

VISALIA ELKS

1298 BULLETIN | “The Herd”

Visalia, California – December 2025 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks



Lodge Meetings

Wed December 10, 2025 – Business

Wed December 31, 2025 - No Meeting

House Committee Meeting

Wed December 10, 2025

Trustee Meeting

Wed December 10, 2025

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

Bunco Night

No Bunco in December

Taco Tuesday

No Taco Tues in December

Poker Night

December 4th & 18th - Seat Cards handed out at 6pm - Cards dealt at 6:30pm

Veteran's Breakfast – December 14th – 8:30-11am

Cook Your Own Steak Night – December 19th

Friday Lunches – Keep an eye on the What's Happening weekly email for dates/menus

Visalia Elks Lodge Bulletin

Periodical of the;

Visalia Elks Lodge #1298

Volume 25/26 Edition #9

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



“EXALTED RULER’S CORNER”

Dear Members,

I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by family, friends, and the many blessings of the season. As we enter December, I'd like to extend my warmest holiday wishes to everyone in our lodge. May your celebrations be joyful, safe, and filled with the generous spirit that defines us as Elks.

Because of the Christmas holiday, we will hold only one lodge meeting this month—on December 10th. At this meeting, we will be voting on new candidates and initiating new members. I encourage all who are able to attend as we welcome those joining our Elk family.

At our last meeting, members voted to purchase new barstools for the lodge. We have begun the process, and I will continue to update everyone as I receive more information.

Please also make note of our holiday office closures: December 24th–26th and January 1st.

December is filled with exciting events:

December 6th – Vagabonds Christmas Party - Open to all Elks. \$30 per person, which includes a delicious meal prepared by Kim Burchette and her crew, along with great music. A wonderful way to kick off the holiday season!

December 7th – Jingle Bell Craft Boutique - A festive opportunity to support local crafters and pick up unique holiday gifts.

December 12th – Karaoke Night in the Members Lounge - Join us for an evening of fun—I'll be making my debut as the DJ!

December 19th – Veterans/Service Dog Graduation - After 10 months of dedication and training, our veterans and their dogs will be completing their program. We are honored to celebrate their achievements.

December 21st – Kids' Christmas Party - Bring the little ones for a festive afternoon of holiday fun and a visit from Santa.

As we finish out the year, I encourage everyone to enjoy the season, be safe, and continue showing the kindness and generosity that makes our lodge strong.

Fraternally,
Joe Paddock
Exalted Ruler, Visalia Elks Lodge #1298

Visit us on Facebook at:
facebook.com/visaliaelkslodge

Lodge Officers 2025/2026

Exalted Ruler	Joe Paddock
Leading Knight	Scott Nelson
Loyal Knight	Chuck Fishel
Lecturing Knight	Eva Rasmussen
Esquire	Christy Hoff
Chaplain	Charles Cornelius
Inner Guard	Anna Paddock
Tiler	Michelle Nelson
Secretary	Wendy O'Connor
Treasurer	Mike Saulque

Trustees:

1-Year	Tom O'Connor
2-Year	Ron Marshall
3-Year	Eli Ledesma
4-Year	Rodney Jared
5-Year	Kevin Colopy

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,
05-16

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

Kevin Colopy - 2024-25

**Active in Good Standing*

Past Exalted Rulers from other lodges:

Ken Bridges Tulare # 1424

Pat Dugan Tulare #1424

Stephen Nelms Watsonville #1300

Member News:

Orientation and Initiation

Next Orientation is December 10th 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...**



*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"

A special recognition and heartfelt thanks goes out to our generous donors to the Purple Pig:

Recurring Donor Program Award:
Natalie Azparren, Michell Nelson,
Scott Nelson

Your generosity helps us continue the important work of supporting children in need through the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project.

A Friendly reminder:

When you turn your Purple Piggy in to the Office or Social Quarters, be SURE your name is on or in it. Several have come through without knowing who to credit. Even small totals are cumulative towards the Millennium Club recognitions.



Scholarship News:

Update From Bill Flores

All applications for the Elks Most Valuable Scholar program have been submitted.

Our committee will begin scoring apps for Visalia Lodge applicants on December 3rd.

We will provide a minimum of six awards for the Seniors graduating in June 2026.

We will keep you informed and thank you to all who have donated to this worthy cause.

KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S NOT GETTING THE BULLETIN?

