

# THE BUGLE



## Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 CENTENNIAL LODGE DRIVE, BRANDON, FL 33510

ALL AMERICAN LODGE 1999-2000

PHONE 813-685-6469

FAX 813-643-5652

JUNE 2025

[www.brandonelks.org](http://www.brandonelks.org)

Volume 25 Issue 6

SUMMER'S  
HERE!

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### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER, LOU VALENCIA

As We enter another month, I am grateful for those who have stepped forward and taken on a new task in an effort to accomplish all the activities needing to be fulfilled with the Elks involvement in our community.

Whether it be for: our Veteran's, Scholarships, the Grant work, or our Day-to-Day volunteering in Lodge functions, it is what our Obligation is all about. "I thank those who do this unselfishly!"

There is much to be done each day to maintain our Lodge moving in the right direction, I ask for your involvement in the navigation of future endeavors, and participation in steering the course of our future.

*Obligation: An oath, a course of action or duty to a commitment.*

*Elkdom: Exemplifying charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity, by improving the quality of life for our community and lodge.*

*Charity: the voluntary giving of help, typically to those in need, in a Generous way.*

Fraternally Yours, Lou Valencia, Exalted Ruler



### RV Park Committee Member Needed

Looking for a Brandon Elk member who would like to be on our RV Committee. Email or text Mark Vargo, [mcvargo@msn.com](mailto:mcvargo@msn.com) or 813-376-8855.

### VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

**Kathy Bilinski** has taken over the task of grant work with Robin Rutzke's blessing.

Special mention to **Carole Flood**, She has kept bar poker going for years without much recognition.

Let's Thank Them both for their work.

Hello PER's!

June, we have a new restaurant to try that has good reviews. Our PER luncheon is on Thursday June 12 at 11:30. We will be going to Himes Breakfast House at 312 E Brandon Blvd just a little east of Lithia Pinecrest on the north side of the road. They serve mostly breakfast food with a few lunch sandwiches and the prices aren't bad. I know it's summer and a lot of you will be on vacation, but I hope this will be between your travel dates. Hope to see you there. Can't wait to break bread with my fellow PER'S.



Your Restaurant Hunter  
Kim Martinez PER

## Brandon Lodge Officers for 2025-2026 Elk Year

 Lou Valencia Exalter Ruler 813-376-9863	 Robin Rutzke Leading Knight 305-498-5654	 Wendy Smith Loyal Knight 813-862-8573	 Michael Fultz Lecturing Knight 813-205-5885
 Christina Puhalla Lodge Esquire 609-217-5782	 Kathy Brogli Tiler 813-382-2898	 Beverly Laundry Inner Guard 813-446-0150	 Mark Fox Lodge Chaplain 813-785-5353
 Mary Lou Schreck Secretary 813-458-5872  <b>Member Illness/            Convalescence:            Notify Lodge            Secretary</b>		 Nancy Price Treasurer 813-756-9341	
 Mark Vargo 1 Year Trustee 813-376-8855	 Nickie Wells 2 Year Trustee 813-716-8051	 Marionette Garvey 3 Year Trustee 813-956-3776	 Ed Ciesla 4 Year Trustee 813-679-7699
		 Rick Weigand 5 Year Trustee 813-748-2678	

## Committee Chairs 2025-2026

Accident Prevention - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Annual Calendar Updates – Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Bugle Editor – Lara McCleary 203-988-5089

Community Activities – Lou Valencia or Mark Vargo

**Drug Awareness – COULD BE YOU!**

Grants Coordinator - Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Fraternal Committee -

Fraternal Sub Committees:

Americanism: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056

Flag Day: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Lodge Activities: Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Orientation: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425

Elks Memorial Day: Lou Valencia -813-376-9863

ENF: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056

Veterans Services: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Hall Rental – Terri Ciesla – 813-679-8007

**Hoop Shoot – COULD BE YOU!**

House Committee – Rick Weigand – 813-748-2678

Kitchen Manager – Marionette Garvey – 813-956-3776

Lodge Advisors - Henry Poage 813-480-6272 and George Scribner 850-206-0577

Lodge Maintenance - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678 & Lou Valencia 813-376-9863

Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-378-1597

Public Relations – Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425  
& Lara McCleary 203-988-5089

Youth Activity – Jim Randall – 813-833-7086

Web Master : Ray Bilinski –webmasterbrandonelks@gmail.com

# BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is  
JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> @ 7:00 PM  
Hoping to See You There!

