

# VISALIA ELKS

## # 1298 BULLETIN | "The Herd"

Visalia, California - June 2021 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks



### Lodge Meetings

Wed June 9, 2021 – Business

Wed June 23, 2021 - Initiations

### House Committee Meeting

Wed June 9, 2021

### Trustee Meeting

Wed June 9, 2021

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

### P.E.R. Assn Meeting

Mon June 7, 2021 - 5:30pm

### Bunco Night

June 8<sup>th</sup> – Sign-up sheet is in the Members Lounge

### Poker Night

June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> - Seat Cards handed out at 6pm - Cards are dealt at 6:30pm

### Steak Night is Back

June 11<sup>th</sup> – Reservations by June 9<sup>th</sup>

### Veteran's Breakfast is Back

June 13<sup>th</sup> – 3:30-11am

### Visalia Elks Lodge Bulletin

Periodical of the;

Visalia Elks Lodge #1298

Volume 21/22 Edition #3

### News Submission Deadline

Submissions must be received on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to be included in the next newsletter. **Send to:**

**kristy@rknstudio.com**



## "EXALTED RULER'S CORNER"

I must start off with being 100% honest with you all, finding a way to put my thoughts into words has been my biggest challenge yet, as I have taken on my new role for the Lodge. But a close friend reminded me it's not as hard as I make it out to be for myself. I simply need to remember that I am taking this time to share with my friends all the exciting things that have happened or that may be coming up soon.

So please allow me to take a deep breath and pause for a moment... much better 😊. I'm sure you're as excited as I am to see all the activity around the lodge lately. It feels like we're starting to push through the final stages of getting back to some sense of normal. We may never be the same as before, but watching our members as they begin to come back for some socializing at lodge events, poker, bunco, lodge meetings (which have been awesome!) and now the return of indoor dining, I believe that WE are coming back stronger, focused, and supportive of one another more than ever.

So, here's a quick recap of what's been going on and what's coming up..... Indoor dining!!! Our first steak dinner and breakfast have been scheduled back-to-back. Our monthly poker games are going great and new players (members only) are always welcomed. Bunco has been a great game night addition at the Lodge .... and I hear there is talk of a Rib Cook Off, so keep an eye out for our bulletins and our Facebook posts.

Did you know we had a team of Elks win a Golf Tournament? Mark Navarrete, Bob Aushman, Nick Casteneda & Mike Edwards represented our Lodge and won the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Eagle Invitational Golf Tournament. (Not sure how many mulligans they used, lol.)

Just a reminder to help your bartenders out. Please remember when they're asking you for your membership card, they're only doing their job. It's our responsibility as Elks in good standing to always carry our current membership cards with us. Yes, even at our own Lodge. We'll soon be changing back our door key pads to grant access to only our key cards as well. There won't be a pin code as too many non-members / delinquent members are continually accessing our Lodge. This will take effect as of June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Fraternally Yours,  
Eli Ledesma  
Exalted Ruler

**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT:**  
**FACEBOOK.COM/VISALIAELKSLODGE**

## Lodge Officers 2019/2020

Exalted Ruler	Eli Ledesma
Leading Knight	Mike Saulque
Loyal Knight	Shawn Cooper
Lecturing Knight	Kevin Colopy
Esquire	Russell McKinney
Chaplain	Ron Marshall PER
Inner Guard	Jane Donald
Tiler	Ted Donald PER
Secretary	Judy Staley
Treasurer	Dorothy Van Wagoner

### Trustees:

1-Year	John Peters PER
2-Year	Jorge Montano
3-Year	Brenda Costa
4-Year	Victor Perez
5-Year	Tom O'Conner

## 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
Royce Gholson	1997-98,
	98-99, 07-08
Rob Van Wagoner	1999-2000
Joe Alberti	2004-05,
	05-06, 15-16
Ted Donald	2006-07
Dennis Oswalt	2014-15
Jan Lee	2016-17,
	17-18
Ray Lewis	2018-19,
	19-20
Ron Marshall	2020-21

