

VISALIA ELKS

1298 BULLETIN | “The Herd”

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



Lodge Meetings

Wed September 9, 2026 – Business

Wed September 23, 2026 - Initiation

House Committee Meeting

Wed September 9, 2026

Trustee Meeting

Wed September 9, 2026

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

Bunco Night - September 8th - Sign in starts at 5:30p and dice start rolling at 6p sharp

Taco Tuesday - September 8th
5:30-6:30pm

Poker Night - September 3rd & 17th -
Seat Cards handed out at 6pm - Cards dealt at 6:30pm

Veteran's Breakfast – September 13th
– 8:30-11am

Cook Your Own Steak Night:
September 18th 6-7:30pm

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 #6

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,

August brought us back to full schedules, and we enjoyed some very successful events: our 250th birthday 2A celebration, along with the 10th annual Honor the Badge, which served more than 700 meals. Our monthly veterans breakfast regularly serves more than 300 meals. I continue to be amazed by our volunteers.

September continues that momentum as our regular dinners, meetings, activities, and fellowship are once again in full swing. It is always great to see our members gathering together, enjoying a good meal, sharing a few laughs, and, most importantly, making the Lodge feel like home.

Many great things on Septembers calendar : the return of Monday Night Football meals, the Labor of Love Rib Cook-Off, Wednesday dinners, and the Killer Dueling Pianos dinner and show. We will also be hosting a Ritual Training Clinic. If you are interested in becoming a judge, this is an opportunity to take the first step.

As we enjoy all that our Lodge has to offer, I want to remind everyone that our Elks Lodge is a place for fellowship, friendship, and service to one another and our community. It is not just a bar, and respect for everyone in the building is essential. We are all responsible for helping maintain a welcoming, positive environment. Please treat your fellow members, guests, volunteers, and staff with courtesy and respect. Drama, conflict, and disrespect have no place in our Lodge.

The Elks has always been about Elks helping Elks, serving our community, and building lasting friendships. Let’s make this September the beginning of another great month filled with fellowship, service, respect, and pride in our Lodge.

I look forward to seeing all of you around the Lodge. Thank you for your continued support.

Fraternally,

Scott Nelson
Exalted Ruler

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 September 23rd 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 September 9, 2026

Edward Brown by Wesley Kent Stone
Diana Hill by Thomas Clevenger
Jill Kelly by Kelly Mueller
Judith Kendrick by Susan Clevenger
Jeffery Kunovic by John Tyler
Sharon Lynn by Ed Lynn
Linda Palmer by Tom Clevenger
Juan Gabriel Preciado by Everett Crook
Larry Sanford by Sam Winter
Margorie Smith by Susan Clevenger
Sandy Stone by Jane Donald
Gene Winsett by David Preston

Reinstates:

Robert Valdez by Bill Flores
Ronald Pugh by Bill Flores
Rebecca Springer by Iris Feaver



*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

08-19-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Laurie Robinson

Crew: Sam Castillo, Marco Vaca, Camille Fischer, Vincent & Sedelia Sanchez, Jelenia Crenshaw, Phil Moreno, Joan Russell, Ron Fasquez, Eric Perez, Letty Perez, Oscar Mulrooney, Laura Bullene

08-26-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Kim Burchett

Crew: Gerri Giotta, Phil Moreno, Harry & Debbie Buckner, Mindy Morgan, DeeDee Rains, Rae Crawford, Don Smith, Cissy Mulrooney, Lauren 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:

Kitchen & Event Volunteer Thanks

08-05-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Becky Kennedy

Crew: Shannon Clower, Denise & Bill Palmer, Camille Fisher, Kathleen Busby, Ted & Tess Leavitt, Cissy Mulrooney, Laurel Flores

08-09-26 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, Steve Batty, Kalen Stinson & Ryan Samuels

Kitchen Cooks:

Scott Reeder – Gravy

Jeff Turner – 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: Big Thank you goes out to the new bussers - the El D Girls Flag Football Team

08-12-26 Wednesday Night Dinner

Team Leader: Larry Kapagian

Crew: Eric & Letty Perez, Dan & Lori Carrell, Monique Mirwald, Jelenia Crenshaw, Debbie Gerbig, Linda, Haley, Celeste, Heather Cornelius, Kalia, Laurel Flores



RIB COOK-OFF - September 6th

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



Bunco Night - Tues September 8th

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.

Upcoming Events (cont.):



1298 Cigar Club - September 10th

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.



