

VOLUME 71, No.2  
WEST COVINA LODGE No. 1996

MAY 2026

# ELKS



# TRACKS

841 W. MERCED AVE. WEST COVINA, CALIFORNIA. 91790

**HAPPY Mothers DAY**

**LUNCHEON**

*Tickets Still Available*

SATURDAY MAY 9TH  
DOORS OPEN AT 11 AM  
LUNCH SERVED 12:30 - 1:30PM

ENTERTAINMENT BY  
**SUAVE**  
**AND DJ VINCE**

\$55 PER PERSON TAX INCL  
No Refunds or Exchanges  
Menu by Chef Frank

- \*Ceaser's Salad
- +Creamy Shrimp Alredo
- \*Tuscuan Chicken Pasta
- \*Vegetables

TICKET INFORMATION 626-324-5176  
**BEN AND TERRY ORTEGA**

CHAIRPERSON: TRISH GONZALEZ 909-268-4137

WEST COVINA ELKS  
PAST EXALTED RULERS ASSOCIATION  
841 W. MERCED AVE. WEST COVINA, CA. 91790

**Pre-Father's Day  
BBQ Dance**  
Entertainment by:

**SOTO**

**DJ CESAR**

**SUNDAY**  
**JUNE 14, 2026 | 12:00 - 7:00 PM**  
**TICKETS ARE \$45 PER-PERSON  
INCLUDES BBQ DINNER**  
9.75% TAX INCLUDED

**DINNER SERVED 1:00 PM 2:30 PM**  
**TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 29 - 5:00 PM**

TICKET SALES ON APRIL 29 FOR WEST COVINA ELK  
MEMBERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AFTER THIS  
DATE TICKET SALES OPEN TO ALL OTHERS

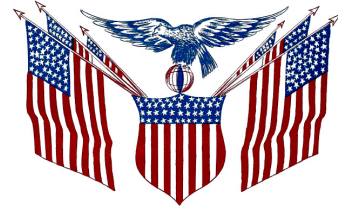
FOR TICKETS & INFO CALL - TEXT  
BEN - TERRY (626) 324-5176

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FLAG DAY CEREMONY TUESDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2026**  
**LOUNGE OPEN 4:00 PM**  
**DINNER SERVED 6:00 - 7:00 PM - CEREMONY PROMPTLY AFTER DINNER**  
MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 10

# WEST COVINA ELKS LODGE # 1996

## Committee Chairman 2026 - 2027

Accident Prevention Manager	Michael Salazar, PER	626-827-6700
Alternate Delegate	Ben Ortega, PDDGER	626-926-4046
Americanism	Carlos Duarte	909-702-2855
Antlers Youth Group	Carlos Virgen	626-780-5712
Audio/Lighting	Rebecca Rodriguez	626-367-3632
Auditing/Accounting	Veronica Aslan, Ben Ortega, Dee Varela	
Bingo	Maria Ortega	626-806-7003
BLT	Judith Lumbreras, DDGER	626-587-6489
Bulletin Director/Editor	Ben Ortega, PDDGER	626-926-4046
Charity/Major Project	Olivia Pompa	626-377-2767
Christmas Tree Lane	Ben Ortega, PDDGER	626-926-4046
Community Public Relations	Robert Leon	626-827-6726
Decorating	By Event Chairperson	
Drug Awareness	Sandy Duarte	909-702-2854
Elks Memorial Wall & Tablet	Gale Warren	714-292-1017
Elks National Foundation	Robert Hollis-Brau PDDGER	909-622-9861
Elks Memorial Service	Charlene Rasmussen	626-622-8485
Elks of the Year President 26-27	Sandy Duarte	909-702-2854
Entertainment Friday & Saturday	Chris Guerrero	626-419-4083
Family Fun Night	Trish Gonzalez, PER	909-268-4137
Flag Day	Maria Caballero	626-824-1161
Funeral Service	Michael Salazar, PER	626-827-6700
Golfing	Bill Schimko	626-862-6533
Grants Coordinators	Ben Ortega	626-926-4046
Government Relations	Angel Vasquez, ER	909-210-3707
Hoop Shoot	Julie Garcia Walker	626-222-2935
House Rules	Rick Dana, PER	626-4844165
Indoctrination/Orientation	Michael Salazar, PER	626-827-6700
Investigations/Interviews	Tony Cortez	626-483-3838
Lapsation/Membership	Joanne Santoyo	562-508-8380
Lodge Activities	Olivia Pompa	626-377-2767
Lodge Greeter	Christina Carter	626-646-3490
Mail Out	Rick Dana PER	626-484-4165
Mail Out/Co-Chair	Sandy Duarte	909-702-2854
Major Project	Olivia Pompa	626-377-2767
Major Project 50/50	Dee Varela	626-705-2763
Mediator	Ben Ortega, PDDGER	626-926-4046
Mobile Pancake Maker	Vince McCauley	626-422-2812
Mothers Day	Trish Gonzalez, PER	909-268-4137
Newsletter Elks Tracks	Ben Ortega, PDDGER	626-926-4046
New Years Eve	Ceci Alcalá	626-485-6285
PER Association Pres.	Michael Salazar	626-827-6700
Photographer	Robert Leon	626-827-6726
Presiding Justice	Michael Salazar	626-827-6700
Public Relations	Carlos Virgen	626-780-5712
Recycle Team	Carlos & Sandy Duarte	909-702-2855
Ritual Coach	Rick Dana PER	626-484-4165
Scholarships	Angelica Virgen	626-780-5712
Scouting Boys/Girls	Christina Carter	626-646-3490
Sickness & Distress	Olivia Pompa	626-377-2767
Super Bowl	Trish Gonzalez	909-268-4137
Veterans	Olivia Pompa	626-377-2767
Veterans /Co-Chair	Alan Mendez	562-201-9234
VAVS Representative	Ben Ortega, PDDGER	626-926-4046
VAVS Deputy	Veronica Aslan	323-646-3317
Volunteers	Juliette Arroyo	626-589-3577
Web Site	Ben Ortega, PDDGER	626-926-4046
Youth Activities	Christina Carter	626-646-3490



