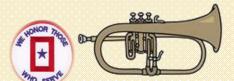


OCTOBER 2023



BUGLE





Brandon Elks Lodge #2383
800 CENTENNIAL LODGE DRIVE, BRANDON, FL 33510

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Volume 23 Issue 10

www.brandonelks.org





Ed Ciesla Exalted Ruler

MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER

Mid-Year Already Here!

It's already October. We are halfway through our Lodge year, and I would like to say, it has been a busy 6 months. Let's recap. We started the year with a rather large and fun Installation Ceremony and celebration. In April, we supported The Willis Peters School For Exceptional Children by contributing to their Prom. Our team of Elks prepared and served the food, while Elroy mingled with the students. We also had a face-lift of our building's entrance and front yard with some new plants and some good old-fashioned weed pulling and tree pruning. I wanted to open a line of communication between our members and our leadership, so I established an e-mail address for you to communicate directly with me, EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com . We also added a new column to our Bugle known as the Hostess Corner. Next, I developed and introduced a new recognition program for acknowledging service to our Lodge by either our members or their spouses. I also redefined our Officer of the Quarter award, renaming it the Elk Of The Quarter, to honor our members who contribute their time and energy not just within our Lodge, but into our community as well, exemplifying the true heart of Elkdom. Our Lodge also honored two outstanding JROTC Cadets, one from Brandon High School and another from Middleton High. In May, I represented our Lodge at the State Elks Convention where we received two awards: One for our contribution to Harry-Anna, and another for Best Orientation. Also in May, we celebrated Memorial Day with our annual picnic and cake auction. And we had our quarterly food drive and magazine drive. In June we hosted the Interlodge Olympics where we swept the Brownie category, took first place in Chicken Wings, and took first AND second place in the Pellet Gun competition (didn't do so well in pool). For your entertainment, Terri and I hosted a Comedy Night with dinner. And to honor our Nation's Flag, we held our annual Flag Day ceremony, In July, I represented our Lodge at the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis, MN (I even shook hands with our new Grand Exalted Ruler, Randy Shook). The Lodge held our annual 4 th of July picnic and cake auction while I was away. When I returned, I represented our Lodge at the DD Clinic held in Plant City. Our Lodge also hosted Operation Outreach, a Veterans outreach program that provides backpacks and other school supplies to the children of Veterans. We wrapped up the July activities with our always well-received Trivia Night. In August, I represented our Lodge in Arcadia for their Lodge's re-opening. The Arcadia Lodge was severely damaged by hurricane lan and needed substantial repairs. They re-built and re-opened, and Brandon was there to support them. Next, we held the Latin Gala fundraising event, raising over \$3700.00 for the ENF. The following week we participated in the second phase of our Interlodge Olympics, held at the Lakeland Lodge. We took 1 st place in horseshoes, and 3rd place for cobbler. The next week we had our annual Lodge inspection, followed that evening by the DD/VP visitation dinner at the Plant City Lodge. We finished the month with a bus trip to Tropicana Field for Elk's Day At The Rays. In September, Our Lodge participated in the SWCD Reverse Raffle event at the Arcadia Lodge. That following Monday we initiated 15 new members. Next, we assisted the Willis Peters School with their Fall Festival. I finished the month with a DD Clinic that was held at the Lake Placid Lodge. Yes, it has been a busy 6 months. But it has also been fun. There have been a lot of folks stepping up to support your Lodge, and to help me get things done. Thank-you to everyone that has served. ~ Your Exalted Ruler, Ed Ciesla ~ EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com

Elk of the Quarter

It is time to recognize our second Elk of the Quarter for this year. This member has jumped into volunteering as soon as he became a member. He started helping me in the kitchen with both the Tuesday night and Thursday night snack bars. He has also stepped up to be our liaison to our local high schools, and to be the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. He is also my co-chair for our Harry-Anna fundraising event!