Veteran's Breakfast – September 13th

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



Karaoke Night - September 19th

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.



Sip Happens Sundays September 27th

Meatball sandwich prov, shrimp, salami, pepperoni, fried zucchini stick, mozz ball, cherry pepper, garlic stuffed olive, bacon, celery and asparagus



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.



1298 Car Show - October 4th
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.

VAGABONDS TRAVELS



On the Road with the Vagabonds!

The Vagabonds had a wonderful time in King City at San Lorenzo County Park in August! It was another great outing filled with good times, great company, and plenty of memories made along the way.

Next up, we're looking forward to our November outing at Orange Grove RV Park in Bakersfield. It's always more fun when we have a great group along for the adventure!

Interested in joining us or want to hear more about upcoming outings? Come to a Vagabonds meeting for all the details. We'd love to have you join the fun!

Safe travels,
Kathy & Frank Kelly
Vagabonds RV Group

*Save
The
Date*



Visalia Elks Craft Boutique

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

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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.

SEPTEMBER 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 Eugene Bueno
Matthew Crawford
Jack Gilbert
Jeff Lawson
Jeffery Weinert
- 2 Oscar Barcenas
Gloria Couchman
Dianna Fauvor
Angel Leon
Danny McDonald
Melinda Morgan
- 3 Rodney Bennett
James Boswell
Taylor Cabello
Falguni (Tina) Daya
Christine Hernandez
Ashley Kirksey
Michael McDaniels
- 4 Kim Burchett
Willy Ford
Danny Freitas
Lucille Kreps
Dan McCarthy
- 5 Lonnie Butterfield
Andrew Holdbrooks
Peggy Llamas
Scott Manley
Robert Robledo
Eddie Shields
Thomas Weddle
- 6 Jennifer Creech
- 7 Beatriz Parham
Patrick Stover
- 8 Alexander Barss
Shawn Corley
Raymond Pacheco
Joann Pereira
- 9 Thomas Higgins
Miguel Vasquez
Wayne Villines
- 10 Thomas Gruber
Warren Hutchings
- 11 Debra Maxwell
- 12 Joseph Casarez
Louie Shepherd
Jeffery Wilkinson
- 13 Danny Jones
Bruce Panttaja
Maria Reyes
Ralph Vargas
- 14 Rod Adam
Charles Davis
Steve Williams
- 15 Raymond Baca
Josef Greene

- 16 Robert Brown
Mike Cook
Stacey Jared
Jeffery Lusk
Marvin Meske
Michael Rivera
- 17 Kimberly Batty
Scott Belk
Kristy Cooper
William Flores
Shawn Martin
Thomas Sigler
Christopher Stallions
Elizabeth Vaca
- 18 Sam Castillo
Michael Davidson
Joel Glick
Anthony Proulx
Cynthia Ward
- 19 Samuel Baldivia
Gary Gallian
Laura John
Joshua Jump
Larry Nelson
Jeremiah Ruiz
- 20 Ted Donald
Stacey Pownell
Ty Swift
- 21 Kathy Ashford
Tim Brown
Larry Kelley
Mark Perry
Michael Villalba
Adam Wheeler
- 22 Ernest Alvarado
Julie Gilbert
Dennis Krohn
Pauline (Cissy) Mulrooney
Joe Pugh
Rodney Sullivan
Gregory Whitney
- 23 Sonja Fontana
Perry Miller
Joe Regalado
- 24 Suzanne Aguilera-Marrero
Eric MacBean
Floyd Martinez
Hailee Parkison
Ramiro Ruvalcaba
- 25 Louis Biglieri
Russell Bradford
Del Hardin
Robin Meyst
James Sigler
- 26 Oscar Acevedo

- 26 Dawn Bliler
Glenn Crookshanks
Pat Dugan
Nadeen Fistolera
Osvaldo (Ozzy) Gallardo
Chester Grammer
Donald Heisey
John Place
Melissa Pritchett
Cooper Watt
- 27 Danny Andrew
Greg Bardonex
Scott Glidden
Larn James
James Mathis
Jane Shields
- 28 John Babb
Matthew Bither
Joseph Freitas
Frank Galviz
Al Hack
Rodney Jared
Rhonda McConnaughey
Darrell Smith
- 29 Ron Dodson
Michael Edwards
- 30 Terry Culotta
Ruben Juarez
Darlene Mata
Jorge Montes-Segura
Brenda Nagel



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