

# 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



OCTOBER 2026

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

Volume 26 Issue 10

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER, ROBIN RUTZKE

October has arrived! It is the beginning of the most wonderful time of the year. We look forward to cooler temperatures, the holiday season, and upcoming vacations. I look forward to the arrival of our winter visitors and our RV park bustling with friendly faces and laughter. Yes, it will be time to catch up with our distant friends once again and in the next few months we will be able to listen to the stories from each one of them. I hope all our winter visitors travel to Brandon safely, and we will see you soon.

I want to take time to thank all Brandon Elks officers, committee members, Brandon Ladies of the Elks, members, and spouses for allowing my first six months as Exalted Ruler to be so fulfilling and exciting. Thank you to all of you for what you do for the lodge, our community, and our district. Your contributions and dedication to our lodge allow me to balance my Exalted Ruler responsibilities, my work duties as a JROTC instructor, and running my household. We have accomplished so much in six months, both large projects and the little everyday things needing completion and repair around the lodge. Every one of you should be proud of all our accomplishments/projects and proud to be part of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks Brandon Lodge #2383. "Elks Care-Elks Share."

Next, I also want to thank all of you who assisted, helped, and attended the district Vice President's fundraiser hosted by our lodge. When hosting an event, it takes extra time and energy to ensure our lodge is ready. You stepped up to the plate once again and our district VP Gail Domedion was incredibly grateful for all you did to make her fundraiser an over-the-top success. Lastly, the SWC district and our lodge will host a special and prestigious event on Friday, October 9th. We will welcome our Florida Elks State President Leonard "Lenny" DiLorenzo and his wife to our lodge for a social, dinner, and entertainment by our own Gary Varnum. I look forward to seeing the house packed with state and district dignitaries, Plant City, Lakeland, Arcadia, Sebring, Lake Placid and Brandon lodge members, and their guests. Please see the posted flyers in the lounge for more information on time, dinner prices, and the menu. Welcome to Brandon Lodge #2383 Mr. President and Lauren Dowd-Shedlock. Florida Elks United & Driving Forward.

Fraternally Yours,

Robin Rutzke

Exalted Ruler



### OCTOBER ELK OF THE MONTH

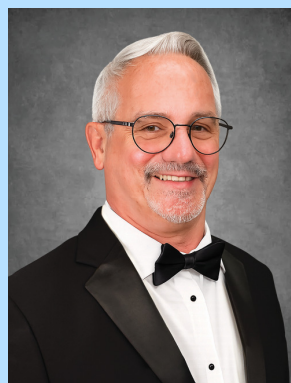


**Alan Smith** is strutting into October like a culinary superhero — **your Elk of the Month with a spatula in one hand and lodge spirit in the other.**

He swooped in to save Friday dinners when the volunteer list looked like a ghost town. He fired up the grill for the Labor Day picnic, kept the kitchen humming, and proved that when the lodge needs a hero, Alan doesn't just step up... *he shows up sizzling.* Congratulations, Alan — October's Elk of the Month and our resident "no-panic-I'll-handle-it" kitchen champion.



Lenny DiLorenzo for the Southwest Central District State President's visit, October 9th -10th. October 9<sup>th</sup>, dinner at Brandon Lodge. Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, dinner at Plant City Lodge. More details on page 5.



## Brandon Lodge Officers for 2026-2027 Elk Year

Robin Rutzke  
Exalted Ruler  
305-498-5654



Wendy Smith  
Leading Knight  
813-862-8573



Michael Fultz  
Loyal Knight  
813-205-5885



Jane Gilblair  
Lecturing Knight  
813-495-7260



Christina  
Puhalla  
Lodge Esquire  
609-217-5782



Scott Mesick  
Inner Guard  
708-261-9834



Carole  
DiAddezio  
Tiler  
484-678-3926



Jim McCleary  
Lodge Chaplain  
813-763-9019



Mary Lou Schreck  
Secretary  
813-458-5872

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



Nancy Price  
Treasurer  
813-756-9341

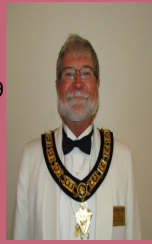
Nickie Wells  
1 Year Trustee  
813-716-8051



Marionette  
Garvey  
2 Year Trustee  
813-956-3776



Ed Ciesla  
3 Year Trustee  
813-679-7699



Rick Weigand  
4 Year Trustee  
813-748-2678



Lou Valencia  
5 Year Trustee  
813-376-9863



### Thank you, Brandon Elks!!

On behalf of Joshua, Hannah and Isabelle Vargo, both Patti and I want to personally thank the Brandon Elks Lodge, BLOE, the Brandon Boys and everyone that participated in the benefit Bingo and/or donated personally to financially help Joshua, Hannah and Isabelle with their growing medical debt from Isabelle's birth and subsequent hospital stays. My heart swells with Elkdome as our Lodge truly lives by our motto, "Elks Care, Elks Share". We love our Elks family. Our special thanks to Nickie, Nancy and Marionette for spearheading the successful event. There were many volunteers that helped in so many other ways to raise funds. Our love to you all!



