

BUGLE





Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 CENTENNIAL LODGE DRIVE, BRANDON, FL 33510
ALL AMERICAN LODGE 1999-2000
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MAY 2024 www.brandonelks.org

Volume 24 Issue 5

Message From Your Exalted Ruler, Donald a Harrison

This first month has been an exciting learning experience. Changes are happening. New flooring has been installed in the rental hall and by the second week of May, the remainder of the lodge will have new flooring. Yet, there is still a lot to be done. In June we need to get the kitchen equipment out and thoroughly cleaned. While that is happening, we will take that opportunity to strip, clean, and wax the floors in the kitchen, walk-in cooler, and dry storage. Your assistance is requested.

We are expanding member opportunities to engage with each other. On May 11th, we will have a member's event. We will have bowling, table games such as dominoes, card games, and other activities. The snack bar will be opened. On May 18th, we will have the birthday dinner for members. For members with a birthday in May, this dinner is free.

During the month of May, we will have three events in the rental hall. The income from the rental hall provides some assistance in generating revenue to cover expenses for our lodge. Volunteers are the contact to obtain a contract for the hall, Volunteers set up and rearrange the hall for events in the hall, Volunteers provide the food for these rental occasions, Volunteers oversee the event for safety and security reasons. OUR LODGE IS DEPENDENT ON VOLUNTEERS. Please send an email to elks2383sharing@yahoo.com and let us know you want to assist. There are prizes in sending us an email and assisting.

We are Elks. Our charge is to get involved, lift and support one another and share the helping hand of charity and brotherly love with those in need. It only happens with labor, your labor, six hours a month.

WE ARE ELKS! WHAT DO WE DO? WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE. EXALTED RULER ~ DONALD A. HARRISON



ELKS OF THE MONTH

The month of April has been a whirlwind of activities. So many have assisted me in my transition to ER, leading activities within and outside of our lodge. Two members have spent more than 60 hours in April managing the floor replacement project. We thank Rick and Lou for the tireless efforts and dedication in making this lodge safer, cleaner, and modern. The Elks of the month for April 2024 are **Rick Weigand and Lou Valencia.** As EOTM, there is a free dinner and drink, a hug and a BIG THANK YOU!



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



Christina Puhalla Lodge Esquire 813-245-0827



Michael Fultz Inner Guard 813-205-5885



Beverly Laundy Tiler 813-650-1607



Mary Lou Schreck Secretary 813-458-5872





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

2928

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

ENF: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056

Veterans Services: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Hall Rental - Jan Czajkowski 518-312-9891

Hoop Shoot - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

House Committee - Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Kitchen Manager - Wendy Smith 813-862-8573

Lodge Advisors - Henry Poage 813-480-6272

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

Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-387-1597

Public Relations - Mike Highfill & Wendy Smith 813-862-8573

Youth Activity - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Web Master: Ray Blinski - webmasterbrandonelks@gmail.com

BLOE BITS Next Meeting is MAY 6TH @ 7:00 PM Hoping to See You There!

Well Ladies,

First meeting down and only 11 more to go. I have lots of room for improvement and we have lots of room to grow. Not much old news but new news we have plenty.

But before I say anything I want to say THANK YOU to the ladies that stepped-up the night of the Installation of the Elk Officers (the 23rd) and the ladies that came to help with Sharon's Memorial.

We have added lots of events on to the Brandon Elk calendar. We always have the BLOE Breakfast every 2nd Sunday and the BLOE Wednesday night dinners every month. Coming up we have catering events in May and June. Nancy Price is going to do Lottery Boards for June and July. We have July 13 for our summer event (not sure exactly what it will be named yet!!) 2 more catering events, Bunco 7/29. August 18 is the Rays game Get your tickets now. August 24 will be the Ladies Fashion show 11-3:00pm with Vendors and on Sept 14 we are having Casino night. The FLOE is the 19th -21st which I have been told is a lot of fun... I guess I will soon find out! October we are planning to have the Halloween party on the 19th . Then in December, which is always busy, the 2nd is the BLOE Christmas party, Elvis will be in the building on the 7th ,and on the 14th, we are planning our Christmas Tea with Vendors as well. Get some last-minute Christmas gifts.

