

VISALIA ELKS

1298 BULLETIN | “The Herd”

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



Lodge Meetings

Wed March, 2026 – Business
Wed March 25, 2026 - Initiation

House Committee Meeting

Wed March 11, 2026

Trustee Meeting

Wed March 11, 2026

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

Bunco Night

March 10th - Sign in starts at 5:30p and dice start rolling at 6p sharp

Taco Tuesday

March 10th - Homemade chile verde dinner with rice, beans, tortillas, chips, salsa & something sweet. Price: \$15/plate.

Poker Night

March 5th & 19th - Seat Cards handed out at 6pm - Cards dealt at 6:30pm

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

Installation of Officers: March 20th

Cook Your Own Steak Night: March 27th

Friday Lunches – Check “What’s Happening” email for dates/menus

Visalia Elks Lodge Bulletin

Periodical of the;
Visalia Elks Lodge #1298
Volume 25/26 Edition #12

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 of Visalia Elks Lodge #1298,

As my year serving as your Exalted Ruler comes to a close, Anna and I want to extend our deepest gratitude to each of you. Your dedication, generosity, and unwavering support have made this past year not only successful, but truly memorable. It has been an honor to serve alongside such committed officers and members who embody the spirit of Elkdom every day.

Because of your hard work and teamwork, our lodge continues to thrive – in fellowship, in service, and in community impact. Anna and I are incredibly thankful for the friendships, encouragement, and countless hours so many of you have devoted to making this lodge special.

On April 1st, Scott Nelson will be taking the reins as Exalted Ruler. The lodge is in very capable hands with Scott and his wife Michelle at the helm. Their leadership, enthusiasm, and dedication to our lodge will undoubtedly continue to move #1298 forward in great ways.

We have several wonderful events to look forward to this month:

- Karaoke Night – Friday the 13th

Come out for an evening of music, laughter, and great company. Whether you're a seasoned performer or just brave enough to grab the mic for fun, it's always a night filled with entertainment.

- Installation Dinner – Friday the 20th

Join us as we honor our outgoing officers and officially install our new leadership team. This special evening celebrates service, commitment, and the continued strength of our lodge. It's a meaningful tradition and a wonderful opportunity to show support for those stepping into leadership roles.

- Cook Your Own Steak Night – Friday the 27th

Moved back one week this month only, this member-favorite event returns on the 27th. Pick your steak, season it just the way you like, and grill it to perfection while enjoying great fellowship. Adding to the fun, the St. John's River Jazz Band will be performing live, bringing fantastic music and energy to an already great evening at the lodge.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our annual Tea Party on April 11th. Tickets go on sale March 1st, and this cherished event is always a highlight filled with charm, fun, and community spirit – so be sure to secure yours early.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Exalted Ruler. It has been a privilege I will always cherish. Anna and I look forward to continuing to support our lodge and its future success.

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 March 25th 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 March 11, 2026

Alan Borba by Janice Avila
Monica Escalante by Diana Martinez
Jeffery Fontana by Mike Saulque
Laurann Fuentes by Joenell Sandoval
Brian Green by Richard Break
Matthew Hughes by Laura Bullene
Vince Landseadal by Carrie Menezes
Jeffery Lauer by Sam Winter
Robert Leal by Jim Avila
Ralph Maffia by Colleen Gleason
Kelly Mueller by LaRuth Chance
Rafael Perez by Ramon Perez
Kyle Ragan by Sam Winter

Reinstate: Kevin Parish

Transfer: Brian Perry (Tulare Lodge)

MEMBER NEWS

REMINDER: If you have received a certificate from California-Hawaii Elks Major Project (aka:the Purple Pig) for 52-Club, Century Club, Millennium Club, etc.

I HAVE YOUR PINS. I am at the Lodge most meeting nights, Friday lunches and Veterans Breakfast. If you need to meet me there at another time, text me at 559-471-8684 so we can make arrangements.

- Melanie McKimmons
Major Project Chair

SUDS 'N STORIES

Visalia Elks Lodge #1298 hosts 3 "Suds 'n Stories " Little Free Libraries.

Typically, the spaces Moms "on the margins" can go with their children are grocery stores, the doctors office and the laundromat.

Visalia Elks Lodge #1298 is blessed to have 3 laundromats house our Little Free Libraries - created by Elks National Foundation Grant monies and maintained by volunteer stewards such as Kathi Hash, LaRuth Chance and Melanie McKimmons. If you have new or gently used books to share - please drop them off at any of our locations.