\*Active in Good Standing

Past Exalted Rulers from other lodges:

Ken Bridges	Tulare # 1424
Pat Dugan	Tulare #1424

## Member News:

### Orientation and Initiation. Next Orientation is June 23, 2021 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...**



## May Candidates for voting:

**Rico Castro** by Kevin Colopy  
**Robert Flores** by Mick McPhail  
**Ally Heiserman** by Gary Gallian  
**Manuel Linhares** by Dwayne McGovran  
**Blake McCowan** by Dwayne McGovran  
**Denny McCowan** by Dwayne McGovran  
**Derek Nelson** by Melissa Sisk  
**Matt Phines** by Kevin Colopy  
**James Plough** by Danny Carrell  
**Monica Podesta** by MaryAnn McCoy  
**Juan Serna** by John Threadgill  
**Karen Schubert** by Steve Williams  
**Jake Wood** by Dwayne McGovran  
**Bud Coolidge** – Transfer from Salinas  
**Melissa Sandman** (reinstate)



## From the Secretary's Desk

If you have a spouse card, please note that this does not allow you to sign in any guests. Your card is only for you.

Also, if you've not paid your dues, you may not be a sponsor or reference for a new member application. I have 3 in the office that can't go through because of this. If you have a question on a candidate, you may be sponsoring check with me in the office and I will check it out for you.

On that note, EVERY candidate gets interviewed. If you have one and they get a message from LaRuth, please tell them they need to call her back. She gives 3 calls and if no response, we must move on to another. No interview...no vote. We would like to thank LaRuth for taking this on for us. If you have a question for her, please note she has volunteered for this. Please be respectful.

Lastly, please note it's a Grand lodge statue to ALWAYS have your card on you when in the lodge. If a bartender asks you for it, please be respectful and show it to them. It moves things along for others that are following the rules.

## KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S NOT GETTING THE BULLETIN?

Help them get the info they need by visiting our website:

[www.visaliaelks.org](http://www.visaliaelks.org) and subscribing to the mailing list (on the home page on the right side). You can even do this from your phone. Once they enter their name/email into the subscription form, they'll get an email to confirm their subscription. After it's confirmed, they'll receive the monthly bulletin and the weekly **What's Happening This Week** email that is sent out on Mondays.

## VISALIA ELKS COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Americanism	Dan Dieterich
Auditing & Accounting	Rod Aguiar
Beqs. & Living Trusts	LaRuth Chance
Business Practices	Judy Staley
Drug Awareness	Thomas Higgins
Government Relations	Ray Lewis PER
Hoop Shoot	Brian Chance
Insurance & Safety	John Peters PER
Lodge Activities	Judy Staley
Membership/Indoc.	Dorothy VanWagoner
National Foundation ENF	Melanie McKimmons
National Foundation Grants	Melanie McKimmons
Nat Vets Service	Steve Williams
Public Relations	Stacey Marshall
Major Project	La Ruth Chance
Ritual Training	Ray Lewis PER
Scholarships	Bill Flores
Scouting	Melanie McKimmons
Youth Activities	Kim Chance

A big wElkome to our newest members! It was a fun initiation night and an amazing dinner! That's one in the books for our new officer crew! 🤘 If you haven't experienced the new Ted and Jane show, you should come to the next meeting. 🎵🎤



Please keep an eye on our Members Group FB page and the **What's Happening at Elks** email. If you are not signed up to receive emails yet, follow this link and put your info in the right column of our home page to subscribe: <http://visaliaelks.org/>

## Upcoming events:



### Thursday, June 8th - Bunco Night

Sign-up sheet is in the Members Lounge



### Open it up steak night!

### Members and Invited guests – June 11, 2021

Rib eye steak, baked potato, fresh veggies, salad/roll/dessert - \$20 a plate

Dining in the ballroom at 7pm  
Reservations must be made by June 9<sup>th</sup>



### Veteran's Breakfast is BACK!

Eggs/Omelet bar, Potatoes, Bacon, Sausage, French toast, Pancakes, Biscuits and Gravy

