



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



MARCH 2023

www.brandonelks.org

Volume 23 Issue 3



MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER

Elks Care - Elks Share



Marionette Garvey
Exalted Ruler

This is my final message as your Exalted Ruler. I want you all to know that I appreciate and thank each and every one of our members, Officers, Committee Chairs for your support. Thank you for supporting our lodge, volunteering, attending events, coming to meetings, welcoming in new members and for being a good Elk for our organization and our community. I enjoyed my time as ER; it's an experience I will never forget and one I will always treasure. There were so many things that I am grateful for and to thank everyone for; too many to mention in this, my last message.

I leave you with this one thought. Please continue to support our lodge, its' Officers, and Committee Chairs. Be involved. Come to functions and events. Enjoy your lodge. Enjoy being an Elk.

Our lodge has many good Elk members, and we are fortunate to have those who have volunteered their time and talents to be Officers for our lodge for the coming new year. I wish our upcoming new Exalted Ruler and Officers all the very best. I will be here to support them in any way that I can, and I ask you to do the same.

Thank you and here's to a successful 2023-2024. Keep Brandon Lodge #2383 strong!

Your Exalted Ruler, Marionette Garvey

Elk of the Month



It gives me great pleasure to announce Frank Craft as Elk of The Month. Frank has been taking care of our RV Park for many years. He has been doing such a great job on this. Frank even helps with dinners on taking the orders and money for them. Any time you ask Frank for help he is there with a helping hand. So please congratulate Frank Craft as Elk of the Month

Officer of the Quarter



The officer of the third quarter is Robin Rutzke. Robin has worked very hard with putting on four food drives during the year along with her helpers'. These events helped support Echo's food pantry and our Veterans at James A Haley Hospital. She also makes sure that at Liberty Manor if one of the Vets have a birthday, she is there with a birthday cake for them. Robin has organized for James A Haley Hospital bags of goodies for them. So please congratulate Robin Rutzke as Officer of the Quarter.

From the Secretary's Desk,

Our Grand Lodge assessment has increased by \$2.00 due to insurance. Be advised that our 2023-2024 dues will increase by that amount making the dues \$129 per Lodge year due April 1, 2023.

Fraternally,
Mary Lou Schreck,
Lodge Secretary



Brandon Lodge Officers for 2022-2023 Elk Year



Marionette Sexton
Exalted Ruler
813-956-3776



Art Yanni
Leading Knight
813-917-2554



Lou Valencia
Loyal Knight
813-376-9863



Joe Schreck
Lecturing Knight
813-340-8069



Ed Campbell
Lodge Esquire
813-245-0827



Robin Rutzke
Lodge Inner
Guard
305-498-5654



Kelly Doyle
Tiler
941-681-1781



Mark Fox
Lodge Chaplain
813-785-5353



Mary Lou
Schreck
Secretary
813-689-2155



Nancy Price
Treasurer
813-756-9341



Nickie Wells
1 Year Trustee
813-716-8051



Larry Oliver
2 Year Trustee
813-767-0870



Ed Ciesla
3 Year Trustee
813-679-7699



Mark Vargo
4 Year Trustee
813-376-8855



Jim McCleary
5 Year Trustee
813-763-9019

2781

Committee Chairs 2022-2023

Accident Prevention Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Kitchen Manager Carol DiAddezio 484-678-3926

Hall Rental Kelly Doyle 941-681-1781

Lodge Purchasing Food Stephen Blackman 813-655-4251

Youth Activity Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Americanism Nickie Wells 813-716-8056

Hoop Shoot Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Membership Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0428

Veterans Services Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Lodge Activities Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Public Relations Jeffrey Carter 813-477-1410

ENF Marionette Sexton 813-956-3776

Drug Awareness Lori Underberg 813-655-3806

Grants Coordinator Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Lodge Advisor Henry Poage 813-480-6272

Community Activities Marionette Sexton 813-956-3776

Flag Day Kirk Pennywitt 678-524-0646

House Committee Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Lodge Maintenance Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Bugle Editor - Lara McCleary 203-988-5089

BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is March 6th at 7:00 PM
Hoping to See You There!



