VISALIA ELKS
1298 BULLETIN | "The Herd"

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

Lodge Meetings
Wed November 11, 2026 – Business
House Committee Meeting
Wed November 11, 2026
Trustee Meeting
Wed November 11, 2026
(You must call or e-mail in advance to be on the agenda)

Bunco Night - November 10th - Sign in starts at 5:30p and dice start rolling at 6p sharp

Taco Tuesday - November 10th 5:30-6:30pm

Poker Night - November 5th & 19th - Seat Cards handed out at 6pm - Cards dealt at 6:30pm

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

Cook Your Own Steak Night: November 20th

Friday Lunches – Check "What's Happening" email for dates/menus

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Visalia Elks Lodge Bulletin
Periodical of the;
Visalia Elks Lodge #1298
Volume 26/27 Edition #8

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,

October was a successful month! We had many great events, including our Veterans Appreciation Picnic, the car show, the golf tournament, the Membership Roundup, and our Halloween party. It was wonderful to see our members, families, and friends come together to support and enjoy these activities. A big thank-you goes out to everyone who volunteered their time, helped with the planning, worked behind the scenes, or participated in making these events successful. It takes all of us working together to make our Lodge successful, and I truly appreciate everything you do.

As we turn the calendar to November, we have more opportunities to get together and enjoy the spirit of our Elks family. We look forward to the Larry Fishel Memorial Chili Cook-Off, which is always a fun way to bring out some friendly competition, good food, and great fellowship. We will also take time to celebrate Veterans Day. This is a special opportunity for us as Elks to recognize and honor the men and women who have served our country. Their courage, dedication, and sacrifices have helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy every day. Please take a moment to thank a veteran and let them know how much their service means to us.

November also brings us one of my favorite times of the year, Thanksgiving. It is a time to slow down, reflect, and appreciate the many blessings in our lives. We have so much to be thankful for, including our families, our friends, our Lodge, and the opportunity to serve our community. I am especially thankful for the members and volunteers who continually give their time and energy to make our Lodge a special place.

As we head into the holiday season, let's remember what being an Elk is all about: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. Let's continue to support one another, welcome new faces, and make a difference in our community.

I wish each of you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with happiness, good health, and time spent with those who mean the most to you.

Thank you for all you do for our Lodge. I am proud to serve alongside each and every one of you.

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 to be determined.

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...

No Voting in November.



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.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE
from Bill Flores

Our MVS scholarship sign ups for high school seniors graduating in 2027 will close 11-12-2026.

Please spread the word and encourage students to apply. Last June, our Lodge #1298 gave $6500 to seven recipients.

We welcome a new member to our committee-- retired educator Julie Hill.

We also thank Barbara Kooberstein-Davis (the Kazoo lady) for her hard work over the last eleven years. She's done an excellent job as does Dorothy Van Wagoner -- also on the Team for all eleven years.

My thanks to all who have contributed in helping these students; it is much appreciated.

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

09-30-26 Wednesday Night Dinner
Team Leader: Scott Nelson
Crew: Michelle Nelson, Phil Moreno, Charles Cornelius, Ryan Samuels, Eva Rasmussen, Mike Saulque, Rod & Stacey Jared, Chuck Fishel, Cristy Hoff, Shawn Cooper, Kevin Colopy, Heather Cornelius, Laurel Flores

10-03-26 Elk's Cowboy Dinner
Team Leader: Kim Burchett
Crew: Harry & Debbie Buckner, Mike Burchett, Mindy Morgan, DeeDee Rains, Rae Crawford, Gerrie Giotta, Phil Moreno, Danny Ludlum, Christina Ritchie, Don Brown, Holly Derrington, Laurel Flores

10-11-26 Veteran's Breakfast - Guest served 292
Team Leader: Tom Hansen
Saturday Prep Crew: Ed & Jane Shields, Ron Vasquez, Chuck Fishel, Phil Moreno and Brian Fishel
Sunday Breakfast:
Hostesses: Judy Staley, Stephanie Costa & Maria Silva
Front Lounge: Eric Fishel & Chuck Fishel
Omelet Cooks: Rodney Jared, Janie Donald, Eli Ledesma, Ryan Samuels, Brian Fishel, Stacey West
Kitchen Cooks:
Scott Reeder & Jeff Turner – Gravy
Phil Fortney – Bacon
Scott Nelson – Sausage, Potatoes
Servers:
Stacey Jared – Biscuits & Gravy
John Kennedy – Pancakes & French Toast
Amy Gordan & Lisa Ledesma – Sausage, potatoes & bacon
Back up Cooks: Ron Vasquez, Kristy Samuels, Phil Moreno
Dishwashers: Nick Gordon, Richard Break, Ted Donald and Shane Souza
Bussers: Megan Bates & Helpers

10-21-26 Wednesday Dinner
Team Leader: Laurie Robinson & Sam Castillo
Crew: Phil Moreno, Jelenia Crenshaw, Marco Vaca, Vince & Sedelia Sanchez, Monique Mirwald, Camille Fisher, Ron Vasquez, Cissy Mulrooney, Laurel Flores

