

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER

June is here and we have a lot of events this month for you to enjoy. First up on Saturday, June 3, is the Elks Olympics. This is a friendly competition of games and cooking between the members of our Lodge, the Plant City Lodge, and the Lakeland Lodge. You can join the competitions, or just come to observe, and eat the food from the cooking competition.

Next is a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, June 7. I've always felt that a Wednesday night dinner at the Lodge is like having dinner at a friend's house: Informal attire with a relaxed atmosphere. You can stick around after dinner and enjoy a game of Rummy, Cribbage, or any other game you and your friends enjoy. Or just hang with your friends. This dinner is cooked and served by myself, and my wife Terri. Join us for our Elks family dinner.

Ed Ciesla Exalted Ruler Next is a pasta bar on Friday, June 9, served up by famous chef Donald Harrison and friends.

The big event for our Lodge this month is our Comic Night on Saturday, June 10. This may be the most fun event for the year! We are hosting 4 professional comedians for a show that will have you laughing all night. Food is included. We can only accommodate 250 people for this show. So, get your tickets early. This is an event that you will kick yourself for not attending!

Friday, June 16, is Steak Night, prepared by the N&N Crew (Nickie, Nancy, and friends).

Saturday, June 17, is our Flag Day Ceremony. This is one of the ceremonies that are required by The Grand Lodge. See the write-up about this ceremony on another page in this month's Bugle.

Wednesday, June 21, is the monthly BLOE dinner.

Friday, June 23, will be a treat. Another famous chef in our Lodge is Rick Weigand. He will be serving up something we haven't had in a while: A Country Fried Steak dinner!

Saturday, June 24, is the Beach Brunch Bash put on by our very own BLOE.

Wednesday, June 28, is our Veteran's Appreciation Dinner, also provided by the N&N Crew.

And Friday, June 30, is one of the rare dinners. Occasionally during the year, there is a fifth Friday, and this month has one. Larry Oliver and his team will be serving Beef Brisket, and chicken for the non-beef eaters.

This is a lot of activities for you, the members. Your Lodge Officers, your Lodge Hostess, and myself want you to find value in your membership. We want you to be a part of your Lodge, and to have fun with it. We realize you will not be able to attend everything, but at least attend something. With over 400 members, if you choose just one event to attend that will be about 40 people (on average) for each event. Please let us know that you enjoy your membership. This will give us encouragement moving forward to keep this Lodge busy.

EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com. Your Exalted Ruler, Ed Ciesla

## Volunteer of the Month



Our Volunteer of the Month for June is **Jerrilyn Pietro**. She is one of those folks that is (quietly) always there to help. We can count on her to pitch in during Lodge catering events, as well as Wednesday and Friday night dinners. But most notably, she steps up to promote our Lodge activities. She brings a talent to our presence on Facebook that, so far, has been unmatched. Her very creative posters and fliers have also been seen around the Lodge, and both entertain and inform. You just can't help looking at them!

What makes this special is that Jerrilyn does this often without being asked. She knows what is coming up on our calendar and takes the initiative to create a flier for the activity.

This kind of contribution to our Lodge is a significant factor for the success of our events, and the success of our Lodge. Being pro-active, seeing where a contribution to the Lodge is needed, and then stepping up to make it happen is what earned her this month's honor.

Next time you see **Jerrilyn Pietro**, please assist me in congratulating her, and thanking her, for her much-appreciated efforts!



Stephen Robison ,David Espy, ER Ed Ciesla, Christina Johnson, Joycelyn Sheely, Merl Tate

## Brandon Lodge Officers for 2023-2024 Elk Year



Ed Ciesla Exalted Ruler 813-679-7699

Ed Campbell

Lodge Esquire

813-245-0827



Donald Harrison Leading Knight 813-376-8949

Carol DiAddezio

484-678-3926

Inner Guard



Teresa Reeves Tiler 813-650-1607

Lou Valencia

Loyal Knight

813-376-9863



Robin Rutzke Lecturing Knight 305-498-5654



Mark Fox Lodge Chaplain 813-785-5353



Mary Lou Schreck Secretary 813-689-2155



Nancy Price Treasurer 813-756-9341

Larry Oliver 1 Year Trustee 813-767-0870

Hammer 2 Year Ti 813-323











2735

## 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

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

Grants Coordinator - Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

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 Advisor - Henry Poage 813-480-6272

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 JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> at 7:00 PM Hoping to See You There!