## ELKS TRACKS NEWSLETTER

Non-Profit Bulletin Published monthly by  
West Covina Elks Lodge No. 1996  
841 W. Merced Ave., West Covina Ca. 91790  
Lodge Lounge Bar (626) 338-8111  
Lodge Office: (626) 962-0113  
Lodge FAX: (626) 960-3512

### Lodge Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 10:00 AM--5:00 PM

Lodge Office Email:

[1996wcelks@gmail.com](mailto:1996wcelks@gmail.com)

### Hall Rental & Lease Info:

Contact Alex at Office (626) 338-2119

[alex.manager.elks.1996@gmail.com](mailto:alex.manager.elks.1996@gmail.com)

### 2026-2027 LODGE OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler	Angel Vasquez	909-210-3707
Leading Knight	Olivia Pompa	626-377-2767
Loyal Knight	Ceci Alcalá	626-485-6285
Lecturing Knight	Trish Gonzalez	909-268-4137
Treasurer	Sandie Sesanto	626-675-6565
Secretary	Joanne Santoyo	562-508-8380

### LODGE TRUSTEES

1st Year	Carlos Duarte	909-702-2855
2nd Year	Alex Rodriguez	951-552-3749
3rd Year	VACANT	
4th Year	Michael Salazar	626-827-6700
5th year	Sweet Lou Aguilar	626-404-4999

### APPOINTED OFFICERS

Esquire	Tony Cortez	626-483-3838
Chaplain	Charlene Rasmussen	626-622-8485
Inner Guard	Maria Caballero	626-824-1161
Organist	VACANT	
Tiler	Christina Carter	626-646-3490

### 2025-2026 HONORED ELKS

Elk of the Year -----Grace Capp

Tall Elk -----Ed & Dave Fierro

Officer of the Year ---Carlos Duarte

Citizen of the Year ---Michael Salazar, PER

Spirit of Elkdom --- Kathy Bell, Tina Hearld, George "Mack" Resigo, Rhiannon Brittney, Linda Ruelas, Mando Santoyo, Debbie Millan

Extra Mile Award: Maria Ortega





Greetings members, friends, and all who gaze upon this article. Having nearly completed my first month of presiding as ER, I must say it's been a whirlwind of activity. I am thankful for the assistance and suggestions provided by previous ER's when needed. Our Lodge Office has been a beehive of activity as we transitioned from our previous treasurer to our newly elected one, Sandie Sesantos. I extend my most sincere gratitude and appreciation to members Veronica Aslan, Dee Varela, Terry Ortega, Vivian Salinas, and our Madame Secretary, Joanne Santoyo, for their above and beyond efforts, time, and dedication during our recent less than calm transition period. Their efforts have opened the window to office procedure normalcy. The annual Inaugural Ball, honoring your new core of officers and welcoming our 2026/27 Fraternal Year was socially delightful and enjoyed by many. Thank you to all who attended, supported and shared the wonderful event. Our Month of May activities are many, with our District Ritual Competition, scheduled to take place at our Lodge on May 3rd, our CHEA Convention, May 13-16, in Palm Springs, and our annual Santa Maria Elk's Rodeo, scheduled for the end of May. If you are not familiar with these events, I challenge you to attend and learn more about our Order's activities while supporting and representing our Lodge. It is an honor and privilege to represent you.

Respectfully,

Angel Vasquez  
Exalted Ruler



### Leading Knights Station

May brings so many wonderful opportunities to celebrate and come together: Mother's Day, the Palm Springs CHEA Convention, Memorial Day, and last but certainly not least, the Santa Maria Rodeo. These are all terrific events, and I hope to see many of you at one (or more!) of them.

With my first month completed as Leading Knight, I'm happy to report that things have gone well. More details will follow as the year progresses. I am also honored to serve as Co-Chair for Veterans this year alongside Alan Mendez. Together, we look forward to exceeding your expectations and continuing the outstanding work our Exalted Ruler has done in support of our veterans. Please see Veterans Corner article.

As Leading Knight, some of my responsibilities include overseeing the Purple Pig program and CHEMPI (The California Hawaii Elks Major Project), which is best known for supporting children with disabilities. If you have a Purple Pig at home, please be sure to turn it in—every contribution goes directly toward helping children in need.

