

VISALIA ELKS

1298 BULLETIN | “The Herd”

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



Lodge Meetings

Business meeting - July 22nd
No Initiation in July

House Committee Meeting

No meeting in July

Trustee Meeting

No meeting in July
(You must call or e-mail in advance to be on the agenda)

Bunco Night - No bunco in July

No Taco Tuesday in July or August

Poker Night - Possibly July 16 but keep an eye on the Member's FB group or What's Happening emails for confirmation.

Veteran's Breakfast - none in July

Cook Your Own Steak Night: will return in September

Friday Lunches no lunches in July

Visalia Elks Lodge Bulletin

Periodical of the;
Visalia Elks Lodge #1298
Volume 26/27 Edition #4

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,

July is a time to celebrate our nation and reflect on what makes America such a special place. As we continue recognizing America's 250th birthday, we can all take pride in the history, freedoms, and opportunities that unite us. It is a reminder that each of us has a role in serving our communities and helping our country remain strong for future generations.

The Order of Elks is distinctly American. Our Order was founded on the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity, and for more than 150 years we have demonstrated our love of country through service to veterans, support for youth, and countless acts of kindness in our communities.

Several officers from our Lodge, along with district-level officers, will be traveling to Chicago for the Grand Lodge Convention and the dedication of the Elks Memorial. Because so many officers will be away, there are currently no Lodge meetings scheduled for July, although this could change if circumstances allow.

The remodel of the ballroom begins and should be completed by the end of July.

On Friday, July 10th, there will be karaoke in the Members Lounge. There will be more information on Facebook regarding karaoke and other happenings this week.

We will be holding a Kitchen Cleanup Day on Saturday, July 11th, beginning at 7:00 a.m. If you can spare a few hours to lend a hand, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please watch our Facebook page for additional details and updates.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and dedication to our Lodge. Enjoy a safe and happy Independence Day with your family and friends. We look forward to seeing everyone back together once the renovations are complete.

Fraternally,
Scott Nelson
Exalted Ruler
Visalia Elks Lodge

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
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 August 26th 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 July 22, 2026

Kristopher Betterton by Brian Perry
Christian Crawford by Roberta Crawford

Jim Labor by Jake Johnson
Ilene Lee by Ruth Marie Gonzalez
Belinda Martin by Holly Derrington
Christina Montoya by Mike Borba
Robert Putnam by Gregory Davis
Antonio Sanchez by Jennifer Creech
Thomas Sardinha by Everett Crook
Kevin Smith by Mike Borba
Staci Silicato by Everett Crook
LaDon Stinson by Holly Derrington
Carlos Valencia by Bryan Davis
Roger Phillips (reinstate) by Jeff Parlier

Mitchel Clyde Ritchie (reinstate) by Thomas Ritchie

Alan Mayo - transfer from Tulare



*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

6-17-26 Cook Your Own Dinner

Team Leader: Becky Kennedy

Crew: John Kennedy, Julie Crenshaw, Kathleen Busby, Lora Griffith, Shannon Clower, Vince Sanchez, Marco Vaca, Phil Moreno, Bill Palmer, Denise Palmer, Kyndra Glick, Janice Dodson Borba, Camille Archuletta

6-24-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Kim Burchett

Crew: Phil Moreno, Danny Ludlum, Jeff and Sandy Wheeler, Don Smith, Mindy Morgan, Harry and Debbie Buckner, Heather Cornelius, 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

6-3-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Lori Jackson

Crew: PMonique Mirwald, Pam Nelson, Greg Todd, Lucille Kreps, Tina & Tony Aguilar, Sharon & Alvino Lopez, Peggy Gruber, Marco Vaca, Cissy Mulrooney, Laurel Flores

6-10-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Larry Kapagian, Linda and Haley

Crew: Danny Carrell, James Plough, Bryan Davis, Jose Marquez & girls, Jelenia Crenshaw, Cheryl Binning, Oscar Acevedo, JT Groover, Jen Calhoun, Lori Carrell, Jake Johnson, Heather Cornelious, Laurel Flores

6-14-26 Veteran's Breakfast

Team Leader: Brian Fishel

Saturday Prep Crew: Ed & Jane Shields, Ron Vasquez, Chuck Fishel, Lisa Morehouse, Ryan Samuels. Cristy Hoff

Sunday Breakfast:

Hostesses: Judy Staley, Stephanie Costa, Michelle Nelson

Front Lounge: Eric Fishel & Chuck Fishel

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

Kitchen Cooks:

Scott Reeder and Jeff Turner – Gravy

Phil Fortney – Bacon

Russell McKinney – Sausage, Potatoes

Servers:

Stacey Jared – Biscuits & Gravy

John Kennedy – Pancakes & French Toast

Lisa Morehouse Cristy Hoff – Sausage, potatoes & bacon

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

Back up Cooks: Ron Vasquez, Kristy Samuels, Maria Silva, Kristy Samuels

Bussers: Ted Donald, Michelle Nelson, Stacey West, Jacob Donald, Scott Nelson

VAGABONDS TRAVELS



The Vagabonds are heading to San Lorenzo County Park in King City from August 12 to 16. It has been a few years since we had a rally there. We had such fun and lots of laughs, games and good food so we decided to return. If you missed the opportunity to sign up, give Wagon Master Eddie Renteria a call and he will check on availability to add additional rig(s).