Sincerely,  
Mark and Patti Vargo

### Thank you, Brandon Elks!!

Dear SWCD Leadership Team and Friends

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support of our District. The effort you made to join us—traveling near and far—truly exemplifies the spirit and dedication of what it means to be an Elk.

As I moved from table to table, listening to your laughter and feeling the warmth of your camaraderie, I was reminded of how fortunate I am to know such outstanding individuals. Your presence brought a special energy to the evening, and I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Thank you, once again, for showing what true fellowship and commitment look like. I'm inspired by your dedication and can't wait to see everyone again next weekend at our exceptional Lakeland Lodge DD visitation! Let's continue to create wonderful memories together.

With deepest appreciation,  
Gail Domedion, PER  
Southwest Central District Vice President  
Southwest Central District Membership Chair



# BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is  
OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 PM  
Hoping to See You There!

Hello All,

The ladies' dinners are on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. We have changed the dinners just a bit by incorporating a Game Night with our dinners. September's dinner was excellent, Thank You Terri for all your time and effort with these events. We played Show Me The Money and we had a great time. The Brandon Boys joined up for the evening and they had fun!!!

Our cake auction on Labor day was a huge success once again, we raised \$555 for our Charities. Thank you to all that participated and brought goodies for the auction. We are having our Halloween Spooktacular on October 31st. The cost is \$25, for the luncheon and entertainment. The entertainment is an Illusionist, and he came highly recommended by one of our own BLOE members. Please come out and bring your friends, this event is going to be awesome. The September breakfast was a little slow again, however we had a great group of volunteers for the month of September, and I hope to see you all again next month.

I want to say a great big THANK YOU to all who came out to support Joshua, Hannah and Isabelle Vargo at the Fund Raiser for the family. The final amount that was donated in the end was over \$8,000. The Elks and the BLOE really came through for one of our own!!! Paint Stick Bingo will be the 1st Saturday of every month starting in October. October 3rd is our first one and Donna will be our bartender for the evening. Come join us for a fun time and win some money!! See you all at our next meeting on October 5th.



Nancy Price  
President

## BLOE Elected Officers

President: Nancy Price

Vice president: Jane Gilblair

Recording Secretary: Donna Mancuso-Fultz

Corresponding secretary: Beth Benham

Treasurer: Janis Jacobson

Past Lady President: Terri Ciesla

## Appointed Officers

Chaplain: Mary Lou Schreck

Parliamentarian: Grace Weigand

Historian: Jerrilyn Pietro

**Official Hostess:** Lara McCleary & Jane Moon

## Committee Chairpersons

Audit and Budget: Nickie Wells

Birthdays and anniversaries: Cathy Hudson

Bylaws: Mary Lou Scribner

Catering: Nancy Price

Charities: Wendy Smith

Lady of distinction: Charlene Hart

Lots of luck: Kathy Hattan

Membership: Jane Gilblair

Program: Carolyn Thomas

Properties: Carolyn Thomas

Publicity: Jerrilyn Pietro

Scholarships: Kathy Eldridge

Secret pal: Marisol Hester

Sunday breakfast: Nancy Price

Sunshine: Cathy Hudson

Telephone: Charlene Hart

Ways and Means: Terri Ciesla

Wednesday dinners: Terri Ciesla

Yearbook: Lori Underberg

## Committee Chairs 2026-2027

Americanism: Carol DiAddezio 484-678-3926

Army of Hope: Lara McCleary 203-988-5089

Drug Awareness Education: Ed Ciesla 813-679-7699

ENF Fundraising: Ed Ciesla 813-679-7699

ENF Grants Coordinator: Kathy Bilinski [KayBilinski@yahoo.com](mailto:KayBilinski@yahoo.com)

ENF Scholarships: Jane Gilblair 813-495-7260

Government Relations: Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Harry-Anna Trust Fund: Ed Ciesla 813-679-7699

Hoop Shoot: **Volunteer needed – Contact ER**

Ladies Organization Liaison: Nancy Price 813-756-9341

Lodge Activities: Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Lodge Membership: Michael Fultz 813-205-5885

Orientation: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425

Public Relations: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425, Lara McCleary 203-988-5089 & Wendy Smith 813-862-8573