We are also planning a Hawaiian Dance fundraiser for this wonderful cause. Please save the date: August 16, 2026. A large number of volunteers will be needed, as well as donations in both money and gift baskets; your help would be sincerely valued.

Lastly, please wish our officers the best of luck as we prepare for the Ritual Contest on May 3rd at 8:00 a.m. at the Lodge. We are all working hard and hope to make you proud.

Fraternally,

Olivia Pompa  
Leading Knight



### Loyal Knights Station

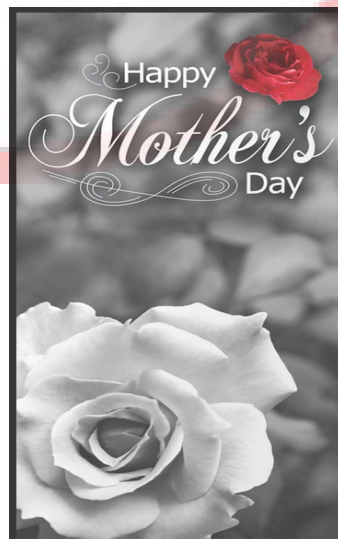
I hope this message finds you well! I wanted to remind everyone that our District Ritual Completion is scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd, and will be held at our Lodge. Following that, we will head to Palm Springs for the State Completion on May 14th. I know this can be a nerve-wracking time for all of us, but let's support each other through it!

Additionally, I would like to wish all our wonderful Mothers a very Happy Mother's Day! We also invite you all to join us for our Mother's Day Event to celebrate and honor the amazing mothers in our lives. The Lodge Mother's Day event is on Saturday, May 9th.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

Best regards,

Ceci Alcalá,  
Lecturing Knight



### Lecturing Knights Station

IT'S STILL GREAT TO BE AN ELK!!  
Happy May and Happy Mother's day to all of the West Covina Elks Moms. Let's look forward to a successful month.

Our lodge does need your help. As many of you have noticed, our pricing for are events have increased. Labor costs are rising, and food is getting more expensive. In order for us to keep our costs as low as possible, we are asking our members to help with our activities. We need to keep the costs down and keep our lodge stable.

Juliette Arroyo is our volunteer coordinator. She is gathering names of our members with the purpose to fill in spots where needed, in hopes to bring down costs.

We are asking for cooks when Chef Frank is out sick or not available, servers, bussers, cleaners and bingo.

We are not looking to replace anyone. We value and respect our employees. If you have the time or can make time for our great lodge, please call Juliette at 626-589-3577. Our lodge club manager, Alex Lindsay, has kindly asked us to bus our own tables for some events. I am happy to report that this has been successful. Thank you members for your kindness. Let's not stop there!

Our lodge will be competing in performing our initiation ritual on May 3rd. We are competing against the other lodges in our district. By the time you read this, I am confident we will still have the trophy at our lodge.

IT'S GREAT TO BE AN ELK!