Just a reminder that the main ballroom is closed for the month of July for cleaning and a fresh new look. I am looking forward to seeing the changes in August.

Hope everyone also is enjoying the summer weather and see you at the August RV meeting on August 19th.

Kathy and Frank Kelly

Upcoming Events:

Happy 4th of July



1298 Cigar Club - July 9th

If you enjoy a good 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.

August Events:



Veteran's Breakfast – August 9th

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



Honor the Badge

Tuesday, August 11th from 11am - 1pm

Donation forms can be found in the Member's Lounge, Office or by scanning the QR code that's on the TV in the Member's lounge. It is also on the page below for ease of reference.



Bunco Night - Tues August 11th

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



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2026

HONOR THE BADGE

SPONSORSHIP FORM

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



\$500 - Captain Level Sponsor

Company Logo Recognition Day of Event, Tuesday, August 11, 2026
Logo and Social Media Recognition month of and month after the event.
(August & September 2026)

\$250 - Lieutenant Level

Company Logo Recognition Day of Event, Tuesday, August 11, 2026
Logo and Social Media Recognition month of the event.
(August 2026)

\$100 - Sergeant Level

Company or Individual Name Recognition on Day of the Event, Tuesday, August 11, 2026

YES, COUNT ME IN!

Please Return by Tuesday, August 4th, 2026

☐ \$500 Captain Level Sponsor ☐ \$250 Lieutenant Level ☐ \$100 Sergeant Level ☐ Other: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

☐ Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card. ☐ Check enclosed

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV#: _____

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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.

JULY 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 Dubendorf
Darin Preisendorf
- 2 Kenneth Bryan
Til Cheney
Jim Lowrey
- 3 David Andres
Stanley Castillo
Everett Crook
Daniel Licon
Mackenzie Williams
- 4 Jim Conway
Ruth Gonzalez
Fred Staley
- 5 James Gatto
Natalie Mata
Joseph Mesa
Donald Nelson
David Ramirez
Duane Rodriguez
- 6 Mark Chamberlin
Fred Chastain
Donald Hinds
John LeClerc
Greg Lovett
Michael Wright
- 7 Justin Alvitre
Taylor Bryant
David Griego
Todd Marshall
Karen McVaigh
Isaac Rodriguez
- 8 Richard Geels
- 9 Gregg Barnes
Cindy Dibb
Paricia Johnson
Gary Marr
Carolina Rose
- 10 Thomas Carter
August Fernandes
Mario Gutierrez
Dale Lamb
Manuel Linhares
Stephanie Lopez
- 11 Mark Dunn
Alice Lyons
Eric McConnaughey
Daniel Navarro
Scott Vu
- 12 Eric Gonzales
- 13 Robert Muto
- 14 John Godfrey
Robert Lentz
Diana Martinez
Joseph Tanner
Sandra Vance

- 15 Anthony George
Lisa Ledesma
Randy Oliveira
Vince Sanchez
- 16 Richard Andrade
James Avila
- 17 Geraldine Giotta
Keith Guthrie
Michael Parks
Frank West
- 18 Abundio Torres
- 19 Skyler Bettencourt
Gregory Lopez
- 20 Marsh Carter
Benjamin Resa
Diane Ribeiro
Nathan Stewart
Will Stone
- 21 John Clower
James Dremel
Hieu Le
Joshua Miles
- 22 Stacey Johnson
Griffin King
David Pena
Pauline Sanchez
Maria Silva
John Walter
- 23 Janice Avila
Robertta Crawford
Karen Degroot
Kyle Heck
Philip Johnson
Victor Williamson
- 24 James Briggs
Chris Carl
Kevin Colopy
Willis Cox
William Vaca
- 25 Matthew Hughes
Kyle Ragan
- 26 Eric Orong
- 27 Jay Finnecy
Louie Perez
Ryan Pires
Vance Sanchez
- 28 Laurann Fuentes
Ronald McGowan
Michael Wiebe
Derek (Rick) Williams
- 29 John Kennedy
Brent Miller
Michelle Nottoli
Jay Peters
Donald Presser

- 29 Robert Shiffert
- 30 Caitlin Beatty
Michael Couto
Rex Daenzer
Charles Testerman
- 31 Nicole Juarez
Susan Kazarian
David Lewis
Rick Perez
Jim Petersen
Tasha Poggione



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