By: Ann Fox
B.L.O.E. President

Breakfast was so fabulous! Thank you all for helping and coming to enjoy. If you missed it, the next one is on March 12th, it is all you can eat for just \$10.00 each, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Come out and enjoy the delicious food, seeing lots of friends or meeting new ones. This month see Grace Weigand for a chance at a Spring basket! Our Lady of Distinction for February was Cathy Hudson. She is a fabulous helper and cook. Sausage biscuit gravy for breakfast, she cooked dinner on February 15th, she has really shined. Always on the floor at breakfast helping. Thank you, Cathy for all your help. We have been busy with catering events and Sunday breakfast on the second Sunday of the month. Thank you to all the ladies for helping with the catering events. It is really appreciated. Please let us know if you can volunteer, we can always use help. Remember our next meeting is March 6th, we hope to see you there. .Ann Fox

Brandon Ladies of Elks December Lady of Distinction February



The Brandon Ladies of Elks are blessed to have several schoolteachers both retired and still working as members. The Lady for February is one of these ladies. She is busy during the school year but still takes time out of her busy schedule to help at caterings, memorial services, special events, cooks for Wednesday dinner and demonstrates her cooking expertise at Sunday Breakfast and her modeling moves at our recent fashion show.

She was the star of the runway at the fashion show and has proved to hold her own matching the cooking skills of legends like Jean Barfield and Stephanie Shirley making sausage gravy. Just in case you haven't already guessed our Lady of Distinction for February is **Cathy Hudson**.

500 Club Winners

NOT SIGNED UP: Emma Michaels

WINNER: signed up and present – Rita Blizzard & Nickie Wells



Brandon Ladies of Elks

Presents
Wednesday MARCH 15TH
St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Chef – Rick Weigand



Time: 6:30 – 7:30 pm Cost \$15 ADVANCE Tickets ONLY

Menu: Corned Beef or Ham, Carrots, Cabbage, Red Potatoes, Green Jello Salad and Special Dessert by Stephanie Shirey

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Director / Owner

Linda Hinkle
Office Manager

Mark C. Vargo, Sr.
Director / Owner

LOUNGE HOURS

Sunday: 1pm – 7pm
 Monday - Thursday 4pm – 9pm
 Friday 4pm – 10pm
 Saturday 4pm – 9pm
 MANAGER: GLENN GARVEY

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
 OLDIES * COUNTRY * POP
 Weekly PER & 50/50 Raffles
 \$500 Club Drawing
 9pm Absent Member Toast
Monthly Drink Specials

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Spaghetti Dinner Hall 6:30PM \$8	2 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR	3 Music: Mike Albright Door: Mary Lou Friday night dinner see page 4	4
5 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	6 BLOE Meeting 6:30PM	7 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open	8	9 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR	10 Elks Officer Training - Orlando Music: Skip & Nancy Door: Mark Fox Friday night dinner see page 4	11
12 Elks Officer Training - Orlando 8AM - 11AM BLOE Breakfast - Hall Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	13  Lodge Meeting 7PM	14 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open	15 BLOE Dinner - Hall 6:30PM	16 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR	17 Music: Tourist Bob Door: Ed Campbell Friday night dinner see page 4	18
19 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	20 7pm Governing Board Meeting	21 BLOE Officer Installation & Dinner 6-10 PM 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open	22  Member Orientation 6:30PM	23 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR	24 Door: Joe Schreck No Music Friday night dinner see page 4	25 Officers Installation & Dinner 5PM Hall
26 Baby Shower Lounge 1:30-5PM Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	27  Lodge Meeting 7PM	28 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open	29	30	31 Door: Mark V Music: Kris Pierce Friday night dinner see page 4	

Please RSVP for Dinners
 RSVPBrandonElks@yahoo.com

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
 MARCH 13TH & 27TH, Lodge
 Meeting

BLOE Meeting MARCH 6TH

MARCH 16TH · 6:00 PM
 Brandon Boys

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 2nd Sunday BLOE Breakfast
 \$10
 Tuesdays 7pm Boy Scouts

Lodge Meetings Are Open To Members In
 Good Standing and is the Place to Discuss
 any Lodge issues. 2nd Monday of each
 month!

Dress code for meetings is long pants
 and collared shirt for men.
 Skirt, Dress, or long slacks for women.

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

Member Illness / Convalescence: Notify
 Lodge Secretary



MARCH MENU ITEMS

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

MARCH 1ST

GLENN & CREW \$8
ENTRÉE: SPAGHETTI WITH MEATBALLS
DESSERT



MARCH 3RD

DON & FRIENDS \$15
ENTRÉE: (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE): LEMON DILL SALMON,
TILAPIA W/ SHIMP PARM SAUCE OR HOMEMADE MARYLAND STYLE CRABCAKE.
SALAD & CLAM CHOWDER
DESSERT
MUSIC: MIKE ALBRIGHT



MARCH 10TH

NICKIE & FRIENDS \$13
ENTRÉE: LASAGNA
SALAD
DESSERT
MUSIC: SKIP & NANCY



MARCH 31ST

JIM & FRIENDS \$TBD
ENTRÉE: ROAST PORK LOIN
SIDES: MASHED POTATOES, VEGGIES
SALAD
DESSERT



MARCH 17TH

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

STEAK NIGHT



MARCH 22ND

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



MARCH 24TH

MARK VARGO & FRIENDS \$12
ENTRÉE: COUNTRY FRIED STEAK & GRAVY
SIDES: POTATOES, VEGGIES
DESSERT



PLEASE READ: When using anything in the kitchen it is your responsibility to put everything back. Please do not leave your clean dishes in the dish drainer.