His service to the community outside of Elkdom is described by his participation in Meals On Wheels. In this, he has committed to helping several homebound members of our community each week. In addition, he mows the lawn for one of his friends who are unable to do so for herself. Help me to congratulate Woody Summerlin, our newest Elk of the Quarter.



Volunteer of the Month

So far this Lodge year I have selected 5 VOMs. I hope you agree all have been worthy.

Our 6th VOM is someone who has been helping in the kitchen with both the Tuesday night and Thursday night snack bars. She is also there when her husband Alan has prepared Friday night dinners for us. And, she has stepped in at the last minute (more than once) to do the dishes when none of our paid dishwashers were able to do so. Help me to congratulate **Wendy Smith**, our newest volunteer of the month.

Brandon Lodge Officers for 2023-2024 Elk Year



Ed Ciesla Exalted Ruler 813-679-7699



Donald Harrison Leading Knight 813-376-8949



Lou Valencia Loyal Knight 813-376-9863



Robin Rutzke Lecturing Knight 305-498-5654



Ed Campbell Lodge Esquire 813-245-0827



Carol DiAddezio Inner Guard 484-678-3926



Teresa Reeves Tiler 813-650-1607



Mark Fox Lodge Chaplain 813-785-5353



Mary Lou Schreck Secretary 813-458-5872



Nancy Price Treasurer 813-756-9341





Sharon Hammersla 2 Year Trustee 813-323-1992



Mark Vargo 3 Year Trustee 813-376-8855



Jim McCleary 4 Year Trustee 813-763-9019



Marionette Garvey 5 Year Trustee 813-956-3776



2714

Member Illness / Convalescence:

Notify Lodge Secretary

Committee Chairs 2023-2024

Accident Prevention - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Bugle Editor - Lara McCleary 203-988-5089

Community Activities - (COULD BE YOU!)

Drug Awareness - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Grants Coordinator - Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Fraternal Committee - Jim McCleary 813-763-9019 Fraternal Sub Committees:

Americanism: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056 Flag Day: James Randall 813-833-7086 Lodge Activities: Mark Vargo 813-376-8855 Orientation: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425 State Associations: TBD (Could be You!) Elks Memorial Day: TBD (Could be You!)

ENF: TBD (Could be You!)

Veterans Services: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Hall Rental - Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007

Hoop Shoot - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

House Committee - Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Kitchen Manager – Ed Ciesla 813-679-7699 Kitchen Coordinator – Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007

Lodge Advisors - Henry Poage 813-480-6272 & Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Lodge Maintenance - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-244-4613

Public Relations - Michael Highfill 813-812-2727

Youth Activity - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is OCTOBER 2ND at 7:00 PM Hoping to See You There!

As summer passes by, we will be entering the part of the year full of holidays.

Grace Weigand and Diane League have started making our raffle baskets, They are always beautiful, and they bring in lots of money. Have you donated to the baskets? There is still time. Have you made plans for our Halloween party? We will have tickets on sale soon. Please buy your tickets early so we can plan ahead. Due to very poor ticket sales, I had to postpone our Casino night until February 3, 2024. We must have tickets purchased in advance to make sure we will be able to cover expenses and possibly make a

Our Bake Sale at the Labor Day picnic was a success, we raised \$500. Thank you to all the ladies that donated the bake goods.

We have many catering events in the next 3 months, and this requires many volunteers. If you haven't signed up yet to volunteer, please contact Terri Ciesla.

I look forward to making more memories at the Lodge.