Wow!! May was such an active month. We were kept busy with Mother's Day ladies' breakfast, raffle baskets, movie night, Bunco, ladies, Wednesday, dinner, Memorial Day cake auction, and a patriotic wreath craft. I probably missed something. Thanks to all who helped out and contributed your time.

We have a lot going on so be sure to look at the monthly calendar of events on the Brandon Elks website, the Brandon members Facebook group, and the Brandon ladies of Elks Facebook group so you don't miss anything.

I hope you're able to stop by on June 2 at 6pm. Our guest speaker is phenomenal. Her message on dementia and Alzheimer's will surely enlighten you. Please invite your friends or family because everyone would benefit from this.

See you at the lodge!

Terri Ciesla  
President



## Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction MAY



Our Lady of Distinction for May is a person who is dedicated and has significantly helped to make the Brandon Ladies of Elks successful. She can be found at fundraisers and other activities working to ensure their success. She volunteers at our Monthly Sunday Breakfast and her innovative ideas and relentless drive made the December Santa Breakfast a fun and enjoyable experience for all the children and the parents who attended. She was corresponding secretary last year and proved to be a valuable addition to our group.

She is first to sign up to help at events and needs very little direction to accomplish her task. She is fun to work with and a joy to be around.

Ladies, please join me in congratulating **Kathy Bilinski** our May 2025 Lady of Distinction.

## BLOE Elected Officers

President: Terri Ciesla  
Vice president: Jane Gilblair  
Recording Secretary: Donna Mancuso-Fultz  
Corresponding secretary: Beth Benham  
Treasurer: Janis Jacobson  
Past Lady President: Jane Gilblair

## Appointed Officers

Chaplin: MaryAnn Kramer  
Parliamentarian: Nancy Price  
Historian: Jerrilyn Pietro

**Official Hostess:** Nickie Wells

## Committee Chairpersons

Audit and Budget: Roseanne Caracciolo  
Birthdays and anniversaries: Cathy Hudson  
Bylaws: Mary Lou Scribner  
Catering: Terri Ciesla and Nancy Price  
Charities: Wendy Smith  
Lady of distinction: Julie Ebert  
Lots of luck: Kathy Hattan  
Membership: Jane Gilblair  
Program: Laurie Bayne  
Properties: Carolyn Thomas  
Publicity: Jerrilyn Pietro  
Scholarships: Kathy Eldridge  
Secret pal: Millie Marrero  
Sunday breakfast: Nancy Price  
Sunshine: Karen McArthur  
Telephone: Charlene Hart  
Ways and Means: Terri Ciesla  
Wednesday dinners: Terri Ciesla  
Yearbook: Lori Underberg



Community • Friendship • Charity  
join.elks.org



10510 Riverview Drive  
(813) 671-3121

Kevin Talbert  
Director / Owner



Linda Hinkle  
Office Manager

Riverview, Florida 33578  
(813) 671-3730 Fax

Mark C. Vargo, Sr.  
Director



**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

**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT**  
**Dinner \* Dancing \* Music**  
 Weekly 50/50 Raffles  
 \$500 Club Drawing

# JUNE

## To All Lodge Members:

To clarify an apparent misunderstanding regarding our lounge being reserved by one of our members. Our lounge is always open to our members, and their guests, during normal operating hours. If there is a private event also happening during those hours, members/guests are not allowed to freely partake of any food and/or beverages supplied by the member that reserved the use of our lounge unless you were invited to the event, or the member grants you permission to partake of their food/beverage.

