

AUGUST 2024



Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 CENTENNIAL LODGE DRIVE, BRANDON, FL 33510 ALL AMERICAN LODGE 1999-2000 PHONE 813-685-6469 FAX 813-643-5652

Volume 24 Issue 8

www.brandonelks.org



Message From Your Exalted Ruler, Donald A Harrison

August has arrived and the start of school is near. Members of the lodge collect and distribute backpacks and supplies to our local schools. Your assistance in this endeavor is appreciated.

I must be honest; I have been disappointed with the number of member that have reached out to me on my requests for assistance. We put on a lot of events, dinners, Bingo, bar poker, snack bar, hall rentals, community projects, youth related activities and programs, and many others.

As a fraternal organization, the underlying nature of a fraternal family is philanthropic work, giving based on an altruistic desire to improve human welfare. The hall rental program's goal is to raise revenue from our labor to fund many of the youth, veteran, homeless, and other noble activities in our attempt to make this community, stronger and better. All of our programs has generally two goals, raise enough money to cover our expenses and additional funds for community betterment. That said, the reality should be no surprise, a lack of membership volunteers to assist in these programs will result is less activities. In the decade plus I have been a member, youth activities have substantially been reduced. Scholarships have seemingly disappeared. Outreach programs assisting the homeless has ceased. The cancellation of these worthy endeavors is the slippery slide that is

going to effect other programs, catering, snack bar, dinners, etc.

We need assistance in putting on dinners, snack bars, catering events, youth activities, scholarship programs, school liaisons, to list a few. It may come over a bit harsh, but the reality, if member are unable, unwilling, or uncaring, more events will be reduced or eliminated. We are Elks and we are expected to assist our causes. I thank you for paying their dues. I thank you for attending our events. But, without members, stepping up, 8 hours a

month, other events are in peril. In July we have a substantial increase in Bingo attendance leading to a substantial increase in snack bar revenue. We are having issues with assistance on preparing dinners.

Our building is designed to generate substantial revenue through the use and rent of the rental hall and the kitchen. The size of these two facilities place a financial burden on this lodge that is offset through the rental events that generate the income necessary to pay the obligation, all through monetizing YOUR labor into income.

In closing, you can communicate your desire to take part in the above activities by emailing Elks2383sharing @yahoo.com.

Thank you, Donald A. Harrison 57th Exalted Ruler Brandon Lodge #2383

WE ARE ELKS! WHAT DO WE DO? WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE. HOW? WE HELP, WE SHARE, WE ARE SEEN.



ELK OF THE MONTH

Elks volunteers are the breath, heart, blood or any lodge. Without volunteers, we cease to exits. Our lodge simply will not function with out members steeping up, filling a role, and bringing the pieces together.

This month's elk member is a gentleman that GETS THE WORD OUT. He maintains the website. Much of what this lodge is about can be found on the web site. What are we doing, it is there. What's for dinner, it is there too. Want to help, the link is there. What is happening in January 2025, it is there. How to rent the hall, guess what, it is there. Stories of members making an impact in our community, it is there too.

Please, when you see him thank him for all he does to assist with information to our members

Thank you and congratulation to Ray Blinski, ELK OF THE MONTH.

Brandon Lodge Officers for 2024-2025 Elk Year

Donald Harrison Exalter Ruler 813-376-8949



Lou Valencia Leading Knight 813-376-9863



Robin Rutzke Loyal Knight 305-498-5654



Wendy Smith Lecturing Knight 813-862-8573



Mark Fox Lodge Chaplain 813-785-5353



Puhalla Lodge Esquire 813-245-0827



Michael Fultz 813-205-5885



Beverly Laundy Inner Guard 813-446-0150



Mary Lou Schreck Secretary 813-458-5872

Member Illness/ Convalescence: **Notify Lodge** Secretary



Nancy Price Treasurer 813-756-9341

Rick Weigand 1 Year Trustee 813-748-2678



Mark Vargo 2 Year Trustee 813-376-8855



Nickie Wells 3 Year Trustee 813-716-8051



Marionette Garvey 4 Year Trustee 813-956--3776



Ed Ciesla 5 Year Trustee 813-679-7699



Committee Chairs 2024-2025

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 - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

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 State Associations: TBD (Could be You!)