Help them get the info they need by visiting our website:

www.visaliaelks.org - there's a subscription box on the home page where they can enter their name and email address.

Subscribing will get them signed up to receive the monthly bulletin as well as the weekly **What's Happening This Week** via their email once it's posted.

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	Kathy Ashford/Kelly Elkins
Insurance & Safety	Rodney Jared
Lodge Activities	Wendy O'Connor
Membership Retention	Ron Marshall
National Foundation ENF	Melanie McKimmons
Natl Foundation Grants	Kevin Colopy
Nat Vets Service	Rebecca Peterson
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

11-19-25 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Laurie Robinson & Sam Castillo
Crew: Phil Moreno, Vince Ramirez, Cindy Dias, Marco Vaca, Camille Fisher, Jelenia Crenshaw, Patrick Inkster, Laura Bullene, Laurel Flores

11-21-25 Cook Your Own Steak Night

Team Leader: Keith Carlos
Crew: Eli Ledesma, Russell McKinney, Scott Nelson, Rob & Sabrina Shahan, LaRuth Chance, Steve Batty, Ryan Samuels, Tom O'Connor, Eva Rasmusson, Laurel Flores, Laura Bullene, Camille Fisher, Marco Vaca

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.

Kitchen & Event Volunteer Thanks

11-5-25 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Lori Jackson

Crew: Laura & Matt Crawford, Peggy Gruber, Mercedes Leos, Alvino & Sharon Lopez, Marco Vaca, Lucille Kreps, Pam Nelson, Scott Reeder, Debbie Gerbig, Jeff Turner, Cissy Mulrooney, Laura Bullene, Laurel Flores

11-9-25 Veteran's Breakfast - served 354 guests

Team Leader: Tom Hansen

Saturday Prep Crew: Ed & Jane Shields, Ron Vasquez, Reuel Stevens, Chuck Fishel, Joey Freitas, Ryan Samuels

Sunday Breakfast:

Hostesses: Judy Staley, Stephanie Costa, Michelle Nelson

Front Lounge: Eric Fishel & Chuck Fishel

Omelet Cooks: Ryan Samuels, Stacey West, Eli Ledesma, Janie Donald, Mike Saulque, Ron Marshall

Kitchen Cooks:

Scott Reeder & Jeff Turner – Gravy

Brian Fishel & Jeff Turner – Bacon

Russell McKinney & Scott Nelson – Sausage, Potatoes

Servers:

Stacey Jared – Biscuits & Gravy

Rodney Jared – Pancakes & French Toast

Lisa Morehouse, & Kristi Hoff – Sausage, potatoes & bacon

Dishwashers: Nick Gordon, Shane Souza, Richard Break, Joey Freitas and Ted Donald

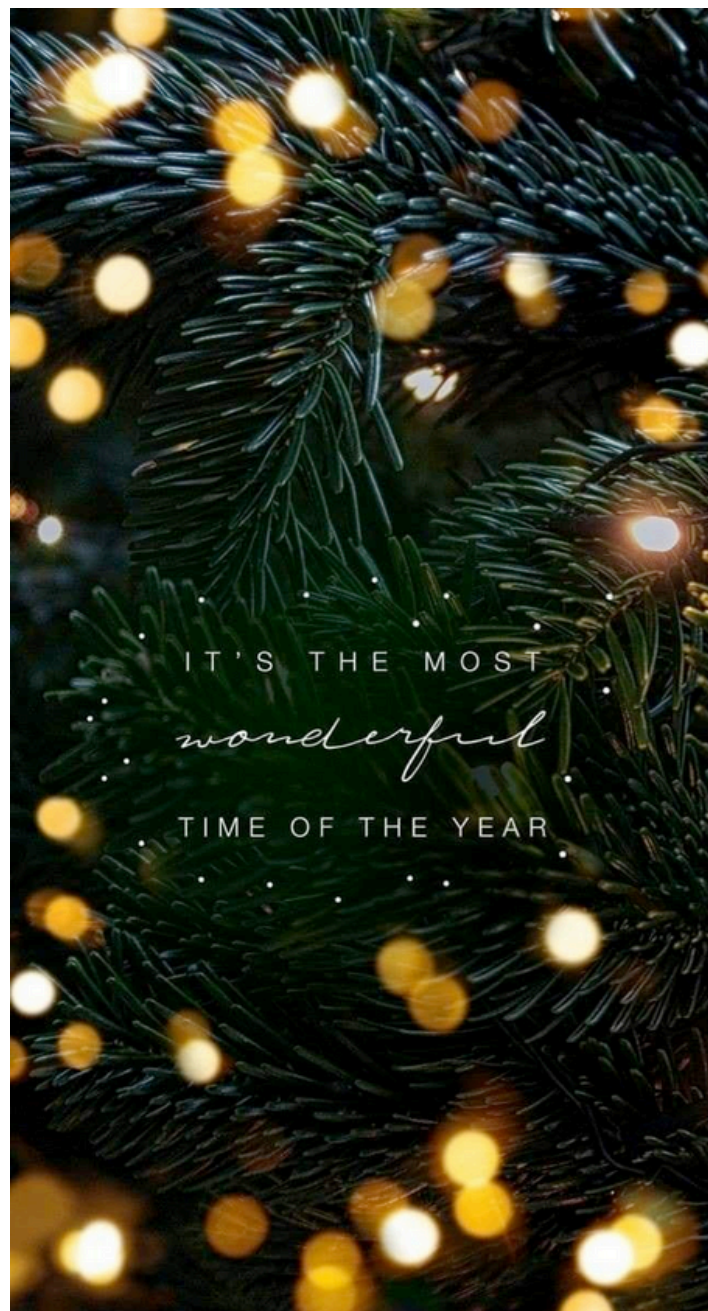
Back up Cooks: Ron Vasquez, Ernie Alvarado, Kristy Samuels, Amy Gordan and Scott Nelson