## Brandon Lodge supports our Veterans

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

**BLOE BREAKFAST**  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT \$12**  
**CHILDREN \$6**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

## Lounge Rental

Lounge usage will be restricted to members, spouses or widows/widowers for their own specific purpose, and they must be always present during the rental

**Lodge Meetings Are Open To Members In Good Standing and is the Place to Discuss any Lodge issues. 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, May-January! February-April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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** – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7pm  
**Lodge Meeting** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month, 7pm  
**Governing Board mtg** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7pm  
**BLOE Ladies Meetings** – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of month at 6:30pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	NO SNACK BAR					
1 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	2 6:30PM BLOE MEETING – HALL PER MEETING 7PM ANTE ROOM	3 5PM -7PM CARDS 	4 6:30PM PASTA DINNER LOUNGE	5 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm 	6 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	7 6PM HALL RENTAL
8 8AM -11AM BLOE BREAKFAST HALL SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	9  LODGE MEETING 7PM	10 5PM -7PM CARDS 	11 6PM – 9:30PM CARD BINGO LOUNGE	12 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm 	13 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	14 1PM FLAG DAY CEREMONY 5:30PM –9PM LOUNGE RENTAL 6PM – 11PM HALL RENTAL
15 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	16 7 PM BOARD MEETING – HALL	17 5PM -7PM CARDS 	18 6:30PM BLOE DINNER HALL	19 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm 6:30pm BRANDON BOYS LOUNGE 	20 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	21 5:30PM –10PM LOUNGE RENTAL
22 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	23 6PM – 9:30PM BUNCO	24 5PM -7PM CARDS 	25 6:30PM VETERAN'S DINNER HALL	26 BINGO IN THE HALL 	27 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	28
29 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	30	NATIONAL ELKS' CONVENTION JUNE 30 <sup>TH</sup> – JULY 3 <sup>RD</sup>				

**Save the Date**  
**BLOE MEETING, JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**PER MEETING, JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**LODGE MEETING, JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**BOARD MEETING, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**LOUNGE HOURS**  
 Sunday: 1pm – 7pm  
 Monday - Thursday 4pm – 9pm  
 Friday 4pm – 10pm  
 Saturday 4pm – 9pm  
 Memorial, 4th of July and Labor Day 11AM – 6PM  
 Manager: GLENN GARVEY

# JUNE MENU ITEMS

THE ONLY WAY TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL IS TO RSVP [RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM)  
**BY THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT BEFORE FOR FRIDAY NIGHT MEALS!**  
 THIS HELPS US MAXIMIZE RESOURCES AND MINIMIZE WASTE  
 TEXTING OR CALLING THE LODGE IS NOT CONSIDERED AN RSVP!  
 DINNER IS FROM 6:30PM – 8PM

JUNE 4TH

**Pasta!**  
**Night**  
 Wednesday June 4th  
**Spaghetti and Meatballs**  
**\$10**  
 6:30 PM  
 WITH SALAD AND DESSERT  
 Please be sure to RSVP @  
[RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM)

JUNE 13TH

**Chef Terri's**  
**FRIDAY**  
**NIGHT**  
**Dinner**  
 June 13th 6:30pm  
 Pork Tenderloin  
 Cordon Bleu  
 Roasted Potato  
 Salad and Dessert  
**\$15**  
**JUKEBOX**  
**JAM!**

JUNE 25TH

**Wednesday Night**  
**VETERANS**  
 \$10 Non-Vets Dinner **VETS EAT FREE**  
 June 25th 6:30pm  
 Nancy's Meatloaf

JUNE 6TH

**Mary Lou and Friends**  
**Friday Night Dinner**  
 June 6th 6:30PM  
 BAKED HAM  
 HASH BROWN CASSEROLE  
 VEGGIE, SALAD, AND  
 DESSERT  
**\$15**  
 Live Music with  
 Skip and Nancy

JUNE 18TH

**B.L.O.E.**  
**Annie Fox's**  
**Wednesday Night**  
**Dinner**  
 June 18th  
 Dinner @ 6:30pm  
**Shepard's Pie**  
 Salad, Bread,  
 and Dessert  
**\$10**  
 Please RSVP  
[RSVPbrandonelks@yahoo.com](mailto:RSVPbrandonelks@yahoo.com)

JUNE 27TH

**Mark Vargo and Crew**  
**FRIDAY**  
**NIGHT**  
**Dinner**  
 June 27th 6:30pm  
 Country Fried Steak  
 Potatoes, gravy  
 Veggie, salad, and  
 Dessert  
**\$15**  
**JUKEBOX**  
**JAM!**

JUNE 8TH

**Best Breakfast in Town**  
**Brandon Elks BLOE Breakfast**  
 New Price!  
**\$12**  
 \$6 child  
 12 and under  
**sunday**  
**breakfast**  
**SUNDAY JUNE 8TH**  
**8AM-11AM**  
 Open to the public  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT**