Elks Memorial Day: Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Veterans Services: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

ENF: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056

Hall Rental - Jan Czajkowski 518-312-9891

Hoop Shoot - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

House Committee - Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Kitchen Manager - COULD BE YOU

Lodge Advisors - Henry Poage 813-480-6272

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

Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-378-1597

Public Relations - Mike Highfill 813-812-2727

Youth Activity - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Web Master: Ray Blinski - webmasterbrandonelks@gmail.com

BLOE BITS Next Meeting is JULY 1ST @ 7:00 PM

Hello everyone and I hope everything is good. I want to thank the people that came out in this heat to help me clean out the shed. It was a hot one and we still made it thru. A BIG thank you goes to Carolyn Thomas, Kathy Bilinski, Melinda Giffen Frater, my friend Jeb Boulware and myself.

We had a great turn out for the Memorial Day and 4th of July picnics. The ladies didn't fail the lodge either day. We had 20+ items to auction for both events and BLOE knocked it out of the park!! Way to go ladies! We made \$905 and \$750, respectively.

The Mother's Day and Father's breakfasts both had a great turn out. The baskets that were made were awesome and earned \$646 and \$372, respectively.

At the last meeting, we had our newest member step forward to chair our Halloween party AND the Masquerade Ball. Now that we have a chairperson, I HOPE that she successfully gets people to help. Let's not let her down.

Remember that we have the August ladies fashion show coming up. Remember to sign up for the FLOE conference in Sept. Lots of good thing are coming and we hope to see you all there.

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. ~ Arthur Ashe

Thank you, Becky Cresswell President KNOW YOUR WORTH



500 Club Winners

Called Not Signed up - D Deputy, E Cantrell, R Greene, M Tennant, S Blackman, P Horton, D Davenport, B Young Signed up; present - D Harrison Signed up; not present - Pat Lavoie

Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction IULV



Our Lady of Distinction for July is a very new member of our group. She started showing her worth even before she officially became a member.

She was part of the crew that had the enormous task of cleaning and straightening the ladies' shed. She is a breath of fresh air when she enters the room and is full of great ideas and enthusiastic about helping when and wherever she

She stepped up when a chair for the Halloween Party and Masquerade Ball was solicited and her creative juices and "can do" attitude will make this event a success.

Her Key Lime Pie for the Memorial Day Bake Sale started a bidding war with the BLOE making out for sure.

She came to us thru her husband who was recently hired as a bartender, and we are getting two for the price of one in the bargain. Please join me in congratulating Melinda Giffen Frater as our Lady of Distinction for July.



Cyndi Buchanan

Yellowfin Realty 813.391.7231

CyndiBuchanan.YFR@gmail.com

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Kevin Talbert Director / Owner

Office Manager

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

AUGUST

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT Dinner * Dancing * Music

Weekly 50/50 Raffles \$500 Club Drawing



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.

Thank you. Mark C. Vargo, Sr., PER Board of Directors Chair

BLOE BREAKFAST
ALL YOU CAN EAT \$10
2nd 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. 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

SUN	MON	TUES \	WED	THUR	HRI	SAI
28	39	30	31	O1 IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	03 1PM OLYMPICS PLANT CITY
O4 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 12-5PM LOUNGE RENTAL	05 6:30PM BLOE MEETING - HALL	O6 5PM-7PM CARDS SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	07 6:30PM PASTA NIGHT DINNER LOUNGE	08 IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	10
8AM -11AM BLOE BREAKFAST HALL SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	12 Lodge Meeting 7PM	5PM - 7PM CARDS SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM		IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM 6:30PM 8RANDON BOY'S	16 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS MUSIC: BEN MEYER	17 DD/VP VISITATION DINNER BRANDON COCKTAILS 5PM DINNER 6:30PM
SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	19 7 PM BOARD MEETING - HALL	20 5PM-7PM CARDS SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	6:30PM BLOE DINNER LOUNGE	DINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	24 11AM BLOE FASHION SHOW 6:30PM ELKS BIRTHDAY DINNER HALL RENTAL 7PM - 11PM
SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	26	27 5PM - 7PM CARDS SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	28 6:30PM VETERAN'S DINNER LOUNGE	DINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS MUSIC: BERT & THE PARTY BOYS	31 8AM - 12PM FOOD & MAGAZINE DRIVE 2PM LODGE GAME DAY LOUNGE

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.