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

Kitchen & Event Volunteer Thanks

2-4-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Lori Jackson

Crew: Pam Nelson, Scott Reeder, Marco Vaca, Lucille Kreps, Monique Mirwald, Heather Cornelius, Greg Todd, Debbie Gerbig, Sharon and Alvino Lopez, Laura Bullene, Laurel Flores

2-8-26 Veteran's Breakfast - served 334 guests

Team Leader: Tom Hansen

Saturday Prep Crew: Ed Shields, Ron Vasquez, Reuel Stevens, Chuck Fishel, Eva Rasmussen, Ryan Samuels, Brian Fishel, Kristy Hoff & Lisa Morehouse

Sunday Breakfast:

Hostesses: Judy Staley, Stephanie Costa, Michelle Nelson

Front Lounge: Eric Fishel & Chuck Fishel

Omelet Cooks: Ryan Samuels, Janie Donald, Rodney Jared, Mike Saulque, Eli Ledesma, Stacey West and Ernie Alvarado

Kitchen Cooks:

Scott Reeder & Jeff Turner – Gravy

Phil Fortney – Bacon

Russell McKinney – Sausage, Potatoes

Servers:

Stacey Jared – Biscuits & Gravy

John Kennedy – Pancakes & French Toast

Amy Gordon, Lisa Morehouse and Kristy Hoff – Sausage, potatoes & bacon

Dishwashers: Nick Gordon, Richard Break, Shame Souza and Ted Donald

Back up Cooks: Ron Vasquez, Kristy Samuels, Eva Rasmussen and Brian Fishel

Bussers: Girl Scouts #7332

2-11-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Sam Castillo and Laurie Robinson

Crew: Phil Moreno, Cindy Montano, Vince Sanchez, Monique Mirwald, Camille fisher, Kerri Castillo, Joan Russell, Ron Vasquez, Kelly Robinson, Jame Russell, Laura Bullene, Cissy Mulrooney, Laurel Flores

2-18-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Danny Carrell

Crew: James Plough, David & Devony Smith, Jelenia Crenshaw, Jake Johnson, LaRea Rivera, Monique Mirwald, Ramiro Rubalcava, Jose Marquez (and girls), Laura Bullene, Laurel Flores

2-20-26 Cook Your Own Dinner

Team Leader: Kevin Colopy

Crew: Scott Nelson, Keith Carlos, Russell McKinney, Phil Moreno, Brian Fishel, Steve Mulrooney, Steve Batty, Ryan Samuels, Eli Ledesma, Rebecca Petersen, TomO'Connor, Cissy Mulrooney, Laura Bullene, Laurel Flores

2-25-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Kim Burchett

Crew: Phil Moreno, Christina Ritchie, Gerri Giotta, Rae Crawford, Harry Buckner, Mindy Morgan, Don Smith, Laura Bullene, Cissy Mulrooney, 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.

news

TACO TUESDAY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MARCH

(no Taco Tuesday in February due to Ag Show)

Something a little different for March! We will be serving homemade chile verde dinner with rice, beans, tortillas, chips, salsa and something sweet. Price: \$15 a plate.



Upcoming Events:



Veteran's Breakfast – March 8th
 Eggs/Omelet bar, Potatoes, Bacon, Sausage, French toast, Pancakes, Biscuits and Gravy - 8:30 to 11:00am
 Adults - \$18.00 | Kids under 12yrs - \$15
 Veterans - FREE



Bunco Night - Tues March 10th
 Check-in Starts at 5:30pm - Dice start rolling at 6pm



1298 Cigar Club - March 12th
 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. 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.



St. Patrick's Day Karaoke - March 13th
 More details in the Member's FB Group



Schedule of Events

NO HOST COCKTAILS	5:00 P.M.
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	6:00 P.M.
DINNER (Beef or Fish)	7:00 P.M.

**Please RSVP by March 16th by noon with number(s) of reservations!!!*
Cost: \$30 Beef Short Rib \$30 Salmon
 RSVP with meal preference
 Elks Office: 734-6762
 or via email:
 scottwnelson71@gmail.com



VISALIA LODGE NO. 1298

Installation Dinner - March 20th
 Must RSVP - call the office or email



Sip Happens Sundays March 22nd
 More details will be posted in Member's FB Group and in the What's Happening Email!

SAVE THE DATE



The Visalia Elks Lodge
Presents...

HAPPY EASTER
Annual
**KID'S
EASTER PARTY**

HOT DOG LUNCH | BOUNCE HOUSE | WATERSLIDE
CAKE & CUPCAKE WALK | EGG HUNT BY AGE
GROUP | VISIT FROM THE EASTER BUNNY

APR 4th | 12PM-4PM

Tea Time
Elks 9th Annual
Tea Party
April 11, 2026
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Doors will open promptly
at 10:30 am.