8:30 to 11:00am

Adults \$10.00 Veterans & Kids \$8.00





## PURPLE PIG THANKS YOU ALL

Thank you to all our wonderful Elks that contributed to our major project (Purple Pig) with their donations which they included with their annual membership for 2021-2022 or donations brought into the office. We thank the following:

Donna Ballard, Charles Barton, Robert Beaird, Eugene Bennett, Rodney Bennett, Donald Blaha, Fred Chastain, Terry Culotta, Barbara Koberstein-Davis, Robert DeMichellie, Daniel Dieterich, Jim Eager, Earl Evan, Steven Glendel, Gregory Glick, Ron Greenall, Richard Grissom, Tim Haskill, Kenneth Hyslop, James Jones, Juanita Jones, Christopher Kelly, Lisa Marie Leal, Christopher Ludlum, Joe Luis, Eric MacBean, Sherry Maze, Ray McCarty, Stacy McNabb, Philip McNabb, Russell Miller, Phil Mirwald, Donald Nelson, Bill Nilmeier, Eric Orong, Patricia Parkins, John Peters, Dwayne Petersen, Rebecca Petersen, George Pimentel, Judith Pirmstoll, Jason Potts, Ernest Remillard, Ryan Samuels, Greg Schomaker, Chris Schultz, Philip Shannon, Stanley Simpson, JM Mike Smith, James Sullins, James Thoburn, James Tunnel, Bernie VanTol, David Vidrio, Maria Vidrio, Wayne Villines, Neal Wallis, Douglas Watson, Jack Wilson, Harry Wood, and Ed Wristen,

**52 CLUB:** Rodney Aguilar, Robert Bane, Stephen Campodonico, Jack Meyers, John Rocha, Eddie Shields, Jane Shields, Roger Starrett, Greg Todd, Eliseo Zepeda

**CENTURY CLUB:** David Antonino, Gary Bennett, Randy Bloomfield, Julie Burger, Neville Buyense, Charlie Chase, Jelenia Crenshaw, Sark Davidian, Paul Gorley, Donald Heisey, Rusty Nelson, Larry Owsley, George Pefferkorn, Richard Randolph, Sandra Reese, Kathy Row, Robert Sippel, Ronald Sisson, Greg Todd, Kathy Vidak, Michael Wiebe

With the mailing costs high, If you are wanting to have a receipt of your donation, please give me a call at 730-8100 and I will get one sent to you.

We thank you all for your donations to our state major project Purple Pig. Remember the office is open from 8 to 11 if you wish to turn in your pig.

Thought of the month "No one has become poor by giving."

LaRuth Chance



## 1298 Cigar Club – June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

We (your Exalted Ruler & Leading Knight) have noticed the growing number of cigar fans around the lodge lately and would like to start a "1298 Cigar Club".

If you enjoy a good cigar or you're just curious about cigars, this will give members an opportunity to meet at least once a month. Our thought is meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.

This is strictly just a social club, a way to get to know your fellow Elks a bit more, enjoy a good cigar and cold drink. If you smoke cigars or have ever given thought about getting into cigars, come on out. Feel free to bring some extras to swap and share with your fellow Elks as well.

First lighting of the torch will be June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm.



Memorial Day flags tribute at Visalia Elks Lodge 1298. Thanks to all who helped [David Smith](#), Tom & Teresa Ritchie, Charles Testerman, Mark Butler, and Randy Olsen. Sorry if I missed anyone. 🇺🇸 Pacific Crane you rock!



## VAGABONDS TRAVELS

The Vagabonds met for the first time since COVID-19 Pandemic on May 19, 2021. Observing all the visiting and hearing all the chatter going on, one would have thought someone won a million-dollar jackpot. Actually, all of us in attendance felt like we had won the jackpot finally being able to be together again and start thinking/planning rallies in the future. There were 60+ RVers at the meeting – such a welcome site.

