

VISALIA ELKS

1298 BULLETIN | “The Herd”

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



Lodge Meetings

Wed August 12, 2026 – Business

Wed August 26, 2026 – Initiation

House Committee Meeting

Wed August 12, 2026

Trustee Meeting

Wed August 12, 2026

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

Bunco Night - August 11th - Sign in starts at 5:30p and dice start rolling at 6p sharp

No Taco Tuesday in June, July or August

Poker Night - August 6th & 20th - Seat Cards handed out at 6pm - Cards dealt at 6:30pm

Veteran's Breakfast – August 9th – 8:30-11am

Cook Your Own Steak Night: will return in September

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 #5

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,

The dog days of summer are upon us. As we welcome the month of August, I want to thank each of you for your continued patience, support, and dedication to our Lodge. We're excited to share that our ballroom remodel is nearly complete, with only a few finishing touches remaining. The transformation has been well worth the wait, and we look forward to enjoying this beautiful space together for many years.

Work' also progressing well on the non-members bar, and we expect that remodel to be completed during the first week of August. These improvements are helping create a more welcoming and enjoyable Lodge for our members, guests, and the community.

With our renovation projects coming to an end, many of our regular Lodge activities will be returning to normal. Wednesday night dinners, regular Lodge meetings, and other member events will once again become the heart of our weekly schedule. It's exciting to see our Lodge coming back to life and filled with fellowship.

August also brings a couple of very special events that showcase the values of our Order. We will be hosting our Second Amendment Dinner August 8th. There are still limited tickets available.

August 11th brings our annual Honor the Badge event, where we recognize and celebrate the dedicated men and women who serve as our first responders. These events would not be possible without the incredible generosity of our members and our community.

On behalf of the officers of Visalia Elks Lodge, thank you to everyone who has donated their time, talents, and financial support to make these events successful. Your commitment to our Lodge and our community truly reflects the spirit of Elksdom.

I look forward to seeing all of you back at the Lodge as we return to our normal schedule and continue building on the momentum of an exciting year. Thank you for all you do, and I hope to see you at the Lodge soon!

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
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 August 12, 2026

Barbara Schafer by Julie Burger (reinstate)

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Parents, Teachers, Guidance Counselors, High School Seniors

As Summer vacation ends and school begins again, here are some important dates:

Most Valuable Student (MVS) Scholarship Application opens August 1st - Closes November 12, 2026

Legacy Awards Application opens September 1, 2026 - closes February 1, 2027

Check out elks.org for more information



*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

7-29-26 Kitchen Clean-UP

Team Leader: Letty & Eric Saenz

Crew: Ted Donald, Richard Break, Ron Vasquez, Sharon Johnson, Henry Johnson, Amanda Acevedo, Debbie Buckner, Harry Buckner, Chris Hash, Peggy Llamas, LaRuth Chance

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:



2nd Amendment Dinner - August 8th

More details are in the Member's FB group.

You can purchase tickets by calling the office 559-734-6762



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

Upcoming Events:



2026
HONOR THE BADGE

IN APPRECIATION OF FIRST RESPONDERS

Tuesday, August 11, 2026
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

QR code: [QR code]

Logos: VISALIA ELKS LODGE #1298, CAL FIRE, VISALIA POLICE, VISALIA FIRE, CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL, PORTERVILLE AREA.

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.

A big thank you to the Captain and Lieutenant Sponsors:



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*I think my Drinking Night has a **BUNCO** problem*

August 11th AT 6PM

JOIN US FOR BUNCO

SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT BUNCO NIGHT IN THE MEMBERS' LOUNGE

2nd Tuesday of the month (except in Dec & Feb)

Bunco Night - Tues August 11th

Check-in Starts at 5:30pm - Dice start rolling at 6pm - We're welcoming **NEW MEMBERS** to join us for some fun. All New members initiated in 2026 who play get a raffle ticket to win a prize.

Any existing member that brings a 2026 new member, also gets a raffle ticket for the drawing.



1298 Cigar Club - August 13th

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.



VISALIA ELKS LODGE #1298 Presents

VISALIA ELKS LODGE RIB COOK-OFF

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 2026

VISALIA ELKS LODGE #1298
3100 WEST MAIN, VISALIA, CA 93291

RIB COOK-OFF Teams compete for bragging rights and great prizes!

