

VISALIA ELKS

1298 BULLETIN | “The Herd”

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



“EXALTED RULER’S CORNER”

Lodge Meetings

Wed April 8, 2026 – Business

Wed April 22, 2026 - Initiation

House Committee Meeting

Wed April 8, 2026

Trustee Meeting

Wed April 8, 2026

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

Bunco Night - April 14th - Sign in starts at 5:30p and dice start rolling at 6p sharp

Taco Tuesday - April 14th

Poker Night

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

Veteran’s Breakfast – April 12th – 8:30-11am

Cook Your Own Steak Night: April 17th

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

Visalia Elks Lodge Bulletin

Periodical of the;

Visalia Elks Lodge #1298

Volume 26/27 Edition #1

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

Dear Members,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for placing your trust in me by electing me as your Exalted Ruler. It is truly an honor to serve this lodge, and I am humbled by the confidence you have shown. I look forward to working alongside our officers, trustees, and members to continue the strong traditions that make our lodge special.

As Exalted Ruler, some of my goals for the upcoming year include modernizing our ballroom to better serve our members and the community. This space is the heart of many of our gatherings, and improvements will help ensure it remains welcoming and functional for years to come. To help offset the costs, we will be organizing fundraising efforts and encouraging member participation in supporting this important project. Additionally, I would like to increase our Purple Pig donations by promoting automatic recurring giving, making it easier for members to contribute consistently. We will also encourage greater participation in Fidelity giving to the Elks National Foundation, strengthening our ability to support the charitable work that defines who we are as Elks.

April is a busy month for our lodge. We will be hosting the East Central District Ritual competition. All of the 12 lodges in our district will be performing the Ritual ceremony over the course of 2 days on April 24th and 25th. An awards dinner will be held on the Saturday the 25th. There will be more info about how to attend on Facebook and via email. We also have our annual Tea Party April 11th and Craft boutique on April 18th.

I am excited about the year ahead and confident that, working together, we can accomplish great things. Thank you again for your support, your dedication, and for all you do to make our lodge thrive.

Fraternally,

Scott Nelson
Exalted Ruler
Visalia Elks Lodge #1298

Visit us on Facebook at:
facebook.com/visaliaelkslodge

Lodge Officers 2025/2026

Exalted Ruler	Scott Nelson
Leading Knight.	Chuck Fishel
Loyal Knight.	Eva Rasmussen
Lecturing Knight	Cristy Hoff
Esquire	Charles Cornelius
Chaplain	Ted Donald
Inner Guard	Jane Donald
Tiler	Ryan Samuels
Secretary	Wendy O'Connor
Treasurer	Mike Saulque

Trustees:

1-Year	Ron Marshall
2-Year	Eli Ledesma
3-Year	Rodney Jared
4-Year	Kevin Colopy
5-Year	Shawn Cooper

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
Joe Paddock - 2025-26

**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 April 22nd 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 April 8th, 2026

Kevin Bakker by Charlie Bakker
David Borges by Ryan Samuels
Rebecca Borges by Ryan Samuels
Laura John by Sherry Estabrooks
Eric McConnaughey by Greg Freaver
Rhonda McConnaughey by Greg Freaver
Hailee Parkison by Brian Chance
Colby Perez by Brian Chance
Louie Perez by Jacob Donald
David Ramirez by Ray Ramirez
Timothy Souza by Charles Cornelius
John Vaca Jr by Marco Vaca
Roberto Valdivia by Floyd Martinez

Transfer:

Lionel Lopez (Tulare Lodge)
Simona Pasillas (Tulare Lodge)



*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	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	Tom O'Connor
Major Project	Melanie McKimmons
Ritual Training	Ray Lewis PER
Scholarships	Bill Flores
Youth Activities	Cheyenne Carrell

Kitchen & Event Volunteer Thanks

3-4-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Lori Jackson

Crew: Pam Nelson, Sharon & Alvino Lopez, Monique Mirwald, Peggy Gruber, Lucille Kreps, Tina Aguilar, Greg Todd, Laura Crawford, Vince Sanchez, Cissy Mulrooney, Laura Bullene, Laurel Flores

3-8-26 Veteran's Breakfast - served 278 guests

Team Leader: Tom Hansen

Saturday Prep Crew: Ed Shields, Ron Vasquez, Chuck Fishel, Cristy Hoff, Lisa Morehouse, Phil Moreno

Sunday Breakfast:

Hostesses: Judy Staley, Melanie McKimmons, Michelle Nelson

Front Lounge: Eli Ledesma & Chuck Fishel

Omelet Cooks: Rodney Jared, Mike Saulque, Ernie Alvarado, Scott Nelson, Brian Kishel & Cristy Hoff

Kitchen Cooks:

Scott Reeder – Gravy

Brian Fishel – Bacon

Russell McKinney – Sausage, Potatoes

Servers:

Stacey Jared – Biscuits & Gravy

John Kennedy – Pancakes & French Toast

Lisa Ledesma, Lisa Morehouse – Sausage, potatoes & bacon

Dishwashers: Nick Gordon, Richard Break, Joey Freitas

Back up Cooks: Ron Vasquez, Maria Silva, Amy Gordon

Bussers: Girl Scouts #7332

3-10-26 Taco Tuesday

Team Leader: Jamie Duncan

Crew: Floyd and Diana Martinez, Bill and LaDean Pearce, Laurel Flores

3-11-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: David & Devony Smith

Crew: Danny Carrell, James Plough, Jake Johnson, Romero Rubacalva, Monique Mirwald, LaRea Rivera, Jose Marques, Tasha Foggione, Cissy Mulrooney, Laura Bullene, Laurel Flores