10-23-26 President's Dinner
Team Leader: Kim Burchett
Crew: Phil Moreno, Harry & Debbie Buckner, DeeDee Rains, Don Smith, Danny Ludlum, Jan Lee, Laurel Flores

10-23-26 Kid's Halloween Party
Team Leader: Jamie Duncan
Crew: Jamie E., Tiffany, Neal, Jerry, Bill and Laurel Flores, Jennifer Cawley

10-28-26 Wednesday Dinner
Team Leader: Kim Burchett
Crew: Harry & Debbie Buckner, Christina Ritchie, Phil Moreno, Rae Crawford, Mike Burchett, Don Smith, Danny Ludlum, Jan Lee, 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.

ATTENTION MEMBERS:



Upcoming Events:



Veteran's Breakfast – November 8th
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 November 10th
Check-in Starts at 5:30pm - Dice start rolling at 6pm
This will be our LAST Bunco of 2026 (no Bunco in December). Come have some fun with us before the holidays take over.



1298 Cigar Club - November 12th
2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm on the back patio.



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



Sip Happens Sundays November 22nd
Menu will be posted in the Member's FB Group



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





VAGABONDS TRAVELS



It is very heavy heart for those who have not heard that The “Spark Plug” of our Vagabonds, Peggy Gruber passed away peacefully on Halloween. There’s not a member in the club who doesn’t have a fun story to share about times with Peggy. It will be strange to have a meeting without her adding her little impish ways and making us all laugh. She’s going to be truly missed.

We offer our deepest sympathy sympathy and condolences to her family. She will never be forgotten and I know her stories will be shared for years to come!

The next rally will be at Orange Grove in Bakersfield November 11-16th. I.know that rally will be different without Peggy, but I’m sure we will have a fun time sharing memories of her. We look forward to our time together as always.

We will end the Vagabond year at the Lodge for our Christmas Party on December 11th.

Safe travels to those on the road and Happy Holidays!!

Kathy and Frank Kelly

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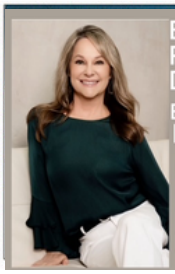
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These good folks have donated to help keep our monthly newsletter coming to each and every one of our members. We appreciate their consideration. If you are interested in being a sponsor in future bulletins, please contact the office. The cost is $100 a year and it can be prorated if needed.

NOVEMBER 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 Matthew Carter
John Karbo
Scott Taves
2 Jeffery Fontana
Randall Hall
Ricky Johnson
Michelle Laiwa
Russell McKinney
John Salgado
Jesse Vidito
3 Mason Mackey
Carol Robles
Steven Western
4 Greg Feaver
Vincent Muto
5 Rigoberto Ceja
6 Christal Derington
Greg Ferreira
Richard Huth
Corey Sedgwick
Michael Short
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7 Brock Bovetti
Kaitlin DeGroot
Thomas Jimenez
George Pfefferkorn
8 Penny DeJarnatt
Monica Peterson
Liliana Saballa
9 Judith Kendrick
Garrett Weese
10 Brian Andrew
Robert Casey
Todd Son
David Tiernan
11 Mike Mellema
Ronald Pugh
Diana Velasquez
Eric Wertman
12 Kyndra Glick
Stephen Sweet
13 Matthew Ely
Jason Freitas
Levi Gill
Rosalie Maldonado
John Threadgill
14 John Bettencourt
Scott McNamara
15 Robert Hoskins
Brian Kennemer
Roger Tyler
Ken Williams
16 Eric Bush
Leonel Jimenez
16 Rusty Lantsberger
John Skaggs
17 Robert DeMichellie
Thomas Friedberg
Marshall Lapp
William McAlister
Jeff Morris
Brian Perry
Brian Thoburn
18 Justin Carrillo
Rilla Epling
Eddie Renteria
Eric Ritchie
Joseph Tudor
19 Robert Vaugn
Ygnacio Onsurez
Manish Patel
Ryan Samuels
20 Don Huard
Sylvia Peralta
21 James Collins
Eric Lentz
Steve Martin
22 Tyler Veyna
Sam Lok
Daniel Marquez
Anthony Martorana
23 Brad McDonald
Jeffrey Parlier
Suzanne Sa
24 Frank Kelly
Ronald Maciver
Ronald Marshall
Stacee Ward
25 Matt Lee
Roger Phillips
26 Steven Chamalbide
Rusty Johnson
Ladean Pearce
27 Tony Aldaco
Allen Branco
Donald Brown
Jeffrey Gruber
Mike Harrell
Michael McPhail
Daniel Ortiz
28 Andrew Avalos
Terry Dodson
Pascual Ibarra
Kelly Lloyd
Richard McGovran
David Rumbaugh
Herbert Schneider
Ray Tanaka
29 Sam Winter
30 Ian Bakke
Dennis Clevenger
Eric Fishel
Russel Miller
Thomas Runyon



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