Fraternally,

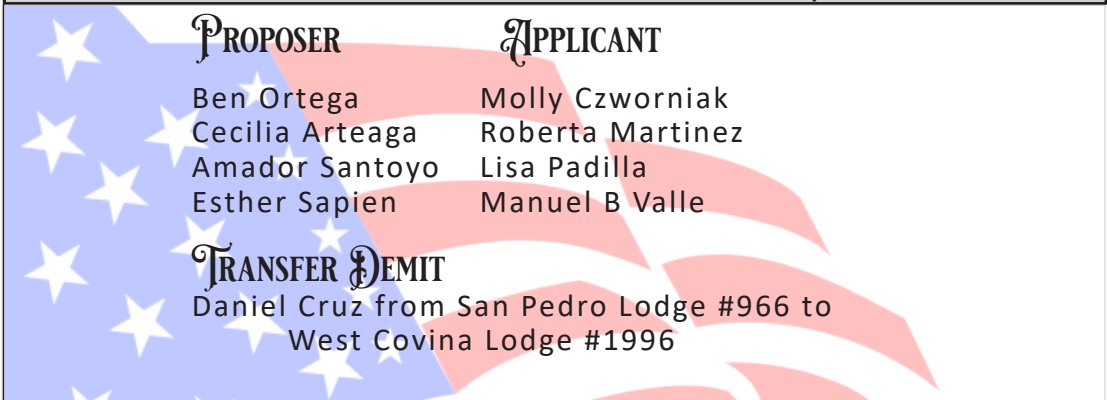
Trish Gonzalez  
Lecturing Knight

**PAST EXALTED RULERS**

- Ralph Gaither\* 1956-57
- Hugh M. Bagley\* 1957-58
- William T. Tanking\* 1958-59
- Albert E. Lindbeck\* 1959-60
- James R. Yost\*, Jr. 1960-61
- James L. Morgan\* 1961-62
- Harold Z. Dobbs\* 1962-63
- Laurence R. Tillman\* 1963-64
- Enrico (Hank) Salvo\* 1964-65
- Thomas E. Curtis 1965-66
- Jack Cleveland\* 1966-67
- J. Paul Studer\* 1967-68
- Roy Williams, Jr.\* 1968-69
- Raiden V. Peterson\* 1969-70
- Donald M. Huff 1970-71
- Albert D. Davis\* 1971-72
- Milo G. Summerhays\* 1972-73
- Robert E. Carlson \*1973-74
- H. Richard Harbert\* 1974-75
- James J. Andert\* 1975-76
- Anthony R. Mickols\* 1976-77
- John Asmundson\* 1977-78
- James E. Smith\* 1978-79
- Larry Henderson\* 1979-80
- Frank Rehor\* 1980-81
- Carl Mou 1981-82
- Richard Marble\* 1981-82
- Robert E. Gubrud 1982-83
- James Moseley\* 1982-83
- Al Putman\* 1983-84
- Dick Delauder \*1983-84
- Manny Zamudio\* 1984-85
- William Heller\* 1984-85
- Art Willard\* 1985-86
- Renee LaRose\* 1986-87
- Fidel Nieto Jr.\* 1986-87
- Charles Dalool\* 1987-88, 2011-12
- Michael Sirchia 1987-88
- Walt Doran\* 1988-89
- David La Sage\* 1988-89
- Bob Hollis-Brau 1989-90
- Jerry Kober 1989-90
- Ernie Gilbert 1990-91
- Pat Shea\* 1990-91
- Ron Conger\* 1991-92
- Dave Southard\* 1991-92
- Gary Holmes\* 1992-93
- Roy Simes 1992-93
- Bob Schachner\* 1993-94
- WM Ziegenbein \*1993-94
- Rick Dana 1994-95
- Matt Jessup 1994-95
- Roy Long\* 1995-96
- Tim LaMarca 1995-96
- Ed Lima\* 1996-97
- Bernie Auld\* 1997-98
- Benjamin L. Ortega 1998-99, 2012-13, 13-14
- Vern Campion\* 1999-00
- George Lunsford \*2000-01
- Phil Hawkins\* 2001-02
- Don McMahon\* 2002-03
- Scott Matthews 2003-04
- Ralph Garcia 2004-05
- Willie Koskela 2005-06
- Juan Diaz\* 2006-07
- Lisa Ryken\* 2007-08
- Patricia Gilliland 2008-09
- Michael J. Salazar, Jr. PER 2009-10-11,18-19, 24-25
- Judith Lumbreras 2014-15
- Mario Arellano\* 2016-2017
- Dana Williams 2015-16, 17-18, 19- 20
- Sandra Mendoza\* 2018-19
- William Salinas 2020-2021
- Dannie Parker 2021-2022, 23-24
- Vivian Salinas 2022-2023
- Trish Gonzalez 2025-2026

By Affiliation: Judge Al Miller\*, Orville Miller, Robert Cortez\*, Joe Lozier, Frank Berry PER, Jess Nelms, Charles Lein (\*Deceased)

**Propositions For Membership / Affiliation / Transfers Demits / Reinstatements / Life Membership**



<b>PROPOSER</b>	<b>APPLICANT</b>
Ben Ortega	Molly Czworniak
Cecilia Arteaga	Roberta Martinez
Amador Santoyo	Lisa Padilla
Esther Sapien	Manuel B Valle

**TRANSFER DEMIT**  
Daniel Cruz from San Pedro Lodge #966 to West Covina Lodge #1996

**Sickness and Distress**

- Rhiannan Brittney: Underwent back surgery on April 20th and recovering well.**
- Yolanda Einstein: Her brother passed away on April 21st. Please keep Yolanda and her family in your prayers.**
- John Hughes: His son Dan Hughes passed away on April 15th. He was also a long time member of West Covina Lodge. He became a member when he turned 21 yrs old. Please keep John and his family in your prayers.**
- Adreinne Zackos: Will be undergoing foot surgery on Monday April 20th and will not be able to walk on it for several weeks.**

**KEEP ALL OF THE ABOVE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS. PLEASE NOTIFY THE LODGE OFFICE AT (626) 962-0113 OF ANY REPORTS OF SICKNESS AND DISTRESS FROM OUR MEMBERS AND FLKS**

**BRYAN KLATT GRAND EXALTED RULER MESSAGE**



**There is much to commemorate in May**

In May, we have numerous programs to Be The Difference: National Youth Week, Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day.

The first week of the month, May 1-7, is Elks National Youth Week. Honor the youth in your community at the end of their school year.

A variety of certificates are available online, including ones for Student/ Teenager of the Year/Month and the Elks JROTC Awards Program.

Happy Mother's Day to the important ladies in our lives. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10. We need to extend our heartfelt thanks to all mothers. If possible, find a way to honor the mothers in your life and plan a Lodge activity to let them know how much they mean to us.

Many of us may not automatically think of Armed Forces Day, which honors those currently serving in the U.S. military, held this year on Saturday, May 16. It was designated as a day for the unification of the armed forces to be celebrated together instead of celebrating each branch individually. God bless our troops who served throughout the history of our country.

Memorial Day is Monday, May 25. It is a wonderful time when we can recognize and commemorate the men and women of all services for their sacrifices and hard work that kept our country safe and prosperous.

Elks have a heart for remembering our departed service members by attending or participating in a Memorial Day parade, working at a cemetery ceremony, assisting in putting flags at service members' graves, or planning a memorial ceremony at your Lodge.