JUNE 20TH

**Nickie and Friends**  
**Friday Steak Night**  
 Join us for the best steak in town!!  
**New**  
**Prices! June 20th**  
 Dinner @ 6:30  
 Steak, fish, or shrimp with  
 potato, veggie, salad  
 And dessert  
**\$15** **\$17** **\$15**  
 Rock out with  
 Taylor Taylor

## TO OUR ELKS RV GUESTS

Welcome to our RV Park  
**ELKS MEMBERS ONLY**

OUR RATES ARE:

- ▶ \$25 per night; 7th night FREE
- ▶ RV Storage is \$60 per month

**THANKS FOR STAYING**  
**IN OUR PARK**

Mark Vargo- 813-376-8855  
 LODGE PHONE - 813-685-6469



## BUGLE BOOSTERS:

George & Carolyn Thomas  
 Jeff & Pat LaVoie  
 Kim Martinez  
 Gerri Mann  
 Joseph Zebrak  
 Frank & Lynda Craft  
 Diane & Ken League  
 George & Mary Lou Scribner  
 Bob & Jackie Florentino  
 Charlene Hart  
 Henry & Julie Ebert

## BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!

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

**JOIN THE**  
**BOOSTER CLUB**



# Happy Birthday

TO OUR JUNE BIRTHDAY MEMBERS

CHARLES MORGAN, NELSON HERNANDEZ, JESSE PHILLIPS, TERESA REINHARDT, SHERWIN SCOTT, EDWARD MCNAMARA, RAYMOND, SHEELY, GREGG KNEPPLE, LEW PALUMBO, STEVEN ONDIK, JOHNATHAN KRAMER, MARK VARGO SR., JAMES HOLDER, LINDA HUGHES, ROSEANNE CARACCIOLO, DONNA CARLISLE, JOHN MILLER, MARK BAKER, LARRY OLIVER, JEFF SKLUT, KAREN MACDONALD, RICHARD MONTPAS, JOSEPH ALBERICO, DONALD KAISER, DAVID KLOGGENBURG, STEPHEN BACKHAUS, RENE TRASORRAS, JANIS GREENE, JOHN ADAMS, LAURA ASGARI, ROBERT GALINAT, JOYCELYN SHEELY, DAVID BINNING, JAMES YOUNG  
JAMIE YOUNG!

## BIG THANK YOU

Lou would like to thank all those who volunteered on " Mothers Day" it was a BIG success because of you! We served 174 breakfasts! And all Mom's got a rose!



**PLEASE HELP KEEP  
THE KITCHEN  
CLEAN**

This is just a friendly reminder. When you are cooking at anytime in the kitchen you must take your trash out to the dumpster. Even if the bag is not full, please take it out. This will prevent any getting any creatures in our kitchen. Also, after washing your pots, pans, and dishes, please put them away. This way when the next person comes into the kitchen to cook, they do not have to put things away before they start cooking or looking for items they may need to use.

Thank You  
Marionette



# New Snack Bar Prices

## Effective June 1st

**Hamburger \$7.50**  
**Double Hamburger \$8.50**  
**Cheeseburger \$8.00**  
**Double Cheeseburger \$9.00**  
**Jumbo Hot Dog \$6.00**  
**Grilled Cheese \$4.50**  
**French Fries \$4.50**  
**Sweet Potato Fries \$5.50**  
**Onion Rings \$5.50**

**Due to rising food prices,  
 We have no choice but to  
 Increase our prices.  
 Thank you for your understanding**

### Learn how to deal with Dementia

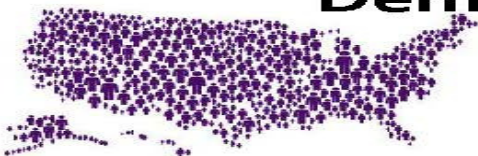
**FREE Presentation By**  
 Jill Andrew, CDP, Director of  
 Marketing Tessera Brandon

Jill Andrew, CDP will present a very informative presentation regarding Dementia. She will explain ways to help you recognize symptoms of dementia; explain what dementia is and share some great ways to communicate with a person who has dementia as well as some helpful hints to make life better for you and for the person with dementia.