I am very fortunate to have many wonderful people supporting me. Without all your help we would not succeed. We have amazing women in this group. I see how some women are always volunteering. Weather for an event or catering. What I would like to put out to everyone is a challenge. If each member could help for 4 hours total this month. You could help with:

Wrap silverware for dinner / breakfast. Help clean up tables at the Vets Dinner Help set up the hall for events or catering. Help serve at a catering or dinner. Help clean up after a catering or event. Help prepare for an event or catering. Step up and coordinate an event or dinner.



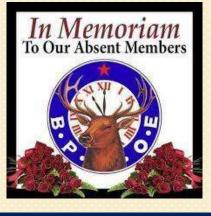
BLOE or BPOE events are always looking for volunteers. We are all one lodge no need to keep your talents hidden, step out of your comfort zone and let's see you shine. Volunteering always makes you feel good because you are doing good.

Jane Gilblair Lady President

## Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction MAY



We are blessed with several teachers who are members of the BLOE. These ladies have proved time and time again to be a great asset because of their "can do" attitude. Our lady of distinction for May is a perfect example. She is always willing to help no matter how busy her life is. She can be found in the kitchen at our Wednesday Night Dinners or helping with other catering events. She is always available to help at any fundraising event the BLOE puts on. Her leadership and willingness to help personality traits are apparent when you are working with her. She is always pleasant and very often finds a smart and quicker way of accomplishing tasks. She has taken on the scholarship committee chair for several years and has proven that she gets things done thoroughly and timely. Please join me in congratulating **Teresa Reeves** our May Lady of Distinction.



Mario Petruzelli:

Date of Birth 02-17-1920

Date of Death 04-22-2023

Date of Initiation 01-21-2018

### Lodge #2383 Loves Their Veterans!

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the annual picnic for Veterans at James A. Haley Hospital was held. This picnic was held at the Veterans' Memorial Park and put on by the Medical Foster Program at the hospital. The picnic had a large number of Veterans and Caregivers in attendance. The weather was perfect allowing the Veterans to mingle with the staff. Recreation Therapist Kathryn Bryant said that it is a rare occasion when the VA staff are able to take off their white coats and sincerely commune in a festivity such as this.

Our Lodge played a key role in the success of the picnic by donating \$120 in gift cards, and \$55 in art supplies and magazines. The gift cards and other miscellaneous donated gifts were used as BINGO prizes which were much appreciated by those who played and were able to receive these special and much needed gifts.





782

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#### THE BUGLE • JUNE 2023 • Page 5

## JUNE MENU ITEMS TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL, PLEASE RSVP TO RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM BY 12 PM THURSDAY

### JUNE 2ND

**TERRI & FRIENDS \$15** ENTRÉE: PORK WELLINGTON SIDES: POTATO, VEGGIES SALAD & DESSERT

JUNE 7TH TERRI & ED \$8 **ENTREE: SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS** SALAD & DESSERT

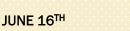


JUNE 28TH NANCY & FRIENDS - VETS EAT FOR FREE ENTRÉE: MEATLOAF SIDES: SALAD & DESSERT

JUNE 30TH LARRY OLIVER \$15 ENTRÉE: BEEF BRISKET OR CHICKEN SIDES: RANCH STYLE BEANS, POTATO SALAD DESSERT



JUNE 9TH DON & FRIENDS \$15 ENTRÉE: PASTA BAR: PENNE, LINGUINI, MARINARA, ALFREDO, MEATBALLS, SAUSAGE, SHRIMP & CHICKEN CESAR SALAD, BREAD & DESSERT MUSIC: GOOD STUFF



**NICKI & FRIENDS** SALAD: TOSSED ENTRÉE: (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE): STEAK (\$15), SHRIMP (\$13) GRILLED CHICKEN (\$12) OR FISH (\$13) SIDES: VEGGIES AND BAKED POTATO

### JUNE 21ST

**BLOE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER** Cathy Hudson \$10 **BAKED ZITI, SALAD & DESSERT** 



JUNE 23RD **RICK WEIGAND \$15** ENTRÉE: COUNTRY FRIED STEAK SIDES: MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY, MIXED VEGGIES SALAD & DESSERT MUSIC: APRIL RED



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## **BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!**

Please help defray the cost of printing and mailing out our Bugle. Donations help a great deal!!

**Angela Sweeney** Pat & Bernie Hisley Gerri Mann





With

**Respect**, Honor and Gratitude

/ Jeterans.