Always remember to Be The Difference by promoting "Elks Care—Elks Share."

## MAY DUTY OFFICERS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

MAY 1-2 JOANNE SANTOYO - LOU AGUILAR  
 MAY 8-9 CHRISTINA CARTER - MARIA CABALLERO  
 MAY 15-16 TONY CORTEZ - OLIVIA POMPA  
 MAY 22-23 CARLOS DUARTE - CECI ALCALA  
 MAY 29-30 ALEX RODRIGUEZ - TRISH GONZALEZ PER

### ATTENTION MEMBERS REGARDING THE ELKS TRACKS NEWSLETTER:

Members if you found that you are no longer receiving the Elks Tracks Newsletter hard copy by mail and wish to receive a mailed hard copy please send an email with your name and address to: [1996wcelks@gmail.com](mailto:1996wcelks@gmail.com) we will add your name back on the mailing list. Members may also download the newsletter from our website at [www.westcovinaelks.org](http://www.westcovinaelks.org)

Thanks,  
Ben Ortega, Editor

Let's Laugh & Play  
with Elk Friends

WEST COVINA ELKS LODGE

# BUNCO NIGHT

DATE & TIME  
THURSDAY  
MAY 21  
AT 6 PM

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT  
ATTENTION KITCHEN WILL BE OPEN

MORE INFORMATION:  
PEGGY ROMAN 626-215-8434

## Veterans Column

Our Lodge recently completed a veteran food wish list' distribution to numerous veterans at our Palo Verde, Beswick, and Whittier Place Veterans housing facilities. The purchase was facilitated from funds received from the Focus and Beacon grants, as well as funds appropriated from our Lodge Veterans Account. I'd like to acknowledge Ben Ortega, our Lodge Grants Coordinator, Veronica Aslan, and Dee Varela for the overall 'food wish list' concept, itemization, purchase, storage, and distribution of the dried and refrigerated food items. The veteran recipients delightfully and thankfully accepted the food items. We plan a 'pantry refill' food collection activity in the near future. Also a no Frills Monday dinner will be planned to collect much needed funds for future projects.

Fraternally,

Olivia Pompa  
Cochair Veterans  
Committee



Carol Lynn Avila	1
Blas S Lozano	1
Alberto Perez	1
Michael J Barrios	2
Yolanda Martinez	2
Sal Solis Jr	2
David L Stevens	2
Rebecca Duenas	3
Arturo Martinez	3
Nancy Lucero	4
Abelardo David Rodriguez	4
John R Gutierrez	6
Peter R Ramirez	6
Connie Emanuel	8
Oscar Estrada	8
Maria Garcia	10
Ana Rubalcaba	10
Lester J Leufroy	11
Susan Pasillas-Ballesteros	11
Angelica Virgen	11
Nicolas D Saldarriaga	13
Michael Touhey	13
Lucy C Cheney	14
Margaret Lori Del Rio	14
David R Fierro	15
MaryLou Mora	15
Biger Stensoy	15
Edward Zubiate	15
Gregory Metoyer	18
Joanne M Santoyo, Secretary	18
Michael Centro	19
Christopher Hawkes	19
Marie A Perriott	19
Stephen M Paige	20
Martha A Saucedo	20
Marlene Clay	21
Edmund J Frias	21
Nicole Hibner	22
Dennis K Ito	22
Michael V Herrera	23
Armida Manzo-Ramirez	24
Vivian Salinas, PER	24
Jennifer Kaufman	25
Jacqueline Korgan	25
Tony Preciado	25
Theodore Steward	25
Linda Louise Abeyta	27
Christopher McDermott	27
Cecilia Arteaga	28
Charles V Lepins	28
Jesus B Alcaez	29
Rene Guerrero	30
Dave {amata;ep	30

# MAY ENTERTAINMENT & UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

WEST COVINA ELKS LODGE PRESENTS  
**ELK'S CINCO DE MAYO BIRTHDAY BASH!**  
 SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

**\$35 PP**

**DINNERS SOLD OUT**

*Menu*  
 MEXICAN BUFFET BY  
 CHEF FRANK



**BOBBY Z BAND**  
 7PM TO 11PM

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM  
 DINNER SERVED 6:00PM TO 7:00PM

**NONMEMBERS WILL PAY  
 A \$10 COVER CHARGE**

West Covina Elks Lodge Presents  
**Jukebox Night**

**Friday, May 8, 2026**

**5 PM to 10 PM**  
 Lounge Open @ 4 PM

BRING IN YOUR OWN  
 SNACKS & FOOD

**HAPPY  
 HOUR  
 ALL NIGHT!**



**No Cover Charge  
 for Nonmembers.**

Nonmembers need to  
 be sponsored by an Elk  
 Member



West Covina Elks #1996 Presents

**KARAOKE  
 WEDNESDAY NIGHT**



**MAY  
 20<sup>th</sup>**  
 START AT  
 4 PM

**POT LUCK**  
 Bring Your Favorite  
 Dish to Share

**Bring a guest or a family member  
 to enjoy a great evening!**

Buffet style table will be set up.  
 Serving time: 4:30 PM to 7 PM

Kitchen will be closed on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.