Remember we are always needing volunteers and I hope we have an event that you would like to help with. Please call me or sign up at the next meeting on May 6th . I am hoping by giving you all an advanced timeline that you will do 4-6 hours for us to make very thing a success. I know a lot of you can't do a lot, but just think, you coming to a catering event and sitting at a table and just wiping off water spots off the silverware saves that time for other workers. Let your actions speak louder than words.

Thank you, Becky Cresswell President KNOW YOUR WORTH





Community • Friendship • Charity join.elks.org



Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction APRIL



Our April Lady of Distinction is a very familiar face around the Brandon Elks Lodge 2383. She can be seen working in the kitchen, collecting money at breakfast, buying lots and lots of socks for the Veteran's Christmas "Goodie" Bags and just being a help wherever she is needed.

She was treasurer for the BLOE for four years and then without taking a breath took on the president's job and the bar manager's job for the BPOE. She never stops giving. You know if there is a job to be done, call on this lady and you know she will be there to help achieve a successful outcome. The Brandon Ladies of Elks are lucky to have such a dedicated member who gives it her all no matter what task she is given. Please join me in congratulating Jane Gilblair, our Lady of Distinction for April.

Lady of the Year

I am very honored this evening to be able to announce the individual that you have chosen as Lady of the Year. She has been a member of the Brandon Ladies for many years and during that time has demonstrated by her hard work and can do attitude what a true Elk is. She works all of the breakfasts, hosts a Wednesday Night Dinner, can be seen serving and cleaning up at our caterings, cooks and helps at memorial services and is one of the best fundraiser we have. Ever since I have known her she is the first to step up and get the job done. In the past, she used her background as a teacher to chair the scholarship committee, past lady president and because of her forceful sales attitude has proven time and time again that if you persist you can sell raffle tickets to anyone who sets foot in our lodge. During this past year she has raffled off baskets for several different holidays and has raised over \$500 on each raffle she is

I would like to thank this wonderful lady for her dedication to our group and the support that she had demonstrated throughout her BLOE membership. Ladies, please join me in congratulating **Grace Weigand** our well deserved 2023-2024 Lady of the Year.

10510 Riverview Drive (813) 671-3121



Linda Hinkle Office Manager Riverview, Florida 33578 (813) 671-3730 Fax

Mark C. Vargo, Sr. Director / Owner

Kevin Talbert Director / Owner MON

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



Door Duty

MAY 3^{RD} -MARK F MAY 10^{TH} - CHRISTINA MAY 17^{TH} - MARIONETTE MAY 24^{TH} -MICHAEL F MAY 31^{ST} - DON H

BLOE BREAKFAST

ALL YOU CAN EAT \$10

2nd Sunday

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

500 Club Winners

Called Not Signed up - T Knight, T Williams M Martinez, E Epps, J Richmond, J Noriega, L Henbest, R Gurrera, L Hogue, MJ Keeth, M Bennett, T Tourville Signed up not present – Angela Sweeny

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!

<u>Dress code for meetings is long pants</u> <u>and collared shirt for men.</u> 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

28	29	30	01	02	03	04
			Pasta Night Hall 6:30PM \$10	BLNGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	Friday night dinner see page 5	5PM - 10 PM HALL RENTAL
05	06	07 5PM-7PM	08	09	10	11
SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	6:30PM BLOE MEETING - HALL 7PM PER MEETING - ANTE ROOM	CARDS SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM		IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	Friday night dinner see page 5	HALL RENTAL 2PM - 5PM GAME NIGHT- LOUNGE
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8AM-11AM BLOE BREAKFAST HALL SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	Lodge Meeting 7PM	5PM - 7PM CARDS SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	6:30PM BLOE DINNER LOUNGE	IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM 6:30PM BRANDON BOY'S DINNER - LOUNG	page 5	8AM – 12PM QTRLY FOOD AND MAGAZINE DRIVE 6:30PM BIRTHDAY DINNER
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	6PM BUNCO – LOUNGE 7 PM BOARD MEETING - HALL	SPM-7PM CARDS SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	Veterans Dinner MEMBER ORIENTATION & AUDIT 6:30PM	IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM FLORIDA ST	Friday night dinner see page 5 ATE ELK'S CON ORLANDO	5:30 - 9:30 HALL RENTAL IVENTION-
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	11AM - 2PM MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC	SPM-7PM CARDS SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM		BUNGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	Music: 5 TH GEAR Friday night dinner see page 5	