**Everyone is invited. Bring your  
 friends, neighbors and family.**

**WHEN: June 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:00 PM**  
**Where: Brandon Elks Lodge**

### Dementia Statistics



**Over 7 million Americans** are living with Alzheimer's (a form of dementia). By 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million.



The lifetime risk for Alzheimer's at age 45 is **1 in 5 for women and 1 in 10 for men.**



About **1 in 9 people (11%)** age 65 and older has Alzheimer's.

**1 in 3** older adults dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia.



It kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.

**Disclosure:** These statistics were taken from the internet and not prepared or supplied by guest speaker Jill Andrew, CDP / Director of Marketing of Tessera Brandon, An Embassy Healthcare Assisted Living Community.





# CARD BINGO!

Food, Prizes, and lots of fun!

**Wednesday June 11th**

FOOD AT 6:00PM

GAME STARTS AT 6:30PM

**BRANDON LADIES  
OF ELKS**

Monies  
Benefiting  
Lodge Elks  
Charities

**\$20**  
Tickets  
At Bar

**BRANDON ELKS  
LODGE**



# FLAG DAY

**14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

*Ceremony starts  
At 1:00pm*

**Honoring Our Great Flag**  
Please Bring a covered  
dish to share  
after the  
ceremony



**VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Committee Chair**  
**Robin Rutzke**

**BPOE Leading 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!**



## **ATTENTION – ATTENTION – ATTENTION!**

**Parade of Heroes**  
**recognizes and honors veterans from**  
**WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, Gulf War,**  
**Operation Iraqi Freedom and**  
**Operation Afghanistan Freedom.**



### **Parade of Heroes**

**3-day, all expense paid event**  
**in our nation's capital honoring our Military Veterans**  
**over Veterans Day**



**If you are interested in participating in the**

### **Parade of Heroes**

**For more details go to our**  
**FSEA Historical Programs 2025 Parade of Heroes Website**  
**for enrollment and more details.**

**Registration opens on [www.floridaelks.org](http://www.floridaelks.org)**  
**second week in January, 2025**

**Reach out to Brandon Veteran Chair, Robin Rutzke**  
**305-398-5654 [rrutzke@gmail.com](mailto:rrutzke@gmail.com)**

**Brandon Lodge has participated in this event each year sending many of**  
**Military Veteran Brandon Lodge members to Washington.**

**If you are a Military Veteran,**  
**take advantage of this great opportunity and event!**



Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 Centennial Lodge Drive  
Brandon, FL 33510

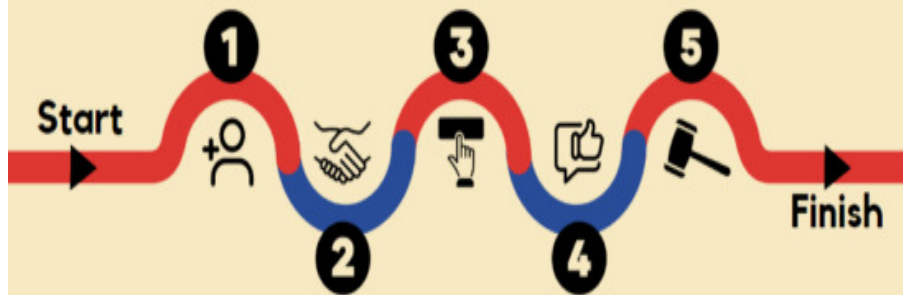
**\*\*Change Service Requested**



# ELKS

*Every Member Begins as a Guest!*

## NEW MEMBER RECRUITING



1. Ask a friend to join the Elks.
2. Invite your friend to the Lodge.
3. Ask them to apply on-line.
4. Follow-up with the application.
5. Schedule an initiation.

Community • Friendship • Charity  
[join.elks.org](http://join.elks.org)



### FLORIDA WILL, LIVING TRUST LIVING WILL

#### POWER OF ATTORNEY

William R. Mumbauer, Attorney  
813-685-3133

205 N. Parsons Ave., Brandon, FL 33510  
[www.flwilltrustsprobate.com](http://www.flwilltrustsprobate.com)

Living Will \$75

Durable Power of Attorney \$75

Health Care Surrogate Designation \$75



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Licensed Insurance Agent

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