Bussers: Girl Scouts #7332

11-12-25 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Danny Carrell

Crew: Mark & Nancy Pestoni, Jelenia Crenshaw, Jake Johnson, Mercedes Leos, Monique Mirwald, David Smith, James Plough, Ramiro Rubalcava, Cissy Mulrooney, Laurel Flores



Upcoming Events:



Elks / Vagabond Christmas Party
Saturday December 6th from 5-10pm



Ugly Sweater Karaoke Party
Friday, December 12th - 7-11pm



Jingle Bell Craft Boutique
Sunday, December 7th from 11am-3pm



Veteran's Breakfast – December 14th
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



1298 Cigar Club - November 13th
If you enjoy a good a cigar or you're just curious about cigars, this will give members an opportunity to meet once a month. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.



Kid's Christmas Party
Sunday, December 21st from 1-4pm

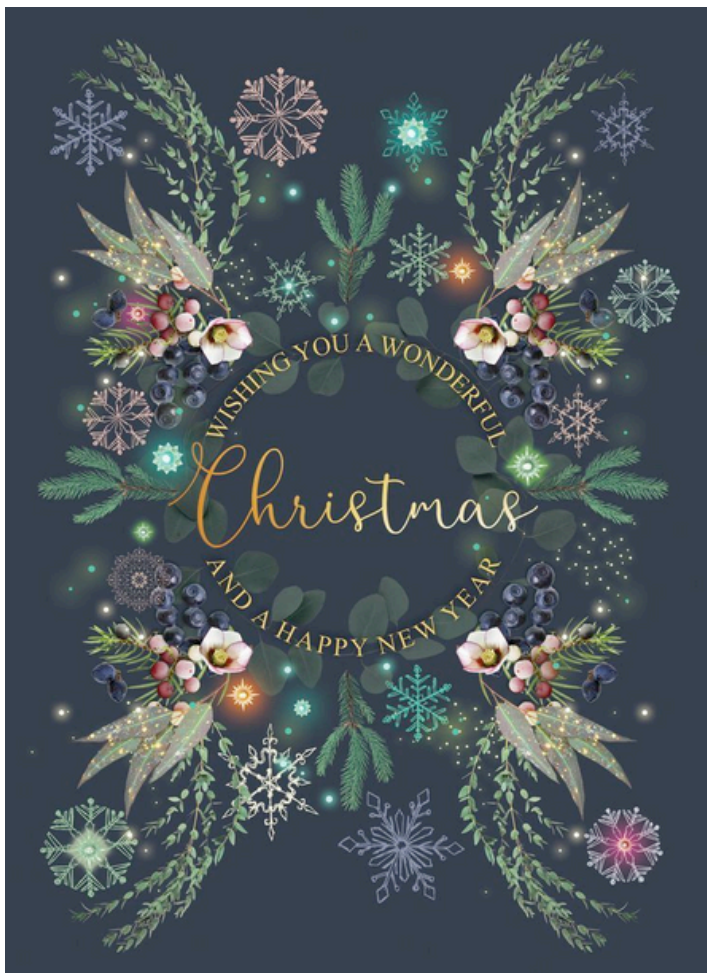
Upcoming Events (cont):



Sip Happens Sundays

- Bloody Mary Bar - December 28th

More details will be posted in Member's FB Group and in the What's Happening Email!