Save the Date
BLOE MEETING, AUG 5TH
LODGE MEETING, AUG 12TH
BOARD MEETING AUG 19TH

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: Carole DiAddezio

2486

AUGUST MENU ITEMS

THE ONLY WAY TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL IS TO RSVP RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM

BY 12 NOON THE DAY BEFORE FOR ALL 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 AUGUST 11TH

AUGUST 2ND



AUGUST 7TH



AUGUST 9TH



Best Breakfast in Town
Brandon Elks BLOE Breakfast

Sunday
breakfast

SUNDAY AUGUST 11TH

8AM-11AM

SUNDAY AUGUST 111H

8AM-11AM

Open to the public

ALL YOU CAN EAT

AUGUST 16TH



AUGUST 21ST



AUGUST 23RD



AUGUST 28TH



AUGUST 30TH



BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!
Please help defray the cost of printing and

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 \$50 per month

THANKS FOR STAYING IN OUR PARK

Frank Craft - 813-245-6238 LODGE PHONE - 813-685-6469



BUGLE BOOSTERS:

Pat & Jeff LaVoie Kim Martinez Lynda & Frank Craft Carolyn & George Thomas Ron & Ester Cantrell Julie & Henry Ebert

Charlene Hart
Donald Harrison
Kenneth League
Diane League
Richard Clark
Jackie Florentino
Gerri Mann

Karen McArthur Angela Sweeney Joseph Zebrak David Zilka Mary Lou & George Scribner Pat & Bernie Hiskey

JOIN THE BOOSTER CLUB

mailing out our Bugle.

Donations help a great deal!!





On JULY 13TH we had a birthday dinner for members of our lodge to celebrate those members that had a birthday in June & July. The member had a choice of country fried steak, fish with a shrimp/parm sauce, potatoes, vegetables and a salad and finished with a song and cake and ice cream.











96-Years Young Brandon Member Stearns Poor Honored Guest at 80th Anniversary of D-Day

This past June, the Florida State Elks organized a trip to Normandy to participate in the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Brandon member Marine Stearns Poor, along with three other WWII Veterans from Florida were honored guests of the Florida State Elks on this trip.

This was a 7-day all expense paid trip to Normandy for our WWII Veterans. It was the Elks way of thanking our WWII Veterans for their service in keeping our country free and for fighting for the freedom of the world. Anchor Report of Fox 13 News,

Mark Wilson, accompanied the FSEA on this trip and reported each evening on the news for that day's event.

During this trip of celebration, Stearns visited Arromanches, Point du Hoc, Utah Beach, Paris, Montparnasse Tower, Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Champs Elysees, Arc de Triomphe and Montmartre. And the big event was our WWII Veterans along with all attending Elks being honored in the St. Mere Eglese Parade.

Pictures of this historic event are posted on the https://www.FloridaElks.gov web site at the bottom of the page in the D-Day





The **Brandon Ladies of Elks** donated yarn to the Brandon

Senior Center in the name of our recently deceased member Donna Martineau. Donna was an Elk and a very active member in the BLOE.

She helped with BLOE Breakfasts and was the Sunshine Chair for many years. Donna supported the Brandon Lodge by attending frequent dinners and other fundraising events. The Brandon Senior Center will use the yarn to make hats, scarves and gloves for the homeless, lap blankets and wheelchair pouches for disabled veterans and blankets and hats for foster children. The Senior Center crochet group is supported only by donations. As you can see, this donation in the amount of approximately \$300 filled our cupboard!