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## 500 Club Members

If you paid and do not see your name below, please call Mary Lou!

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Adams	Donna	Kramer	Jack
Alberico	Joe	Kramer	Marianne
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Bayne	Laure	Laundy	Beverly
Bilinski	Ray	LaVoie	Jeff
Bilinski	Kathy	LaVoie	Pat
Butner	Richard	League	Kenneth
Butner	Cindy	League	Diane
Cameron	Michael	Long	Cliff
Ciesla	Edward	Lowe	Beverly
Ciesla	Terri	Mann	Gerri
Craft	Frank	Matineau	Donna
Craft	Lynda	Martinez	Kim
Czajkowsk	iJan	Moon	Don
Duncan	Tony	Moon	Jane
Ebert	Henry	Pietro	Jerrilyn
Ebert	Julie	Reeves	Teresa
Flood	Joe	Rutzke	Robin
Flood	Carole	Schreck	Joseph
Florentino	Robert	Schreck	Mary Lou
Fox	Mark	Smith	Phillip
Fox	Ann	Smith	Wendy
Fultz	Michael	Subko	Robert
Fultz	Donna	Subko	Eileen
Garvey	Glenn	Thomas	George
Garvey	Marionette	Thomas	Carolyn
Giblair	Jane		Chris
Harrison	Don	Valencia	Lou
Harvey	Lee	Vargo	Mark
Highfill	Michael	Vargo	Patti
Hinkle	Phil	Wells	Nickie
Hinkle	Linda	Yanni	Art
Holt	Cindy	Zilka	David

It is time for us to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever, the one who recognizes the challenge and does something about it.

#### --Vince Lombardi

## everything begins at the Lodge level THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION

#### Hostess Corner

There are many activities coming up, many delicious dinners, and new cooks. Keep looking at the lodge calendar, the bugle, and the Brandon Elks Members Facebook group so you don't miss anything. I want to personally thank Jerilyn Pietro for all the beautiful and informative flyers she creates to keep us aware of what's upcoming. The BPOE and our BLOE ladies' group have been very active planning activities for your enjoyment. Please invite your family members and your friends so they can see what a great place your lodge is. We would love to have you volunteer to help at a dinner, snack bar, or at an event. Contact **EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com** if you are interested. Your help will keep your lodge active. **Terri** 

#### EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com

Something NEW for our members! As I mentioned last month, I want our members to be involved with their Lodge at any-andevery level. If you can help with an event, attend an event, serve on a committee, or just offer your thoughts about our Lodge, please let me know. I have created an e-mail address for you to do just that:

EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com . I want to hear from you.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS Committee Chair Robin Rutzke

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

We're Here

After

he Storm



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!

520

Mimosa bar



Raffle

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FLORIDA EXECUTIVE REALTY



Brandon #2383 Shows Support of JROTC Cadets

Our youth of today are our citizens of tomorrow. And the Brandon Elks Lodge #2383 takes every opportunity to show support and encouragement to them. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Exalted Ruler Ciesla then went to the Brandon High School to award Cadet Lance Vellegas of the Brandon's Army JROTC the JROTC Elk medal, the Grand Lodge JROTC certificate along with the \$100 Visa Gift card to also acknowledge his exceptional performance and dedication to JROTC. AFJROTC Cadets are chosen for the award based on their academic achievements, involvement in community service and exceeding JROTC standards in dress and appearance.

Brandon's Veteran Chair, Robin Rutzke, Senior Master Sergeant (ret) Air Force, noncommissioned officer for the JROTC helped organize the ceremony along with Major Daniel P. Pagano (ret)

Daniel P. Pagano, Major, USAF (ret) Senior Aerospace Science Instructor said in his thank you letter to the lodge, "The participation of representatives from the award benefactors, like the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, only makes this event more special in the eyes of the cadets as their accomplishments are not just recognized by the instructors but also by people and organizations outside the school district. As a low-income Title 1 high school, we want to expose our cadets to various opportunities and recognitions that are available to them if they put in hard work, whether academically, extra-curriculars, or supporting the local community. The extra work can lead to so much more – self-confidence, recognition from peers and parents, scholarship, or other opportunities as they graduate and move in the work force or higher education. Ultimately, the goal of our program and these awards is to help develop citizenship, character, and patriotism."

The Brandon Lodge is happy for this opportunity to show support to these fine cadets and to acknowledge their dedication to JROTC.

