

VISALIA ELKS

1298 BULLETIN | “The Herd”

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



Lodge Meetings

Wed October 14, 2026 – Business

Wed October 28, 2026 - Initiation

House Committee Meeting

Wed October 14, 2026

Trustee Meeting

Wed October 14, 2026

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

Bunco Night - October 13 - Sign in starts at 5:30p and dice start rolling at 6p sharp

Taco Tuesday - October 13th
5:30-6:30pm

Poker Night - October 1st & 15th - Seat Cards handed out at 6pm - Cards dealt at 6:30pm

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

Cook Your Own Steak Night: No Cook Your Own in October

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 #7

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”

Greetings Members,

As we welcome fall and cooler weather, we also welcome one of the busiest (and fun) times of the year at our Lodge. The leaves may be changing, but things at Visalia Elks Lodge are certainly heating up as we head toward the holiday season!

First, a heartfelt thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make September such a success. Whether you prepared a meal, set up for an event, served our guests, or stayed behind to clean up, your contributions make a difference. Our Lodge depends on the time, dedication, and generosity of our members, and I truly appreciate everything you do.

October is packed with activities! We'll kick things off with our Veterans Appreciation Picnic, honoring the men and women who have served our country. Cowboy Night will feature country music from Poso Flat and dinner prepared by Kim Burchett and her crew. We'll also have the Elks Hoop Shoot for our community youth and the much-anticipated Elks Golf Tournament.

We'll have the honor of welcoming State President Lynn Glick for her visitation. This is a special opportunity to show the pride we have in our Lodge and the work we do for our members, community, and youth.

And, of course, October wouldn't be complete without some Halloween fun! Our Kids' Halloween Trunk or Treat and Adult Halloween Party are coming up, so get those costumes ready!

With so much happening, I also want to take a moment to talk about one of the principles of our Order: Fidelity.

Fidelity means being faithful, loyal, and true to our obligations. When we became Elks, we made a commitment to uphold the principles of our Order, support our Lodge, and serve our fellow members and our community. That obligation is more than words spoken during an initiation ceremony. It's a promise we carry with us every day.

Being true to that obligation means showing up when we're needed, treating one another with respect, supporting our Lodge, and lending a helping hand whenever possible. It also means standing by our fellow members and working through our differences with understanding. We may not always agree, but we should always remain united in our commitment to the good of our Lodge and the principles we share.

As we enter this busy season, I encourage each of you to reflect on what your obligation means to you. Every volunteer hour, event attended, kind word, and act of service helps strengthen our Lodge. Our Lodge is only as strong as the commitment of its members, and that commitment begins with each of us.

Thank you for your continued support, friendship, and dedication to Visalia Elks Lodge. I look forward to seeing everyone throughout October and continuing to make our Lodge a place we can all be proud of.

Let's make it a fantastic fall filled with fellowship, service, and the true spirit of Elkdom!

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 October 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 October 14, 2026

Edward Bueno by Everett Hupp
Roberto Castro by JT Groover
Blas Garcia by Freddy Avalos
Erica Garza by Marco Vaca
Jennifer Hadley by Iris Feaver
Rodney Huebert by Iris Feaver
Jacob Irion by Dale Irion
Daniel Johnson by Marco Vaca
Jhett Kirk by Chance Kirk
Kevin Kleinhans by Dale Fugate
Steven Scherbinski by Monica Marquez
Matthew Taylor by Robert Brown

Reinstates:

Matthew Gordon by William Vaca



*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

09-18-26 Cook Your Own Steak Night

Team Leader: Kevin Colopy

Crew: Eva Rasmussen, Robbie Shahan, Sabrina Shahan, Keith Carlos, Greg Costa, JT Groover, Tom O'Connor, Brian Fishel, Ryan Samuels, Steven Michael Batty Jr., Phil Moreno, Russell McKinney, Heather Cornelius, Laura Bullene, Laurel Flores

09-23-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Kim Burchett

Crew: Phil Moreno, Harry & Debbie Buckner, Mindy Morgan, Christina Ritchie, Gerrie Giotta, DeeDee Rains, Don Smith, Danny Ludlum, Camille Fisher, Laurel Flores

09-25-26 The Killer Dueling Pianos Event

Team Leader: Eva Rasmussen & Russel McKinney

Crew: Larry & Linda Kapigian, JT & Carrie Groover, Letty Perez, Oscar & Amanda Acevedo, Jalenia Crenshaw, Haley, Monique Mirwald

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

09-02-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Lori Jackson

Crew: Pam Nelson, Monique Mirwald, Mercedes Leos, Jeff Turner, Heather Cornelius, Tina & Tony Aguilar, Debbie Gerbig, Sharon L Alvino Lopez, Marco Vaca, Greg Todd, Laura Chapman, Cissy Archuleta, Laurel Flores