Jane Gilblair B. L. O. E. Lady President



Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction SEPTEMBER



Our September Lady of Distinction is an example of Elkdom at its best. She is a member of both the BLOE and BPOE. She is always busy making the Brandon Elks the best. She is a member of the FLOE Florida Ladies of Elks and keeps us updated on all things Elk at our meetings. She took charge recently and helped revise and bring our By-Laws. Standing Rules and List of Protocol up to date including making an outline of the changes which made it very easy to vote on. She can be found in the kitchen cooking for catering and can be counted on to bring food for memorial services or other events when food is needed. She is our "go to" person when we need something done because when she is tasked with a challenge or job, she gets it done timely and complete. She has been an officer in the BPOE and was chosen as the Exalted Ruler for her work ethic and love of the Brandon Elks. She and her husband have become world travelers since her retirement and provide us a day-by-day photo journal of her adventures on Facebook. Please join me in congratulating Mary Lou Scribner our September Lady of Distinction.

Thank You A Message of Appreciation

Ladies, you caught me totally off guard at the BLOE meeting! Thank you very much for the honor of being awarded the Lady of Distinction title for September. We have a fantastic ladies organization and I am happy to be a part of it. I regret that I am not able to attend all our meetings due to a conflict with the PER meetings, but please know I am there in spirit. Thank you all again. I'll do my best to be worthy of this recognition. ~ Mary Lou Scribner

Hostess Corner

Please check your schedule to see if you can volunteer to do the snack bar on Tues or Thurs evening. We need your help. It's easy and it's fun. Let me know. I'm also looking for Friday night cooks

~ Terri



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Riverview, Florida 33578 (813) 671-3730 Fax

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Mark C. Vargo, Sr. Director / Owner

Mary Lou Schreck LODGE SECRETARY Office Hours

MONDAY: 3pm - 5pm WEDNESDAY: 3pm – 5pm Or call for appointment

Nancy Price LODGE TREASURER Office Hours

MONDAY: 12pm - 3pm THURSDAY: 12pm - 3pm Or call for appointment

CTOBER

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT Dinner * Dancing * Music

Weekly 50/50 Raffles \$500 Club Drawing

500 Club Winners

Called, signed up, not present: Annie Fox Called, NOT signed up: Richard Cheek, Richard Green, Lara McCleary, Betty Hayden, David Rodriguez, Rene Tresorras Joseph Ciccarello, Christina Johnson

Door Duty

October 6th -Ed Ciesla October 13th - Larry O October 20th – Jim M October 27th -Lou V

BLOE BREAKFAST

ALL YOU CAN EAT \$10 2nd Sunday **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



Lounge Rental

ONLY Elk members can rent the lounge for themselves or immediate family (children, parents, siblings, aunts or uncles).

Lodge Meetings Are Open To Members In Good Standing and is the Place to Discuss any Lodge issues. 2nd Monday of each month, May-January! February-April, 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month!

Dress code for meetings is long pants and collared shirt for men.

Skirt, Dress, or long slacks for women.

PER Meeting - 1st Monday, 7pm Lodge Meeting 2nd Monday of month, 7pm Governing Board mtg – 3rd Monday at 7pm BLOE Ladies Meetings – 1st Monday of month at 6:30pm

01 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	02 BLOE Meeting 6:30PM	5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar oper	04 Spaghetti Dinner Hall 6:30PM \$8	05 BLNGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	Music: Tony Knight Friday night dinner see page 5	6PM RENTAL HALL & LOUNGE
08 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM 8-11AM BLOE Breakfast Hall	Code Meeting 7PM	5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	11	BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	Music: 5 th Gear Friday night dinner see page 5	14 8AM – 12PM Qrtly Food & Magazine Drive 1pm Lodge Olympics – Plant City 7PM – 11PM Hall Rental
15 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	16 7pm Governing Board Meeting	5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	18 BLOE Dinner Hall 6:30PM	BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN BRANDON BOYS LOUNGE 6:30-8:30PM	Music: Kris Pierce Friday night dinner see page 5	21 DD/VP Visitation Lakeland
22 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	23	24 5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	Veterans Dinner Member Orientation 6:30PM	26 BLNGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	Music: 3 Dom Band BLOE Halloween Party – Dinner served	28
29 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	30	31 5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	01	02	03	04

Brandon Lodge supports our Veterans

Lodge Veterans please come out every 4th Wednesday of the month to enjoy free dinner and visit with other local Vets! Prepared by Nancy and friends.

