent's Mother's Memorial

Team Leader: John Peters

Crew: Sharky, Phil Moreno, Terry Dodson, Mike Edwards, Steven Sobko, Rae Crawford, Becky Kennedy, Sam Castillo

4-17-24 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Ruckin' Fidiculous

Crew: Scott and Michelle Nelson, Chuck Fishel, Joe and Anna Paddock, Bobby and Debbie Chavez, Stacey and Rodney Jared, Laurel Flores

4-19-24 Cook Your Own Steak Night

Team Leader: Jamie Duncan

Crew: Mike Wiebe, Eli Ledesma, Kevin Colopy, Marco Vargas, Russell McKinney, Steve Mulrooney, Bill and LaDean Pearce, LaRuth Chance, Stacy McNabb, Toni Coop, Rebecca Mexicano, Cissy Archuleta, Laurel Flores, LaRea Rivera

4-23-24 Taco Tuesday

Team Leader: Jamie Duncan

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

4-24-24 Wednesday Night Dinner & Initiation

Team Lead: Kim Burchett

Crew: Gerrie Giotta, Debbie & Harry Buckner, DeeDee Rains, Rae Crawford, Jane Shields, Laura Bullene, Reuel Stevens, Phil Moreno, Christina Ritchie, Don Smith, Mindy Morgan, Cissy Archuleta, 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:

6th Annual
KENTUCKY DERBY

SATURDAY
MAY
4
2024

MEMBERS &
MEMBER'S GUEST EVENT



Kentucky Derby Party – May 4th 12pm-4pm

Break out the roses, bow ties, snazzy socks and BIG hats. There will be fun music, food, games, specialty drinks, photo opp, stick horse races, raffle and contests.



1298 Cigar Club – May 9th 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 – May 12th

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



I think my Drinking Night has a BUNCO problem

May 14th

JOIN US FOR BUNCO
SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT BUNCO NIGHT
IN THE MEMBERS LOUNGE

Bunco Night – May 14th check-in starts at
5:30pm



Visalia Elks Lodge #1298 presents

SPRING CRAFT BOUTIQUE

Arts & Craft Booths | Food | Drinks

This event is free and open to the public.

SATURDAY
MAY 18TH
9AM - 2PM

Visalia Elks Lodge Spring Craft Boutique 9am – 2pm

Arts & Craft Booths | Food | Drinks

This event is free and open to the public. Many of the Valley's favorite vendors will be in attendance selling their handcrafted and new items. There will be lunch available for purchase as well as a raffle at 1pm.

May 21, 2024 Mental Health Awareness Workshop at Visalia Elks Lodge 1298

Mental Health Workshop will cover

- Suicide Risk Screening
- Community Resources
- Peer-Support Services
- Breaking the Stigma of Mental Health

The workshop runs from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the Fireside room. Light refreshments will be served.

The bar will open to purchase beverages.

This workshop is FREE and public is welcome to attend.

**Remember to
check-in on
your friends!**



Mental Health Awareness Workshop
May 21, 2024 – 6-7:30pm

Upcoming Events (cont):



TEXAS ROADHOUSE - DINE TO DONATE – May 28, 2024

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - ****CALLING ALL PATRIOTS****

The Avenue of Flags Military Veterans' Association annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held Monday, May 27th, at the Visalia District Cemetery.

Veterans and volunteers will place over 2400 large American flags at the cemetery with each one marked with a deceased veteran's name and branch of service. Bill and Laurel Flores will be heading the Elks dedicated team.

We'll meet that day at 6:00 a.m. After a short briefing, we begin at 6:30 a.m. You can walk and assist with unfolding a flag, attaching it to the pole or putting the pole in the ground.

At 4:00 p.m. we meet back at the cemetery to travel the same route, take down the pole, fold the flag and put the flag in the vehicle so it can go into storage. We appreciate any time you can give, even if just an hour – especially in the afternoon—and we will post a reminder on our Elks social media. We will have the same route as last year.

Just show up or contact Bill (731-4837) or Laurel (284-0044). We need our volunteers to make this a success and honor our Veterans !!