ANY food placed in the freezer or refrigerator needs to be labeled with the date and what is in the bag.

2631

TO THE RV GUESTS

Just a few words to

Welcome you back to our RV Park



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



BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!

Please help defray the cost of printing and sending out our Bugle. A donation of \$5 will help a great deal.

These folks are BUGLE BOOSTERS:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Diane League | Barbara Myer |
| Gerri Mann | George & Carolyn Thomas |
| Kim Martinez | Joseph Zebrak |
| Jeff & Pat Lavoie | Kenneth League |
| Frank & Lynda Craft | Richard Clark |
| David & Kathleen Zilka | Karen McArthur |
| Terry & Nina Rickett | Bernie & Pat Hiskey |
| Julie & Hank Ebert | Donna & Michael Fultz |
| Mary & Larry Lane | |

**JOIN THE
BOOSTER CLUB**

**VETERANS AFFAIRS
Committee Chair
Robin Rutzke**

**BPOE Inner Guard
USAF (ret)
305-498-5654**



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

God Bless our Veterans.



Brandon Lodge Delivers 100 Gift Bags to Patience of James A. Haley Veteran Hospital

The Brandon Lodge #2383, in collaboration with the Brandon Ladies of Elks (BLOE), presented 100 gift bags to James A. Haley Veterans Hospital (JAHVH). Doing things for our Veterans has always been important to our lodge and ladies. Donna Manusco-Fultz, BLOE chair, said it is a passion of hers because her dad was a veteran and was cared for in JAHVH before he passed. Robin Rutzke, Brandon Veteran Chair worked with Donna and our BLOE Ladies to put together the 100 gift bags for delivery. Each bag had approximately \$50 worth of items in them. Eighty-five of the bags contained gifts specifically for men and 15 gift bags had specific items for women veterans. On January 23rd, Grants Coordinator and SWCD PDDGER Sharon Hammersla delivered the gift bags to JAHVH for the Veterans in the Spinal Cord Injury Center and Polytrauma. Excess bags were donated to recreational therapy at the hospital.

Both our Elk members and our BLOE Ladies participated in packing of items in the gift bags. The goods for the gift bags were purchased using \$1,000 of the Freedom Grant awarded to our lodge, and with a donation of \$2,000 made by an Elk member and widow of an Elk (who wishes to remain anonymous), combined with over \$300 in donated items from our members and BLOE Ladies. Each bag contained a \$20 Patriot Coupon Book purchased with the \$2,000 donation by the anonymous donor. Patients can use the coupon book to purchase items in the hospital's Canteen Store, cafeteria, Starbucks and barbershop.

Our Brandon lodge has been donating and delivering gift bags to the patients of JAHVH for many years. Our lodge and our ladies work together supporting our Veterans. It is a passion of our lodge and ladies, and we are dedicated to bringing a smile to our Veterans, making sure they know they are not forgotten and that our Elks and Ladies are and always will be there for them.

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We are an Extremely Lucky Lodge!

We have fantastic members and volunteers! We see our volunteers all the time at our lodge putting on functions, cooking and cleaning, serving, holding special events, selling tickets, raising funds, collecting food and toys. But we also have some hidden heroes.

If a light goes out, the commode clogs up, the air conditioner filters need replacement, or any other everyday maintenance occurs, we have Rick Weigand who, for many, many years, has donated his time and talents to keep our lodge in tip top shape. And Lou Valencia has stepped up as Rick's right-hand man. Between the two, our lodge stays in running condition.

On Tuesday, January 24th, a main water pipe to the lodge burst, and the lodge had to close. Immediately a team sprung into action. Rick Weigand, Lou Valencia, Ken Musak, Glenn Garvey and Ed Ciesla all worked together to get our lodge back on-line. Ed Ciesla brought his own backhoe to help speed the digging of a seven-foot-deep hole to get to the pipe. These are some of our hidden heroes that jump in and take care of our lodge. They drop everything in their own personal lives and come together to make sure our lodge can stay open for its' members.

There are certainly other hidden heroes out there at other times coming to the rescue when our lodge needs them.

We thank all our hidden heroes for their love of our lodge and for everything they do for us. A special thank you goes out to Rick, Lou, Ken, Glenn and Ed. You fixed our lodge; you got the lodge back open and you saved our lodge a ton of money in repairs.

Truly *Elks Care – Elks Share* and our Elk members love our lodge!



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