> Please RSVP for Dinners RSVPBrandonElks@yahoo.com

Save the Date

LODGE MEETING, OCTOBER 9TH BLOE MEETING, OCTOBER 2ND FRATERNAL COMMITTEE, 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

LOUNGE HOURS

Sunday: 1pm - 7pm Monday - Thursday 4pm - 9pm Friday 4pm - 10pm Saturday 4pm - 9pm MANAGER: JANE GILBLAIR

2633

OCTOBER MENU ITEMS

TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL, PLEASE RSVP TO RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM

BY 12 PM THURSDAY



TERRI & ED \$8

ENTREE: SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS

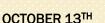
SALAD & DESSERT



BEV LAUNDY & FRIENDS \$15 ENTRÉE: PORK CHOPS

SIDES: MASHED POTATOES, PEAS

SALAD & DESSERT MUSIC; TONY KNIGHT



TERRI CIESLA & FRIENDS \$15

ENTRÉE: PARMESAN CRUSTED CHICKEN

SIDES: ROSEMARY ROASTED POTATOES, BROCCOLI,

SALAD & DESSERT MUSIC; 5TH GEAR

OCTOBER 18TH

BLOE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER \$12

MARY LOU SCHRECK OKTOBERFEST FEAST:

BRATS, MASHED POTATOES OR GERMAN POTATO SALAD

SAUERKRAUT, APPLESAUCE & DESSERT

OCTOBER 20TH

NICKI & FRIENDS SALAD: TOSSED

ENTRÉE: (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE): STEAK (\$15), SHRIMP (\$13)

GRILLED CHICKEN (\$12) OR FISH (\$13) SIDES: VEGGIES AND BAKED POTATO

MUSIC: KRIS PIERCE

OCTOBER 25TH

VETERAN'S DINNER

NANCY & FRIENDS - VETS EAT FOR FREE

ENTRÉE: MEATLOAF SIDES: SALAD & DESSERT







OCTOBER 27TH - HALLOWEEN PARTY
"RICK'S SPOOKTACULAR SURPRISE DINNER"

MUSIC: 3 DOM BAND









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Phillip Singletary Charlene Hart Grace & Rick Weigand

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Diane League

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Gerri Mann Mary Lou & George Scribner





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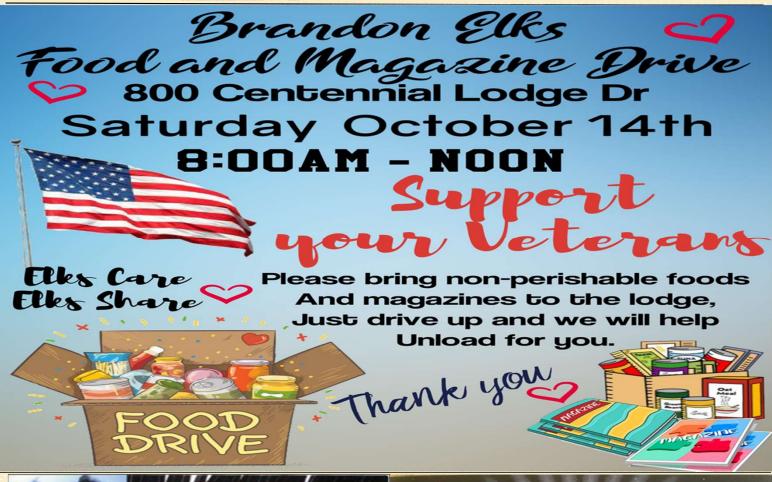
VETERANS AFFAIRS Committee Chair Robin Rutzke

BPOE Lecturing Knight USAF (ret) 305-498-5654



Any questions or concerns about the Veterans that the Elks Lodge serves, or other note worthy Veteran events, please address them with Robin.

God Bless our Veterans!









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