VAGABONDS TRAVELS



The rally at Orange Grove April 11-14 was another fun time thanks to all who helped with setting up, table decorations, food preparation, cooking and cleanup. The rain was a little challenging for Roger Starrett and helpers who did the bar-b-queing but that didn't deter the chefs. A BIG THANK YOU to the Starretts, Marchands, Renterias, Buyense, Kreps and Perez. I know many others pitched in and helped so please know we appreciate each and every person who helps in any little way – great teamwork. Activities included card playing, Black Out game, baseball game, 50/50 and the horse races Saturday evening which was quite a loud, laughing fun time and happy winners, or course. We do know how to have a good time!

Vagabonds – Mark your calendars

June 8 - Picnic at the Vagabond Park. Details about time and what to bring will be announced at the May meeting.

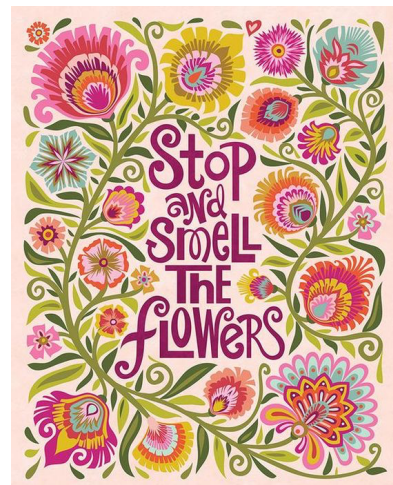
June 20-24 - Rally at San Lorenzo Park in King City. Bring your checkbook and plan to pay at the May meeting to reserve your RV spot.

October 16-21 - Orange Grove RV Park in Bakersfield.

December 21 - Christmas Party here at the lodge.

See you at the May 15 RV meeting and for those on the road safe travels!

Kathy and Frank Kelly



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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.

MAY 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.

- 1 Allen Batty
Lorianne Boken
Marcos DeLaCruz
Sharon Robison
- 2 Charles D Christ
Jordan Gardener
- 3 Ronald Crosswell
Lindsay Gallagher
Robert J Lee
Rick Vasquez
- 4 Lori Harding
Roxanne Robinson
Frank Michael Torres
Ralph Wilson
- 5 Coleen Gleason
- 6 Jason Michael Bueno
Kimberly Chance
Christopher Kelly
- 7 Paul Huckabay
- 8 Thomas E Slobig
- 9 Mario Hampton
John Martinez
Iva Lynn Rupp
- 10 Michael Rowland
- 11 Keith Gilbert
Duke Hettick
Chance Kirk
- 12 Gloria Amador
Kent Huckaby
Darren Peterson
James Plough
April Skye Parsons
- 13 Carl Joseph Aiello
Larry Giotto
- 14 Thomas Mark Bauer
Marilyn Houston
Ryan Park
Jesus Jose Rodriguez
Lori Wheeler
- 15 Mikella Ausherman
Alfred Anthony Flores
Steve McElmoyl
- 16 David Freitas
Melanie McKimmons
Rusty Nelson
Ericka Swiney
Emily Whitson
- 17 Jane Meredith Donald

- 17 Erik Gonzalez
Kelsey Nichols
- 18 Charles E Barton
Sam D Porterfield
- 19 Robert Tunnell
- 20 Donald C Fowler
Steve Lawrence
Harold Maniloff
Irene Gabrielle Mendez
Timothy J Reser
Steve Shahan
- 21 Joe F Rodriguez
Ruby Sanchez
James Skaggs
Gregory L Smith
Richard White
- 22 Stacy McNabb
- 23 Russ Carrell
Richard Alex Guerrero
Richard Junio
Jodi Paddock
Michele Price
J Patrick Sullivan
- 24 Scott Reeder
George Renteria
Michael D Roberts
- 25 Brandon Montgomery
- 26 Shanna Allison
Philip Jones
Tiffane McRoberts
Sheldon Williams
- 27 Paul Gorley
Craig Martin Moody
Roger T Rye
Makenna Stephens
- 28 Jeff Wheeler
- 29 David Gosvener
Raymond Lewis
Cynthia Perry
- 30 Rico Castro



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