WEST COVINA ELKS PRESENTS

**"Schools Out"  
 Band**

**Saturday, May 23, 2026**  
**7 PM TO 11 PM**

DINNER PREPARED BY CHEF FRANK

Doors Open at 5 PM **London Broil Dinner - \$18**  
 Served with a Side Salad & All the Trimmings

Order Your Food Online by Wednesday, May 20  
 Purchase of Dinners Have Priority for Table Reservations

\$10 Coverage Charge for Nonmembers



# AMERICANISM COMMITTEE NEWS

We had the opportunity to meet and present five of our top Americanism essay participants with certificates, Target gift cards, and goodie bags during their school awards assemblies. Out of 105 participants, we submitted our top 12 students to move up to the San Gabriel Valley District essay competition. Our first recipient was from Orangewood Elementary. We received a heartfelt message from the school regarding our visit that we'd like to share with you: "Thank you for honoring Max. He's such a sweet kid and dedicated worker. This will definitely be a core memory for him." Hearing this gave us a sense of joy and satisfaction that we were able to bring such an important moment into his life. The other four students were from Walnut Grove Intermediate school; it was great to attend their award presentation and to hear about their achievements. They take such pride in their accomplishments, so it meant a great deal for them to be honored in this competition. Their principal made a lasting impression because he took such pride in his students' successes. It was a great honor for us to be at these award ceremonies to see and feel that we made a difference in these children's lives by acknowledging their hard work as essay participants.

Carlos Duarte  
Americanism Chairman  
Sandy Duarte  
Americanism Co-chair

**Essay theme:**

**"What Does Service to Your Country Mean To You?"**



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## Americanism contest theme announced

It's time to announce the Americanism Essay Contest theme, "Explain a Constitutional Right or Privilege and how it affects you and your family."

The rights and privileges are the same for everyone, but impacts people in many ways. We would like the students to pick just one way that a right or privilege affects them and their family.

The rules and prizes have not changed since last year. Contest materials, including the annual contest theme, are published online on May 1. Lodges are encouraged to communicate with school officials to facilitate annual curriculum planning. Contest materials and a fillable Certificate of Participation for Lodge completion are located at [elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm](http://elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm).

A question we get quite often is, "Do we check for AI?". The answer is yes! We give 30 points for originality. Anyone using AI will not get those points, making it impossible to get a competing score.

We need all participating Lodges to ensure that the information turned in is correct, starting with phone numbers, emails, and addresses.

Also, each Lodge should send the number of essays entered to their district or state chairperson. This gives us important information on how many children participated. The state chairperson will pass that information on.

The features introduced to the contest three years ago continue: 1) Four separate divisions for 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grade students 2) Nationally, there is a \$1,000 award for 1st place; \$500 for 2nd; \$250 for 3rd.

Many Lodges, Districts, and State Associations also provide various forms of recognition to their respective winners. This contest is vitally important to Elks as it encourages students to thoughtfully consider American values and appreciate the blessings and responsibilities of citizenship.

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is committed to assisting you in promoting Americanism. Please let us know what we can do to be more helpful!

**MAJOR PROJECT PURPLE PIG DONORS**  
Fill your Piggy banks up & bring 'em in!  
California-Hawaii Elks - Major Project, Inc.  
Helping Children Since 1950  
Ask About Recurring Donations!  
All Major Project "Purple Pig" Donations are  
100% Tax Deductable

None Wad Reported From The Lodge Office  
At Time Of Printing

We wish to thank all our recurring donors.



## In MEMORIUM

*The Faults Of Our Members We Write Upon The Sands, Their Virtues Upon The Tablets Of Love And Memory....*

**DAN HUGHES**

Born - August 25, 1958

Initiated - August 28, 1979

Passed Away - April 15, 2026

Member #4168

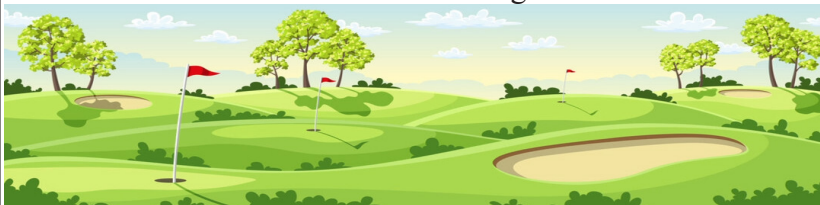
## West Covina Elks Golfing

Hello Fellow Elks Members!  
Our monthly golf outing in April was held at Almansor Golf Course in Alhambra.

There were 12 of us, we had a great time. You should join us! Bring \$60 to play, it includes a cart and closest to the pin on all par three's. If you have a published handicap you will be eligible for more prizes. But here we are, yet another month has gone by, it's already May. In the morning sun, I swing away. With a driver in hand, I know this isn't a soiree, I'm just hoping my slice won't lead me astray. Chasing dreams on the green, with my trusty putter I am ready to play. So here's to golfers, come join in the fray. With laughter and banter, we'll brighten the day. For whether we win or we stumble I always say.... It's the love of the game that keeps us playing and not going astray.