THUR

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, MAY 6TH
LODGE MEETING, MAY 13TH
BOARD MEETING APRIL MAY 20TH

LOUNGE HOURS

Sunday: 1pm - 7pm Monday - Thursday 4pm - 9pm Friday 4pm - 10pm Saturday 4pm - 9pm MANAGER: CAROL DIADDEZIO

MAY 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

MAY 1ST



MAY 3RD



MAY 10TH





MAY 15TH



MAY 17TH



MAY 22ND



MAY 24TH



MAY 31ST



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 McAi
Angela Swe
Joseph Zeb
David Zilka
Mary Lou &

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



mailing out our Bugle.

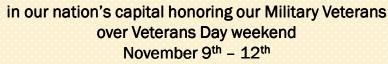
Donations help a great deal!!

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION!



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

3-day, <u>all expense paid</u> event





NOTICE DATE CHANGE

If you are interested in participating in the

Parade of Heroes

For more details go to our FSEA Historical Programs 2024 Parade of Heroes Website for enrollment and more details:

Register by logging on to

https://www.floridaelks.org/veterans-historic-program/parade-of-heroes

Feel free to reach out to Brandon Veteran Chair, Robin Rutzke 305-398-5654 rrutzke@gmail.com

or

Mary Lou Scribner/PER 813-230-1943 perelkmls@hotmail.com

Robin and Mary Lou will be happy to answer your questions and Provide you more information.

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!





Drunken Monkey's



Art Yanni

Glen Garvey

Tom Depinto

Joe Mugnai





May 11th 2-5pm

SNACK BAR WILL BE OPEN







Please join us
For dinner
To celebrate YOU!
May 18th 6:30pm

Country Fried Steak Or

New Orleans Seafood (tilapia w/ shrimp parm. sauce) Potatoes, Veggies Salad and

Free Birthday

To all Members With a May Birthday













Steven Russell Sawdey Memorial Scholarship Program

Steven Russell Sawdey was a member of our lodge, serving as an Exalted Ruler. He was called to service in Heaven on November 20, 2019. Prior to becoming an Elk, Steve served 31 years in the United States Armed Forces, having retired with the rank of Colonel.

Upon retirement, Steve shared his time with the Elks, our community youth, and our veterans. He assisted in the establishment of the Chaplin fund raising program at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa. Steve was a big part in our Elks Lodge and anti drug campaign.

On the fifth Friday of each month, we have 'Sawdey dinner', crab cakes and chicken, using the recipes and volunteers that worked with Steve at his dinners. We are honoring Steven and his family for the dedication and service to our country, community, youth, and veterans he impacted by creating the Steven Russell Sawdey Memorial Scholarship Program.

The funds from the Sawdey Dinners will be donated to this program. The income will be used to provide grants and scholarships for anti drug campaigns, Veterans services and high school ROTC graduates.

Colonel Sawdey, we take over your command to serve our community in the way you₈ served and we will forever keep your memory alive with our actions and deeds!

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!





Brandon Elks Lodge #2383 What A Way to End a Year!



On Monday, March 25th, outgoing Exalted Ruler Ed Ciesla was proud to have had the honor of initiating 4 new Elk members at the last meeting he would conduct as Exalted Ruler of Brandon Lodge #2383 for the Lodge year 2023-2024. What made this last meeting special was that the Brandon Lodge had the honor of initiating Stearns Poor, a 95-year young WWII Marine Veteran as a new member to their Lodge. Many members came to the meeting to witness this great occasion.

Stearns will be representing the Brandon Lodge as an honored guest for the trip to Normandy in June, which celebrates the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

The following morning Stearns telephoned PER Mary Lou Scribner to again thank everyone stating that it was such an honor becoming an Elk. To recap some of Stearns conversation: "The initiation was impressive. Everyone immediately made me feel a part of the Elks family. I was touched, moved, excited, and so happy to have taken this step to join the Elks. The initiation ceremony made me more curious and excited, and I will be sharing how wonderful an organization Elks are with my children, grandchildren, friends and golfing buddies."

The Brandon Elks are extremely proud and honored to have WWII Veteran Stearns Poor as one of their members.



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