Raffle prizes and table prizes
Raffle tickets 25 for \$10.00
Tickets \$35.00 each
All proceeds benefit
Visalia Elks Lodge

Come & enjoy an
afternoon of tea
goodies and fun!

For additional info Contact Visalia Elks 734-6762
Michelle Nelson 737-7787, Judy Knoch 623-1588

Visalia Elks Lodge #1298
Presents
**SPRING
GRAFT BOUTIQUE**



APRIL 18, 2026
9 AM — 2 PM

Art & Craft Booths | Food | Drinks
ADMISSION IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Many of your favorite vendors will be here
selling their handcrafted and new items.

There will be lunch available for purchase.
Drawing at 12:00 pm & Opportunity Drawing
Immediately after.

LOCATION: VISALIA ELKS LODGE #1298
3100 MAIN STREET, VISALIA, CA

For more information contact:
Holly Derington - gsscience@aol.com

VAGABONDS TRAVELS



Photo: 2-19-11 November 2022

Vagabonds are on the road again.

After a very fun time Super Bowl weekend at River Run in Bakersfield, we are off to Gilroy Garlic USA RV Park March 18 to 23.

This is a new location for the group and will be nice to see how it works out. Of course the ladies will be happy about the close proximity the Gilroy Shopping Outlet. April will find us back at Orange Grove RV Park, We always have a relaxing fun time at that park among the orange trees.

NOTE: The March Meeting is not the 3rd Wednesday as the group will already be in Gilroy on the 18th. Vagabond members **watch your email in March for notification of change of meeting date.**

Safe travels to those on the road and see you at the RV meeting in March.

Frank and Kathy Kelly



*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.

BPOE VISALIA LODGE #1298 NEWSLETTER SPONSORS



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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.

MARCH 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 Deborah Chasteen
Robert Geels
Margaret Lawson
Melissa Sandman
- 2 Dennis Adamson
Ronald Vasquez
- 3 Jennifer Cawley
Thomas Duffy
Laura Jacobo
Beverly Keith
Janice Pineda
- 4 Wallace Wicks
- 5 Russell Bryant
Leon De Asis
Chuck Fishel
Wayne Koens
Scott Lawrence
Bernie Van Tol
Jeffrey Wilson
- 6 James Abercrombie
Lupe Aguilar
Alex Hovannisian
Jason Mattos
Clifford Miller
James Russell
Barbara Shy
- 7 Nick Adam
Thomas Goulart
Richard Grissom
Alan Rodriguez
Barbara Summers
Chris Vicars
- 8 Brent Main
James Millar
John Rocha
- 9 Bob Ausherman
Sherry Maze
Albert Morales
Dwayne Spalding
- 10 Steven Belk
Brandon Graham
Sherry Wheeler
- 11 Jonathan Meeker
- 12 Iris Feaver
John Kinderknecht
Derek Nelson
Gregory Phines
Herman Sandman
- 13 Craig Russell
Carl Sousa
- 14 Brad Pendergrast
Jens Quintyn
- 15 Kieth Bridges
Michael Gonzales
Amy Goulart

- 15 Daryl Haarberg
Michelle Nelson
Todd Soares
Ryan Sullivan
Lawrence Velasquez
Gary Westmorland
- 16 Zackery Brigman
- 17 Frank Chesser
Chris Christiansen
Steve Egbert
Leonard Mayer Jr.
Tanya Miller
Russell Notturmo
Brandon White
- 18 Natalie Azparren
Mona Esquival
Erick Hopkins
Scott Nelson
Cody Samuels
Mike Saulque
- 19 F Fisher
Chris Hash
Edward Lynn
Deborah Parlier
La Rea Rivera
- 20 John Freitas
Melissa Martin
- 21 Shelli Giles
Tim Miller
- 22 Heather Cornelius
Moses Garcia
William Holvik
Jonathon Hornburg
Art Madrigal
Shanyn Parish
Donald Smith
- 23 Scott Reaves
Elio Salvidar
William Schene
- 24 Dennis Brown
- 25 Joseph Arciniega
Timothy Johnson
Brian Lucas
- 26 Eric Saenz
- 27 Matthew Andrade
David Vega
- 28 David Correa
Jon Haggstrom
Felipe Moreno
- 29 Denney Anderson
Nick Castaneda
Robert Lizardo
Kevin Nugent
David Preston
Kyran Wiley

- 30 Barbara Koberstein-Davis
Todd Lewis
- 31 Juanita Jones
Ernesto Neria
Dorothy Van Wagoner



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