VAGABONDS TRAVELS



Greetings from the Vagabonds.

Saturday, December 6, will find the Vagabonds enjoying Christmas cheer and camaraderie at our annual Christmas Party. Kim Burchett and crew are preparing the meal, which we know for sure will be superb as Kim and crew are magic in the kitchen. This year our party will include not only Vagabond members but also other Elk members who took advantage of the invitation to join us for a fun evening and nice start to the Holiday Season.

Our sincere sympathy to Rosie Huerta and family in the loss of Cruz. Cruz was such a fun loving man and viable part of Vagabonds and, oh my, his clam chowder was soooo good. He was such a special man and friend who is really missed.

January will be a quiet month for Vagabonds with no rally but we will have our RV meeting on the third Wednesday (January 21) at 7:30. February will find us at River Run RV Park in Bakersfield from February 5 to February 9 to enjoy the Super Bowl with friends. Details will be provided at January meeting and be prepared to pay for your RV site that meeting night.

We wish everyone a season filled with warmth, love, comfort and good cheer! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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.

DECEMBER 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 John Peters
Eric Salvidar
Kristen Williams
Jack Wilson
- 2 Rodney Aguiar
Steven Tindle
- 3 James Chandler
Laura Gomez
Cynthia Montano
Sharon Preston
Pamela Taves
- 4 Christina Montan
Dolores Kovachick
- 5 Phillip Berry
Ralph Kaelble
Bill Lawley
Judith Staley
- 6 Brad Hurst
Joe Mackey
Monique Mirwald
Brian Stephens
Shannon Taylor
Terry Wade
John Zotti
- 7 Valerie Nepinsky
- 8 Cory Atkins
Michael Genanatti
Kenneth Janikowski
Gene Quesnoy
Cheryl Smit
- 9 Joseph Andrade
Jim Cooper
- 10 Justin Helin
Darrin Hughes
Larry Trexler
- 11 Tim Dougherty
- 12 Ted Leavitt
Russ Souza
Laurie Wilker
- 13 Steve Calloway
Gary Castro
Robert Glasscock
Lloyd Keeling
Alvino Lopez
Michael Straub
- 14 Michael Irby
Shawn Pyle
- 15 Robert Brown
Ernest Colgan
Robert Garcia
J Smith
Patrick Ward
- 16 Joel Atkins
Lidia Van Es

- 17 Naomi Holquin
William Kalar
Ray Ramirez
Stanley Simpson
J Vidakl
- 18 Richard Dennis
Phil Flynt
Dan Littleton
Gary Medders
Claude Phillips
- 19 Todd Davis
Laurel Flores
Riley Hiatt
Denny McCowan
- 20 Larry Hutton
John Parker
- 21 Harry Buckner
Jeffery Crookston
Heidi Enos
- 22 Ryan Cochran
Glen Conley
Dale Fugate
Robert Malone
Cherylene Robertson
Alcario Sosaya
- 23 Greg Baskovich
Magen Fawkes
Mark Padilla
Dwayne Petersen
George Shelton
Darrell Sisco
- 24 Raul Gonzalez
James Groover
Charlie Thum
- 25 Ronald Bueno
Emmanuel Camaquin
Kelly Elkins
Sal Sanchez
Cesar Vargas
Erik Wasse
Thomas Williams
- 26 Earl Lucas
- 27 Tyler de Asis
Louie Gonzalez
Tamara Johnson
Matthew Ritchie
Tim Spiotta
Stanley Trimble
- 28 Vanessa Collins
Curt Hupp
Therese Kapaun
Rick Lotenero
- 29 Tom Casares
Danielle Ford

- 29 Krystine Garlin
- 30 Christopher Barrett
Robert Dowling
Christopher Gill
Cindy Jester
Bryan Soares
- 31 Richard Castello
Robert Muldrow
Jamie Sisk
Rick West



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