09-09-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Becky Kennedy

Crew: Janice Borba, Jelenia Crenshaw, Holly Derrington, Kathleen Busby, Jersey Glick, Kendra Glick, John Kennedy, Vince Sanchez, Phil Moreno, Marco Vaca, Ted Leavitt, Heather Cornelius, Laurel Flores

09-13-26 Veteran's Breakfast - Guest served 331

Team Leader: Tom Hansen

Saturday Prep Crew: Ed & Jane Shields, Ron Vasquez, Chuck Fishel, Ryan Samuels, Phil Moreno and Eva Rasmussen

Sunday Breakfast:

Hostesses: Judy Staley, Stephanie Costa & Stacey West

Front Lounge: Cyndney Atkins & Chuck Fishel

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

Kitchen Cooks:

Scott Reeder & Jeff Turner – Gravy

Phil Fortney – Bacon

Scott Nelson – 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, Ted Donald and Shane Souza

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

Bussers: Megan Bates & The El Diamante Flag Football Team

Upcoming Events:



8th Annual Veteran's Appreciation Day

October 3rd - 11am-3pm

Lunch served from 11:30-1pm



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

Upcoming Events (cont.):



1298 Car Show - October 4th

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



1298 Cigar Club - October 8th

2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm on the back patio.



Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest - October 10th



Veteran's Breakfast – October 11th

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 October 13th

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



Visalia Elks 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

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



Visalia Elks 3 Membership Rounduprd October 18th



Visalia Elks Kid's Halloween Event Sat October 24th 4-6pm



Halloween Party - Oct 30th at 7pm in Member's Lounge
Best costume competition with prizes.



Sip Happens Sundays October 25th
Menu will be posted in the Member's FB Group



9th Annual Larry Fishel Memorial Chili Cookoff - November 14th
More details to come in the Member's FB Group

VAGABONDS TRAVELS



On the Road with the Vagabonds!

November 11-16, 2026, will find the Vagabonds gathering at Orange Grove RV Park east of Bakersfield for another fun filled time together.

Some members attend all the days and others only 2 to 4 days. Whatever works for your schedule is fine. Fill out forms (registration and emergency contact) and your check for the rv nights. If you don't have the forms, come early to the meeting to pick up them for turn in that night with payment.

Something new and different for this rally - Susie Domingos is spear-heading an informal boutique for Friday afternoon. She's encouraging and hoping members will bring items for sale - i.e, jams, baked goods, candy, games and any variety of craft items to start off the Holiday Season with a new activity. Of course, it goes without saying, the usual card games, Black Out Game, baseball and horse races will be included in the rally weekend.

See you at the October 21 Vagabond meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Kathy and Frank Kelly



Visalia Elks Craft Boutique
Sunday, December 6th 11am - 2pm - More details will be posted in the Member's FB Group

BPOE VISALIA LODGE #1298 NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

AVEDIAN
PROPERTIES
DRE #01987747

ROBERT CASEY
Broker Associate
BRE #01074261

Cell: 559.280.7280
robertcaseyrealtor@yahoo.com

 

219 W. Main Street | Visalia, CA 93291 | AvedianPropertiesRE.com

 **Elk member Norm Blackwell** invites you to shop locally for **PISTACHIOS**, the green healthy nut

COUNTER TOPS
by Chet

Rick Allen
Angie Allen

(559) 738-0600
FAX (559) 738-1879

Cont. Lic. #382609

For All Your Counter Top & Cabinet Needs

32536 Road 124 • Visalia, California 93291



SPONSORS

Over 30 Years in Visalia

Dance-artz

Teresa Vidak
242 East Oak
Visalia, California 93291
559.733.9414
(Corner of Garden & Oak)

Pre-Ballet • Ballet
Tap • Jazz • Hip Hop
Theatre Dance Class
Competition Group

• Beginning •
• Intermediate •
• Advanced •

3 Years through Adult

MILL CREEK
MANAGEMENT INC.
REAL ESTATE SALES
Since 1980

JASON HUTTON, GRI, CRS
General Manager/Broker

559-733-3385 EXT. 12
FAX 559-733-5366

300 W. SCHOOL AVENUE
VISALIA, CA 93291
LIC#ME #01793843

EMAIL: JASON@MILLCREEKMGT.COM
WWW.MILLCREEKMGT.COM

Burglar Alarm/Video Surveillance Services & Repair
Long-Range Wireless Data Communications

Kris Herd
President

559-684-9112
1425 Lewis Lane
Tulare, California 93274
kris@istconsulting.net

IS&T
Consulting

Serving the Central Valley Since 1996
CA Contractors License 878571; ACO 6925

TOUCHTUNES
& AMI MUSIC

COUNTER TO GAMES

Marks Vending Co.

Jamie
(559)731-1045

TOYS CRANE &
CANDY CRANES

MARKVEND2@YAHOO.COM



**THE LAW OFFICE OF
RALPH F. KAELBLE**

4125 W Noble Ave Suite 239
Visalia, CA 93277

Phone: (559) 732-1825
Email: rkaelble@kaelblelaw.com



Brooke Clevenger
REALTOR
Dre 02075768

Buying or selling?
I can help.