For more details call: Eric Nobriga 909 996-4140



**WEST COVINA ELKS**  
**EXALTED RULER**  
**ANGEL VASQUEZ**  
PROUDLY ACKNOWLEDGES  
**VERONICA ASLAN**  
ELK OF THE MONTH FOR  
APRIL 2026

For her steadfast commitment to assisting our Veterans, and assisting our Lodge Treasurer and Office personnel without hesitation during our hour of need.

Respectfully,

Angel Vasquez, E.R.



# West Covina Elks



# STEAK & LOBSTER NIGHT

Friday, May 29, 2026



PRIME RIB



LOBSTER

Prime Rib & Lobster	\$55.00
Lobster	\$44.00
Prime Rib	\$35.00
Salmon	\$24.00
Chicken	\$18.00

LIVE MUSIC & DANCING

**BOBBY Z**

7:00PM to 10:00PM

Dinner Served 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM



## West Covina Lodge Recycling

**ATTENTION:** Our end of the month collection will be on **Sat. May 2nd from 8:00 AM - Noon**

We are happy to report that we have collected \$6278.05 since we started this recycle committee.

Please continue to place your recyclables in the blue bins while you are in the lodge. If you have any glass bottles, plastic bottles, or aluminum cans that you would like to donate, please bring them with you to our Tuesday meetings. A container located in the enclosed patio area will be available to place your donations in. We will be accepting donations anytime during business hours. We appreciate your continued support.

Our next recycle drive will be Saturday, May 2nd from 8:00-12:00pm. Please continue to drop off your donations. All money collected will be used for lodge improvements.

Thank you!  
Recycle team



# WEST COVINA ELKS LODGE MAY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS



## Menu



& ENTERTAINMENT

9.75% TAX INCLUDED

FRIDAYS SERVE TIME 5 - 7 PM  
SATURDAY SERVE TIME 6 - 7 PM

- \*Saturday May 2nd Bobby Z Cinco de Mayo Dance Dinners are SOLD OUT for this event
- \*Friday May 8th Jukenox Night "Bring Your Own Food"
- \*Saturday May 9th - Mother's Day Event "SUAVE" Tickets on sale now, call (626) 324-5176
- \*Membership Night "Schools Out Band" Dinner Available Order Online on TOAST
- \*Friday May 29th BOBBY Z Steak & Lobster & more. pre-pay on TOAST

ALL DINNER RESERVATIONS MUST BE ORDERED ONLINE OR IN PERSON BY WEDNESDAY BY 11:59 PM

- To Order Online Scan The QR Code Below or Go To: <https://toasttakeout.page.link/W4Dd>

TO SEE MENU AND TO ORDER ANY DAYS MEALS BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW WITH YOUR PHONE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER AND PAY ONLINE. THIS GUARANTEES YOUR MEAL FOR THAT DAY. YOU CAN ALSO PRE-ORDER AND PAY FOR YOUR MEALS WITH THE BARTENDAR AT THE BAR FOR ANY FUTURE DINNER DATES.

TO ORDER ON TOAST SCAN THIS CODE



West Covina Elks  
841 W. Merced Ave.  
West Covina, CA. 91790

## BINGO IS BACK!



# Thursday Night

EVERY THURSDAY

Doors Open 4:00 PM

Start Time 6:00 PM

FRIENDS-FUN-PRIZES



# No Frills by the Duartes

## West Covina Elks Lodge

Monday, May 18 | 841 W. Merced Ave., West Covina, CA 91790

Baked Penne with Italian Sausage and Ground Beef  
• Green Salad • Garlic Toast • Dessert

**\$10.00** | Serving time 5:30 to 7:00 unless we run out

All proceeds go to the lodge general fund

Please come out and support the lodge and cheer on the Dodgers vs San Diego (6:40pm game time)



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**ELKS**  
*Join Us!*

**Lodge Meeting**

Community • Friendship • Charity

join.elks.org

Lodge Meetings are the first 4 Tuesdays of the Month.  
Meeting start time 7:30 PM - 5th Tuesday's Are Family Fun  
Nights and Members and Guest are Welcomed

WEST COVINA (ELKS LODGE)  
*presents*

# FLAG DAY DINNER

★ **JUNE 9, 2026** ★

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE & HONOR OUR FLAG!

**A SPECIAL MENU**  
PREPARED BY CHEF FRANK

**YANKEE POT ROAST**  
With all the Side Trimmings!  
\$16.00 PER PLATE  
A DELICIOUS SURPRISE DESSERT!

DOORS OPEN: 4:00 PM | DINNER SERVED: 6:00 - 7:00 PM

GOD BLESS AMERICA

# SAVE THE DATE!

West Covina Elks Lodge Presents:

# MONDAY NIGHT

A Saturday Night Feeling... On A Monday!

**MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026** **\$35**

**ULTIMATE HAPPY HOUR**

4 PM - 6 PM

**GRAND CHICKEN FEAST**

**CHEF FRANK'S**  
Dinner with  
all the Trimmings!  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

Featuring:  
**YESTERDAY'S DREAMS!**  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

TICKETS WILL ONLY BE SOLD ONLINE

Tables assigned

Ask Alex the Manager for More Info.

WEST COVINA ELKS LODGE

# FAMILY FUN NIGHT

**TUESDAY, JUNE 30TH**

# NEWS

## Trustee

### UPDATES

I'm happy to report that Trustee Alex replaced the conference room lights with new LED can lights with help from Lou Aguilar and myself.