HELLO PER'S just an FYI for you, our next PER luncheon is Thursday, August 8th at 11:30. Our destination will be Glory Day's at 11310 Causeway Blvd., Brandon. Located where Leroy Selmon's use to be. Hope to see you there. Kim Martinez PER





SUSTAINING DONATIONS

BECOME A SUSTAINING DONOR - HARRY ANNA BECOME A SUSTAINING DONOR - ENF

Thank you
Donald A Harrison
Exalted Ruler, Brandon Elks Lodge #2383





Hey Ladies..... Did You Know?

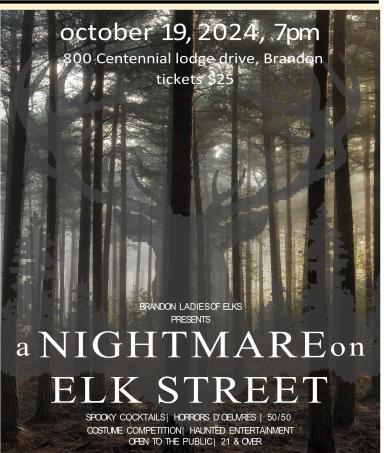
Ladies, did you know that you are automatically a member of the Florida Ladies of Elks (F.L.O.E)? Every woman who is an Elk a spouse of an Elk, or a widow of an Elk, is automatically a member of F.L.O.E. There are no dues required . . . no forms to fill out. . . No mandatory meetings. However, F.L.O.E. does conduct quarterly meetings that you are encouraged, and we hope you would, attend as well as the Annual F.L.O.E. conference that is a fantastic weekend of comradery, which is being held at Daytona Beach September 19th – 21st .

What actually is F.L.O.E. you might ask and what is its' purpose? Per the By-Laws of F.L.O.E., the organization was formed for the expressed purpose of planning, organizing, and conducting the Annual Conference of F.L.O.E. and, F.L.O.E. members, as well as its affiliated ladies' groups, to benefit and support the Florida Elks Children's

Therapy Services, the Florida Elks Youth Camp and various other projects for their affiliated Lodges. Through F.L.O.E.'s financial, administrative, management and fundraising efforts, F.L.O.E. has long demonstrated the true meaning of Caring and Sharing. To date, the ladies of F.L.O.E. have donated over \$2 MILLION to the Florida Elks Charitable Trust Fund and our Major Projects.

If you would like to know more about F.L.O.E. please reach out to some of our F.L.O.E. Past Lady Presidents, such as Connie Kalel-Poage, Beverly Messerschmidt or Jane Moon. They will be more than happy to answer any questions you might have.





VETERANS AFFAIRS
Committee Chair
Robin Rutzke

BPOE Loyal 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!





At the monthly veteran's dinner at the lodge on June 26th, Esteemed Leading Knight Lou Valencia presented a check for \$2425.00 to Annette Kirk, American Gold Star Mothers Inc., National 1st Vice President and member of the Veterans Memorial Park Memorial Committee. The money was raised by the lodge veterans committee fundraiser and will be earmarked to help with the construction of a Gold Star Monument on the grounds of Veterans Memorial Park.

Left to Right: Esteemed Loyal Knight and Veterans Committee Chair Robin Rutzke, Jeff Sklut Veterans Memorial Park Committee Chair, Annette Kirk, Lou Valencia, Dave Braun Veterans Memorial Park Committee Chair, Three-year trustee Nickie Wells, Four-year trustee Marionette Garvey and Chaplain Mark Fox.



Brandon Elks Exalted Ruler Donald Harrison presented a ROKU Voice Remote TV Remote Control to Kathryn Bryant, James A. Haley Veterans Hospital Home Foster Care Supervisor. One of her foster veterans requested this remote for his birthday and because of an anonymous donation to the Brandon veterans chair, his request was fulfilled. Kathryn said the foster veteran requested a voice activated ROKU because he is bedridden and has difficulty changing channels using a regular remote. Elks Care - Elks Share.

Picture: (Left to Right) Esteemed Leading Knight Lou Valencia, Kathryn Bryant, Donald Harrison and Esteemed Loyal Knight and Veterans Committee Chair Robin Rutzke.



Victoria Harrison

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