559-972-6362
RE/MAX Success
4840 W Mineral King Ave
Visalia Ca 93291



CVBF.COM
CENTRAL VALLEY BUSINESS FORMS
PRINTING \ DESIGN \ MARKETING

GARY AMON
O. 559.651.3595 X 128
C. 559.679.4528

- Promotional Products
- Presentation Folders
- Vehicle Graphics
- Business Cards
- Graphic Design
- Door Hangers
- Direct Mailings
- Letterhead
- Brochures
- Envelopes
- Banners
- Invoices
- Tickets
- Checks
- Signs...

And so much more!
559.651.3595 • sales@cvbf.com

Kristy Cooper
Principal

RKN Studio
Responsive Knowledge Now

Website Design & Marketing
www.rknstudio.com

818-679-6658
kristy@rknstudio.com

ROLLING JOHN
LUXURY
RESTROOM
TRAILERS

559.333.3234
www.rollingjohn.com





John Parker, CEO
Diversified Equities, Inc.

Visalia: 559-734-7463
Bakersfield: 661-396-7463

feetforlife@att.net
www.feetforlifeshoes.com

**VISALIA MALL
BAKERSFIELD VALLEY PLAZA MALL**



Sharon L Allison-Crook
Mobile Notary Public

559-827-3494
notarysharon@att.ne

Pacific Crane Service

David Smith
President

We are committed to your lifting needs.

To Schedule Call or Text
559-805-5324

E-mail: pacificcrane@sbcglobal.net
Website: PacificCraneService.net
Fax: 559-733-5961



ROBERT CASEY
DRE01074261



559 280-7280

“OUR BULLETIN SPONSORS”

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.

OCTOBER 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 Diane Borges
Alfred Darmousseh
Lora Griffith
Julie Hill
Tammy Veronda
- 2 Leslie Caviglia
Kristopher Dollinger
Megan Rhea
- 3 Joseph Argyle
Dale Burke
Dominic Oliveira
Allison Vella
- 4 Kathleen Busby
Jonathan Doss
David Goldsmith
Jill Kelly
Coleta Moreno
- 5 Daniel Crookham
Wendy Ryals
Kalen Stinson
- 6 Dave Akkerman
Steven Jordan
Mercedes Leos
Roger Phillips
Joe Frank Pineda
Floyd Ritchie
Ryan Vance
- 7 Doug Anderson
Shane Atkins
Eric Dias
Higinio (Gene) Fernandez
Jill Fitzgerald
Ronald Price
Keith Wheeler
- 8 John Hasson
Tammy Jones
Jason Kennedy
Linda Lindsey
Timothy Wilson
- 9 Sarah Beutler
Zackary Markarian
Brandon Morse
Manuel Rodriguez
- 10 Mike Borba
Les Borges
Neville Buyense
Terrence Seifert
- 11 Nickolas Hilvers
Darren Lewis
Tonya Milsap
Dudley Sanders
- 13 David Biswell
Scott Jeffery
Guy Salinas
Steven Zeibak

- 14 Ken Harback
Jackie Holdridge
- 15 Rebecca Kennedy
Ralph Maffia
Selina Park
Lola Reser
Diamond Stanley
Stacy West
- 16 Darren Dias
Carl Garcia
Spencer Hodgins
Keith Rodriguez
Robert Sippel
- 17 Samantha Junio
Natalie Smith
- 18 Charlie Bakker
Christina Crawford
Bruce Margosian
Jason Potts
Martin Trevizo
Neal Wallis
- 19 David McGovran
Susan Nejman
- 20 Darren Aldaco
Mike Allison
Shawn Cooper
Todd McGuyer
- 21 Forrest McLean
Jeff Merrill
Willard Williams
- 22 Peter Albanese
Bryan Helin
Bobby Henry
Mark James
Ryan Miller
John Silvas
Wesley Stone
- 23 Ed Desrosiers
Tom Felsted
Lisa Walsh
- 24 Cheyenne Carrell
Brad Jackson
Ray Sailer
Joseph Spahn
- 25 Holly Derington
Kurt Salierno
Richard Santana
Chelsea Seargeant
Mitch Visser
- 26 Cheryl Binning
Eloy Castro
Mike McCoy
Victor Nunez
Anna Paddock
Julie Sayre
John Tyler

- 27 Cory Brooks
Paul Cordua
Rosalind Silva
- 28 Gerardo Calderon
Phil Kelly
Thomas Romero
- 29 Dale Atkins
David Coronado
Diana Doyle
Raymond Hill
- 30 Henry Johnson
Kevin Matthews
- 31 Meghan Bates
Brandon Peters
Roger Starrett
Diana Stuhann



BPO Elks
VISALIA LODGE NO 1298
3100 WEST MAIN STREET
VISALIA, CA 93291