PEOPLE'S CHOICE You be the judge! Vote for your favorite ribs!

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT Starts at 11:00 AM Cash prizes!

RAFFLE & OPPORTUNITY DRAWING Great prizes all day long!

MEMBERS & MEMBERS' GUESTS ONLY

Thank you for supporting your Lodge and our community.

COME HUNGRY. LEAVE HAPPY.

Supporting Our Community.

WANT TO COMPETE? TEAM REGISTRATION & INFO: (559) 733-5291 | MEMBERS & MEMBERS' GUESTS ONLY

RIB COOK-OFF

Sunday, September 6th - Details can be found in the Member's FB Group or by calling the office.



The Killer Dueling Pianos

Friday, Sept. 25th - Details can be found in the Member's FB Group or by calling the office.



1298 Car Show - October 4th

Details can be found in the Member's FB Group or by calling the office.



Elks Cowboy Country Night - October 3rd -Details can be found in the Member's FB Group or by calling the office.



Visalia Elks 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, October 16th
Details can be found in the Member's FB Group or by calling the office.

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.

AUGUST 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 BRaymond Carrillo
Mike Schmidt
Joyce Slover
Rosa VanGroningen
- 2 Greg Browning
Stephanie Costa
Tim Haskill
Humberto Valero Jr
- 3 Brad Bryan
Javier Camacho
Richard Florez
Pedro Gonzalez
Monique Olvera
Tom Smith
- 4 Kenneth Bridges
Bob De Los Santos
Nicholas Gordon
Steve Lawrence Jr
Darwyn Ward
Steven Wheeler
- 5 Carolyn Fabry
Eliseo Zepeda
- 6 Dylan Chimienti
Karen Cocagne
Lynn Conley
Kenneth Hyslop
Kelly Robinson
Ronald Sisson
- 7 Filipe Baeza
Arnel Delos Santos
Michael Powell
Brian Rainey
Rachel Sausedo
Cary Winslow
- 8 Antonio Villegas
David Vrana
Scott Wilson
- 9 Lawrence Dibb
Brian Fishel
Tristin Mirwald
Michael Morton
- 10 Gary Bennett
Monica Escalante
Kenneth Hall
MaryAnn McCoy
Janet Villalobos
- 11 Karl Bostai
Lisa Brown
Jesse Jurado
- 12 Eldon Daniel
- 13 Terry Bennett
Thea Chapman
Greg Melton
Charles Williams

- 14 Gary Bardonnex
Susan Clevenger
John Crowe
Ross Irving
Kellie Perez
Bryan Tenhet
- 15 Alice Castro
Larry Dlugonski
Robert Leal
Carl Lyon
- 16 Debbie Haverstock
Dominic Peluso
Jeffrey Richardson
- 17 Frank Belk
David Borges
Stephen Campodonico
Jelenia Crenshaw
Harry Wood
- 18 Tom Hamon Sr
Lori Jackson
Jerry Mayberry
Carrie Menezes
Reba Ortiz
Mark Stovall
- 19 Michael Jeffus
- 20 Walter Applegate
Chris Chiodo
Shawn Fox
Cori Haynes
Jason Hooyer
Shelly Pownell
Robert Seargeant
- 21 Robert Chavez
Jon Dolan
Steven Ellis
Thomas McQuerry
Michael Nunez
William See
Bryon Todd
- 22 Heaven Fernandez
Ruben Garcia
Fred Gill
Sedelia Sanchez
Dan Wallace
Craig Williams
- 23 Robert Bash
Brian Chance
Lonnie de Asis
Terry Deck
Phillip Garcia
Scott Heitzig
Brent Hobbs
Patrick Inkster
Roland Ruddy

- 24 Tim Henesay
Brian Lomsdalen
Derek Onstott
Colby Perez
Chris Slover
Jill Smythe
- 25 Diana Bueno
Kimberley Burke
Jeff Dion
Ronald Dodson Jr
Kenneth Evans
Robert Flores
Richard Giotto
- 26 Phillip Cooksey
Jordan Son
Kimberly Watamura
James White
- 27 Christina Landin
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Richard Jones
Vincent Paddock
Michael Portillo
Sabrina Shahan
- 30 Gabrielle Davis
Evelyn Jordan
Wayne Lentz
Sonia Molina
Celestine Zamora
- 31 David Vartanian
Sheila Vega



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