

VISALIA ELKS

1298 BULLETIN | "The Herd"

Visalia, California – January 2026 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks



Lodge Meetings

Wed January 14, 2026 – Business

Wed January 28, 2026 - Initiation

House Committee Meeting

Wed January 14, 2026

Trustee Meeting

Wed January 14, 2026

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

Bunco Night

Tuesday, January 13th

Taco Tuesday

Tuesday, January 13th

Poker Night

January 15th - Seat Cards handed out at 6pm - Cards dealt at 6:30pm

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

Cook Your Own Steak Night – January 16th

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 #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



"EXALTED RULER'S CORNER"

Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you and your families well and that everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season.

As we begin a new year, I want to thank each of you for the time, effort, and dedication you continue to give to our lodge and to the principles of Elkdom.

Looking back, 2025 was a very good year for Visalia Elks Lodge #1298. Thanks to the hard work of our officers, committees, volunteers, and members, we saw strong participation, successful events, and continued support for our charitable efforts in the community.

These accomplishments reflect the pride and commitment that make our lodge such a special place.

As we look ahead, the outlook for 2026 is even brighter. With new ideas, continued teamwork, and the enthusiasm of our membership, I am confident this year will bring even greater opportunities for fellowship, service, and growth.

I would also like to recognize our Leading Knight, Scott Nelson, who is continuing his efforts to raise money for the Leading Knights Challenge. The proceeds from his fundraising events go to the Purple Pig, which is the primary fundraising program for the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project. The Major Project provides vital support and services to children and adults with developmental disabilities, helping fund therapy programs, equipment, and resources that truly make a difference in the lives of families throughout our state.

Scott currently has a gun raffle underway, and there will be a Purple Pig Dinner held on the 24th. Tickets for both the raffle and the dinner can be purchased in the lounge. I encourage everyone to participate and support this important cause.

Thank you again for your continued support and dedication to our lodge. I look forward to working alongside all of you in the year ahead.

Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

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 January 28th 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 January 14, 2026

Cheryl Binning by Danny Carrell
Nancy Bolton by William Bolton
Dalan Jay Brokaw by Tammy Tashjian

Deborah Chasteen by Brian Chance
Daniel P. Crookham by Ty Smith
Cynthia Johnson by Jeff Crookston
Mason Mackey by William Bolton
Forrest McLean by Michelle Price
Karen June McVaigh by Julia Costa
Jordan Russell Son by Brian Chance
Sandra Vance by Kelly Robinson
David Vega by Ray Lewis

Reinstate:

Heather Simon by Ted Donald



*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"

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.

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

12-19-25 Cook Your Own Steak Night

Team Leader: Kevin Colopy

Crew: Russell McKinney, Keith Carlos, Eva Rasmussen, Sabrina & Robert Shahan, JT Groover, Ryan Samuels, Steve Mulrooney, Steve Batty, Marcos Vaca, Eli Ledesma, Cissy Mulrooney, Laura Bullene

12-21-25 Kid's Christmas Party

Team Leader: Jamie Duncan

Crew: Jamie Ensminger, Tiffany Lowe, Melanie McKimmons, Jennifer Cawley, Bill & LaDean Pearce, Holly Derrington, Bill and 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.

Kitchen & Event Volunteer Thanks

12-10-25 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Danny Carrell

Crew: Lori Carrell, David & Devony Smith, James Plough, Ramiro Rubalcava, LaRea Rivera, Julie Crenshaw, Monique Mirwald, Mercedes Leos, Cheyenne Marquez and girls, Laura Bullene, Laurel Flores

12-14-25 Veteran's Breakfast - served 312 guests

Team Leader: Tom Hansen

Saturday Prep Crew: Ed Shields, Ron Vasquez, Reuel Stevens, Chuck Fishel, Eva Rasmussen, Ryan Samuels

Sunday Breakfast:

Hostesses: Judy Staley, Stephanie Costa, Melanie McKimmons

Front Lounge: Eli Ledesma & Chuck Fishel

Omelet Cooks: Ryan Samuels, Janie Donald, Rodney Jared, Scott Nelson, Kevin Colopy and Shane Souza

Kitchen Cooks:

Scott Reeder & Jeff Turner - Gravy

Phil Fortney - Bacon

Russell McKinney - Sausage, Potatoes

Servers:

Stacey Jared - Biscuits & Gravy

Eva Rasmussen - Pancakes & French Toast

Amy Gordon & Ashley Colopy - Sausage, potatoes & bacon

Dishwashers: Nick Gordon, Richard Break and Ted Donald

Back up Cooks: Ron Vasquez, Kristy Samuels, Phil Moreno

Bussers: Girl Scouts #7332

12-17-25 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Becky Kennedy

Crew: John Kennedy, Deni Sepalmer, Lora Griffith, Tom Griffith, Jelenia Crenshaw, Kathleen Busby, Sam Castillo, Marco Vaca, Phil Moreno, Jersey & Kyndra Glick, Shannon Clower, Cissy Mulrooney, Laurel Flores



**SAVE THE DATE TICKETS GO ON SALE
JANUARY 20TH**



Elks Annual Crab Feed - February 27th

Tickets will go on sale January 20th at 9am in the office only.

Ticket price is \$85.00 each.

There will be no early birds or reserving with payment!

THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT FIRST DAY OF SALES. DON'T WAIT IF YOU WANT TO GO.

Upcoming Events:



1298 Cigar Club - January 8th

If you enjoy a good 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.



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

Veteran's Breakfast – January 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



Bunco Night - Tues January 13th

Check-in Starts at 5:30pm - Dice start rolling at 6pm



Purple Pig Dinner - January 24th

Limited seating buy now don't wait. Will be a great night! Pre-Sale only.

This will sell out.

Proceeds benefit the Leading Knight Challenge (Purple Pig) raffles and opportunity drawings as well. To be clear this is pre-sale only do not RSVP on this post you must go to the lodge or the office to get tickets. Ticket sales end Jan 17th



Sip Happens Sundays

- Bloody Mary Bar - January 25th

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

*This year, let
your dreams be
bigger than
your fears.*



VAGABONDS TRAVELS



We hope everyone had a joyful and relaxing Christmas season, filled with laughter, good company, and memorable moments—whether at home or on the road.

As we roll into 2026, we're wishing all our fellow Vagabonds a new year full of smooth travels, scenic stops, and great adventures.

Happy New Year from the Vagabonds RV Group!

– Kathy & 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.

JANUARY 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 Thomas Parker
Larry Paxton
William Pearce
Raymond Prado
2 Jason Velazquez
3 Luvern Blaszak
Sherry Estabrooks
Randall Hardcastle
Joenell Sandoval
4 Michael Avlia
Kimberly Wertman
5 Monique Prado
Thomas Ritchie
Robert Shahan
6 Beth Andrada
Daryl Hellwig
Jacob Huerta
Tricia Kirksey
Rudolph Leal
George Pimentel
Patrick Vaca
7 Leonel Borges
Tamara Tashjian
Maria Vidrio
8 Gary Fonseca
Joey Vasconcellos
9 William Barnes
Michelle Florez
10 Gary Amon
Victoria Galaviz
Pamela Nelson
11 Elizabeth (Lane) Davies
Pete Giotta
Tom O'Connor
Monica Ruvalcaba
12 Mark Anderson
Chris Calhoun
Tracey Meaders
Coleman Sprague
Mike Tippit
Charles White
13 Larry Lutz
Michael May
Ramon Perez
Rebecca Petersen
Ed Wristen
14 Brad Marchand
Patti Reed
Richard Rios
Darrell Shaw
Mark Vincent
15 Donald Chambers
16 Therese Hutchinson
Geni Lefler

16 Nannette Lochridge
Gabrial Loreda
Michael Vaca
17 Jan Lee
Abel Lopez
Steven Veyna
18 Jim Eager
Timothy Reed
Barry Reese
Devony Smith
Larry Tucker
Vince Vasquez
19 Terry Hash
Alexander Martin
Jorge Montano
Marcus Vaughn
20 Douglas Hanson
Oak Smith
Jeff Turner
21 Nathan Hop
Larry Creason
Dalton Miller
Bryan Reitz
23 Brad Bridges
Major Rogers
24 Thomas Annear
Rebecca Burford
Jimmy Hernandez
Frances Nelms
Rachel Purkiss
25 Brock Dias
Larry Kapigian
Robert Van Wagoner
Kami Vaughn Adam
26 Michael Alvarez
Gary Castro
Larry Castro
Jason Glick
Gene Hofer
Gerardo Rodriguez
27 John Roth
28 Bryan Lovenburg
Jc Palermo
29 Robert Dean
John Madruga
Jeanelle Margosian
Aaron Sanchez
30 Allen Love
Felix Pena
Phil Sanfilippo
31 Steven Williams



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