Welcome to new members: Steve Egbert, Patti Reed, Eli and Lisa Ledesma. We hope you'll enjoy the friendships and rving times ahead with the Vagabonds.

We're still sending sunshine thoughts and prayers to our members recuperating from surgeries or facing health issues - Judi Ellebracht, Diane and Ray Hill, Richard Jones, Linda and Bill Lawley, Dorothy Minor, Jack Myers, Joyce O'Rafferty, Daisy and Jerry Schock and Linda and Frank Weekly. To my way of thinking, this is way too many Vagabonds with health concerns! Do hope all will see change for the better soon.

There are no definite plans yet for rallies but investigating possibly a rally at the Salinas Elks in the upcoming months, bringing back the October Halloween Rig-Decorating Rally/Contest and the annual Christmas Party in December. When plans are finalized, information will be emailed. Along this same thought, should anyone have a location to explore, please do share that information with the Board. Better yet, take the time to find out the specifics of the location – number of sites available, cost per night for RV site and possible available dates and pass that information to the Board for follow up. Note, if you do that homework, it doesn't necessarily mean you are responsible for the rally – we are a team and will work together to provide a fun time for all.

**The Queen of Hearts is back.** Wayne Stafford drew the 9 of Diamonds and second ticket drawn was Robert Bane who wasn't at the meeting, so still no winner. The Queen is back in her favorite hiding spot – better luck maybe next month for a Vagabond.

Until next month – I leave you with this thought - If you have a family that loves you, a few good friends, food on your table and a roof over your head, you are richer than you think.

Kathy and Frank Kelly

## Photos from our 2021 Kick Off Event – the Kentucky Derby Party:



There are more posted on the Members FB page.

## A few photos from Bunco Night ... looking forward to our next one on June 8<sup>th</sup>.



There are more posted on the Members FB page.



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## “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.

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## JUNE 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	Bryan Davis	16	Robert Alvarado
	Debbie Marie Gerbig		Russell 'Skip' Pendergast
	Jonathan Graham	17	Ken R Swanson
2	Jessica Brozek		Cornelius Webb
	Michael Goad	18	Robert C Biggs, Jr.
	Arthur Hampar		Danny L Carrell
	Clifford Johnson		Edmond L Cooper
	Steve Johnson		Steven R Gendel
	Reuel Stevens		Daniel P Hanson
	Lance Wallace		David Smith
3	Jacob Johnson	19	Edward Cardoza
	Kevin Kercher		Stacey Marshall
	Michael Remy		Ronald Scholta
4	Norman G Blackwell	20	Joyce Soleno
	John L Garay	21	Valerie Nunez
5	Michael Dickerson	22	Rolando Cardenas
	Dennis Duke		Rae Crawford
	Roger Hartman		Paul A Reitnouer
7	Bill Flores	23	Mark Navaretti
	Eleanor Janca		Clyde Spurgeon
	Jordan Mulrooney	26	Rodney Billingsley
	Kevin Scharton		Justin L Houts
8	Kenneth Hernandez		Jeff Smith
	Nathan Lawson		Jerry W Williamson
	Mike Markarian	27	Robert Bane
9	David R Watts		Greg Todd
10	Victor M Perez	28	Donna Ballard
	Scott Ullger		Jason Carter
11	Angela Chambers	29	Kyle Kinderknecht
	Lance Heiden		William Michael Phelps
	Edwin Page		Shane Souza
12	Wanda Joy Branco	30	Keith J Carlos
	Richard Galtelli		Patricia A Parkins
	Blake Robertson		Greg Schultz
13	Charlie Chase		
	Michael Cheek		
	Brenna Frigulti		
14	Frank Golden		
	Elmer Lucas		
	Joe M Luis		
	John Luisi		
	Susan L Vossler		
15	Steve Howerton		