3-18-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Laurie Robinson

Crew: Sam Castillo, Vincent & Sedelia Sanchez, Marco Vaca, Camille Fisher, Phil Moreno, Monique Mirwald, Laura Bullene, Cissy Mulrooney, Laurel Flores

3-20-26 Officer Installation Dinner

Team Leader: Becky Kennedy

Crew: John Kennedy, Devony & David Smith, Kathleen Bushy, Holly Derrington, Vince Sanchez, Letty & Eric Saenz, Phil Moreno, Camille Fisher, Laura Bullene, Laurel Flores

3-25-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Kim Burchett

Crew: Gerrie Giotta, Phil Moreno, Don Smith, Rae Crawford, DeeDee Rains, Debbie Buckner, Christina Ritchie, Camille Fisher, Laurel Flores

3-27-26 Cook Your Own Dinner

Team Leader: Kevin Colopy

Crew: Keith Carlos, Steve Mulrooney, Russell McKinney, Steve Batty, Phil Moreno, Tom O'Connor, Eva Rasmussen, LaRea Rivera, Robbie & Sabrina Shahan, 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.



Upcoming Events:



Kid's Easter Party - April 4th

12pm-4pm - Hot dog lunch | Bounce house | Waterslide | Cake and cupcake walk | Egg hunt (by age group) | and the Easter Bunny!



1298 Cigar Club - April 9th

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.



Tea Party - April 11th

11am-2pm



Veteran's Breakfast - April 12th

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 April 14th

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

TACO TUESDAY

Taco Tuesday - April 14th

Homemade chicken and cheese enchilada dinner with rice, beans, tortillas, chips, salsa and something sweet. \$15 a plate 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Visalia Elks Lodge #1298
Presents
SPRING CRAFT 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



Spring Craft Boutique

9am-2pm - Come shop from your favorite vendors.



BLOODY MARY BAR

Sip Happens Sundays

4TH SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

STARTS AT 10AM
while supplies last

WATCH THE VISALIA ELKS MEMBER'S FB GROUP FOR NEXT THEME TO BE ANNOUNCED

Sip Happens Sundays April 26th

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

VAGABONDS TRAVELS



Photo courtesy: Bill 183 1987-1992-210
Photo: © Phg. 1 November 2022

Happy Easter from the Vagabonds!

We hope this season finds you well, enjoying good times, great company, and maybe even a little time on the road.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone again soon — more details and updates coming your way next month! Until then... safe travels and Happy Easter!

Frank and Kathy Kelly

May

SAVE THE DATE

8th Annual **KENTUCKY DERBY Party**



BREAK OUT THE ROSES, BOW TIES, SNAZZY SOCKS & BIG hats
at Visalia Elks Lodge #1298

Fun Music | Food | Games
Specialty Drinks | Photo Opp
Stick Horse Races | Raffle

... and Derby Hat & Bowtie/snazzy sock contest with prizes

Saturday MAY 2nd
12pm-4pm

VISALIA ELKS LODGE 1298 PRESENTS 1st Annual **TACO THROWDOWN**



Saturday May 16th 11:00-3:00
Specialty Margarita's
Live DJ/Raffle Prizes/Cornhole Tournament

\$40 Entry Per Team/ 3 Types Of Tacos (Cooks Choice)
Judging & People's Choice Awards
Salsa Competition

Contact Eric/Letty (559) 798-6028/Letprz77@gmail.com

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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.

APRIL 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 David Barber
Jerry Moe
Frank Reynoso
Jeffery Staley
Michael Wallace
- 2 William Palmer
- 3 Matthew Conley
Dan Eastham
Haley Guy
Jack Hamblin
- 4 Peter Babagian
Phil Fortney
Roland Harris
Russell Marlow
Charles Reynoso
Jacob Tormohlen
- 5 Ron Crispin
Tony Manquero
William Sanders
James Shaw
- 6 Ronald Baldwin
Michael Brooks
- 7 Cristie Clements
Hector Garza
Cynthia Lynch
Paul McDonald
Joe Paddock
- 8 James Chance
Anthony Silveira
Jared Whaley
- 9 LaRuth Chance
Brooke Clevenger
Ruben Gutierrez
Guillermo Salinas
Debra Winegarden
Larry Yocum
- 10 Michael Allen
Joe Andrada
Jacob Fulton
Cesar Moreno
- 11 Maria Hernandez
Mike Hodges
- 12 Judi Ellebracht
- 13 James Castleman
- 14 Bob Ausherman
Forrest Cooper
Terry Land
Chuck Lovenburg
Robert Tays
Marco Vaca
- 15 Ryan Bueter
Mario Marquez
Larry Mires
- 16 Laura Lathrop
Kevin Macintosh

- 17 Joao Dinis
Klaas Wasse
Randy Wheeler
- 18 Braulio Cantu
Christopher Imes
Tim Mathos
Matt Phines
- 20 Paula Ausherman
Jared Jones
Raul Ortega
Kimberly Stoll
Aaron Swain
David Vidrio
- 21 Tony Aguilar
Chase Bryant
Pedro Ferreria
Lee Tanner
- 22 George Neves
- 23 Richard Break
Steven DeLao
Eva Rasmussen
Kenneth Whiteside
- 24 Thomas Clevenger
Jacob Donald
Jim Hay
Kris Herd
Kevin Parish
Lorraine Swain
- 25 Richard Clevenger
Yesenia Hughes
Stephen Nelms
Deanna Souza
John Swanson
- 26 Rodney Serpa
Bill Slack
Henry Van Heeringen
- 27 Jeffery Fenske
Pennie Graham
Camron Martin
Chad Nelsen
Skip Nugent
- 28 Rick Krikorian
Johnny Mora
Larry Owsley
- 29 Sean Bardonex
Gary Buckmaster
Daniel Helzer
Dirk Temmerman
- 30 Edward Alvarado
Riley Darby



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