## FLAG DAY — June 14th/Meeting Closest

History reveals that the first Flag Day ceremony, written by a Wisconsin school teacher, was conducted by him on June 14, 1885, commemorating the flag's adoption by Congress on that date in 1777. Long before 1885, however, our Rituals had incorporated various expressions of loyalty and respect for the flag as part of our meetings and activities. Those expressions continued as the popularity for this special observance developed.

In 1896, the Grand Lodge Session in Cincinnati adopted a recommendation by Arthur C. Moreland, New York Lodge No. 1, that: "the Altar drapery shall be the Flag of the United States, upon which the Bible shall rest, surmounted by the antlers." This was the first official use of the National Flag by the Order. James R. Nicholson, a Grand Exalted Ruler and outstanding figure in Elkdom for many years, wrote of this change: "The placing of the American Flag on the altar of our Subordinate Lodges was a significant and far-reaching act. It was a great factor in the successful growth of the Order, for it put the visible stamp of patriotism upon every Lodge and associated the banner of our country, the Bible and our Order's emblem in an immortal trinity."

(Note: In response to prevailing attitudes in 1956, the Order ceased draping the Flag on the Altar and moved it to the right of every Elks Lodge's Altar.)

In 1904, San Diego Lodge, aware of the growing practice, held its first Flag Day observance, and in 1907 Grand Lodge encouraged all Lodges that had not already done so to follow suit. By 1911, the observance was made mandatory in all Lodges, making the Elks the first organization in the United States to officially do so. As a result of the efforts of our Order and others, President Wilson in 1916 proclaimed national observance of Flag Day, and on August 3, 1949, President Harry S. Truman, himself an Elk, proclaimed June 14 for the yearly nationwide observance. Our Order likewise can take great pride in that the late Joseph Vrtel, a Florida Elk, designed the current 50-star United States Flag. Our Ritual presents the history of Freedom's Banner in rich narrative scenes and sparkling oratory. It makes this celebration of the flag's birthday an unforgettable Elk experience. THE BUGLE • MAY 2023 • Page 9

## Registration for the 2023 Parade of Heroes is now OPEN.

### ATTENTION ALL VETERANS OF WWII, KOREAN, VIETNAM & GULF WARS

### "Parade of Heroes" An annual event held in Washington D.C. on Veterans Day week for our Elk Veterans

This is an event that hosts Elk Veterans of WWII, Korean War, Vietnam & Gulf War to an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C.

This event features tours of the memorials, as well as a "Parade of Heroes" which includes outstanding bands, choirs and JROTC cadets from around the country in a special tribute to <u>all</u> veterans from WWII up to and including Gulf War veterans at the World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War memorials.

If you are interested in participating in the "Parade of Heroes",

lease complete the form found on www.Floridaelks.org.

Someone will be in contact with you as soon as possible to discuss the details in securing your participation in this truly historic event.

## **ENROLL NOW!**

Question, Comments or Concerns?

Please contact Brandon Veteran Chair Robin Rutzke at <u>rrutzke@gmail.com</u> or (305) 498-5654 and she will be happy to answer your questions

or help you with the process.

The Parade of Heroes is a major step to help mend the wounds suffered during and after any of the conflicts especially the Vietnam war.





Hello, members. Have you been coming to Lodge events? Have you ever thought to yourself, "WOW! What a great event. How can I get involved with the Lodge action? I want to do stuff, too." But then you think, "I don't know how, or what I can do."

It can seem a bit overwhelming. You look at the established teams, like Steak Night (Nickie, Nancy, Lou, Dennis, friends), Veterans Dinner (Nickie, Nancy, more friends), The BLOE Breakfast (a whole bunch of Ladies and a few men), the Tuesday night snack bar, Tuesday night card games, the BLOE Wednesday night dinner (another bunch of Ladies), and Thursday night BINGO (Laurie, Mary, Trudy, Carole, friends). AND there are the special events (Elks Olympics, Comedy Show, Beach Brunch Bash, Trivia, Bunco, food drives, and a heck of a lot more). There is definitely a lot going on, but with the same people doing it. And, there's a lot more going on that you don't see (committee activities).

How can you help? Where do you start? Actually, getting involved is easy. It starts by going up to one of the established team members, or an Officer, and just saying, "Hi, I want to help". From there you will be introduced to the right person for your interest area. That person will train you, guide you, and mentor you. It won't take long to have you up and active.

So, if you want to get more from your membership, do the things that promote Elkdom, and get to know more people in your Lodge, let me know.

#### EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com

### Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

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