We replaced the kitchen V-belt used by the hood exhaust vent, which was worn out and wasn't working properly.

I cleaned the patio at the beginning of the month. Our ER Angel cleaned it during the middle of the month.

Trustee Alex replaced the old kitchen lights with new LED lighting as well.

Thank you,

Carlos Duarte  
Chairman, Board of Trustees.

**Members, families, and friends just a friendly reminder** to bus and monitor your tables during any of our Lodge events.

Your help keeps costs down and speeds up the transition from one event to the next. We truly appreciate your cooperation in helping keep our Lodge the best it can be.

#### NOTE:

We recycle! Please place your plastic and glass bottles in the blue receptacles located throughout the Lodge.

Thanks to your efforts, we have raised over \$6,000 through our recycling program. Thank you for continuing to support this effort.

**SAVE THE DATE**

West Covina Elks Presents,  
**SUNDAY**  
**JULY 12, 2026**  
White Party Event

**Smooth Touch**

## Lodges need good customer service

Every Elk understands the things that make a Lodge feel welcoming, proud, and energized. It has little to do with money or facilities.

It is how Members are treated with warmth and respect. It is how we welcome new Members, retain longtime Elks, reconnect those drifting away, and remind every Member why they chose to belong.

When Lodges fail to practice good customer service, Members can gradually drift away because of missed connections, unanswered calls, or unreturned emails. Frequent guests might simply never be invited to join, and Members who fall behind on paying dues might never hear from the Lodge.

Effective exterior visibility, interior signage, and digital displays all tell our story before anyone speaks.

This also applies to a Lodge's digital front door. Websites and social media platforms can answer questions, reduce friction, and make people feel welcome before they ever walk through the door.

When we clearly showcase our community involvement and charitable work in our Lodges and online, pride grows and recruitment follows.

Strong customer service begins with Lodge leadership. Exalted Rulers and other Elks in leadership positions need to lead with intention, consistency, and pride, and create environments where guests feel welcome, Members feel valued, and communities clearly understand who we are and what we stand for.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thursday June 4th,  
at the  
**Mesa School at**  
**409 S. Barranca St.**  
**West Covina**



**Set-Up Time**  
**6:30 AM and**  
**Serve Time**  
**8:00 AM**

**More Info. Call or Text**  
**Vince (626) 422-2812**

WEST COVINA ELKS LODGE #1996  
 841 W. MERCED AVE.  
 WEST COVINA CALIFORNIA, 91790-4902  
 Electronic Service Requested




NONPROFIT ORG  
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 COVINA, CA.  
 PERMIT NO. 626



# May 2026 Elktivities



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>LODGE CLOSED</b>	2 <b>CINCO DE MAYO DANCE</b> Cinco de Mayo <b>BOBBY Z</b>
3 <b>DISTRICT RITUAL CONTEST</b> 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM	4 <b>RITUAL PRACTICE</b> 6:30 PM <b>LOUNGE CLOSED</b> <b>INVESTIGATIONS</b>	5 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Regular Lodge Meeting 7:30	6 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Karaoke 6:00PM <b>Dinner Available PER MEETING 7:00</b>	7 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Thirsty Thursday <b>Dinner Available</b> Bingo	8 <b>JUKEBOX NIGHT</b> <b>BRING YOUR OWN FOOD</b> <b>HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT</b>	9 <b>Mother's Day Event with Suave</b>
10 HAPPY <i>Mother's Day</i>	11 <b>RITUAL PRACTICE</b> 6:30 PM <b>LOUNGE CLOSED</b>	12 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Regular Lodge Meeting 7:30	13 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Karaoke 6:00PM <b>Dinner Available</b>	14 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Thirsty Thursday <b>Dinner Available</b> Bingo	15 <b>LODGE CLOSED</b>	16 <b>LODGE CLOSED</b>
17 <b>PRIVATE LEASE</b>	18 <b>Monday Night No Frills by The Quartet's</b> <b>ELKS LODGERS ORIENTATION</b> West Covina HS Lease Out (HALL)	19 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Regular Lodge Meeting 7:30	20 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Karaoke 6:00PM <b>POT LUCK BRING A DISH TO SHARE</b>	21 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Thirsty Thursday <b>Dinner Available</b> Bingo - BUNCO	22 <b>LODGE CLOSED</b>	23 <b>"SCHOOLS OUT BAND"</b> <b>DINNER AVAILABLE</b> <b>PRIVATE LEASE</b> <b>MAIN HALL</b>
24 <b>LODGE CLOSED</b>	25 <b>EMBLEM SOCIAL</b> <b>LOUNGE CLOSED</b>	26 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Regular Lodge Meeting 7:30	27 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Karaoke 6:00PM <b>Dinner Available</b>	28 <b>Lounge Opens 4:00PM</b> Thirsty Thursday <b>Dinner Available</b> Bingo	29 <b>STEAK &amp; LOBSTER</b> <b>BOBBY Z</b>	30 <b>LODGE CLOSED</b>
31 <b>LODGE CLOSED</b>	<b>YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS</b>				<b>Elks Care - Elks Share</b>	