Ritual: Marionette Garvey 813-956-3776

Soccer Shoot: **Volunteer needed – Contact ER**

Veterans Services: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Other Lodge Committees/Positions:

Accident Prevention: Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Annual Calendar Updates: Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Bingo – Laurie Bayne 407-948-6176

Board of Directors: Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Bugle Editor: Lara McCleary 203-988-5089

Elks Memorial Day: Wendy Smith 813-862-8573

Flag Day: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Fraternal Committee: Lou Valencia 813-376-9863

Hall Rental: Wendy Smith 813-862-8573 Catering: TBD

Kitchen Manager: Marionette Garvey 813-956-3776

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

Lodge Hostess': Lara McCleary 203-988-59089 & Jane Moon 813-957-8578

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

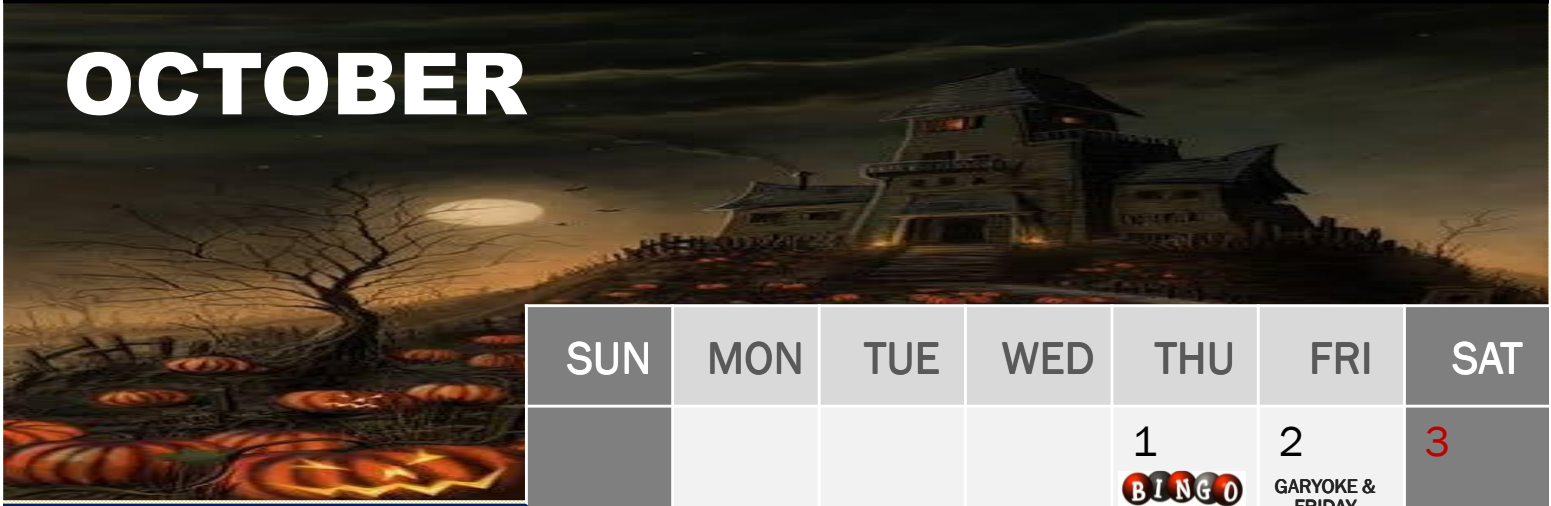
Lodge Food Purchasing: Stephen Blackman 813-378-1597

PER Committee Chair: Mary Lou Scribner 813-230-1943

Youth Activity: Melinda Frater 973-908-7745

Web Master: Ray Bilinski –webmasterbrandonelks@gmail.com

# OCTOBER



| SUN                                                                                 | MON                                                                                                                 | TUE                                                                                                               | WED                                               | THU                                                                                | FRI                                                                       | SAT                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                   |                                                   | 1<br><b>BINGO</b><br>IN THE HALL<br>6:30pm                                         | 2<br>GARYOKE &<br>FRIDAY<br>NIGHT<br>DINNER<br>SEE PAGE 5<br>FOR DETAILS  | 3                                                                                                     |
| 4<br>SOCIAL &<br>SPORTS<br>LOUNGE<br>1PM                                            | 5<br>7PM BLOE<br>MEETING –<br>HALL<br>7PM PER<br>MEETING –<br>ANTE ROOM                                             | 6<br>4:30PM -7PM<br>CARDS<br>    | 7                                                 | 8<br><b>BINGO</b><br>IN THE HALL<br>6:30pm                                         | 9<br>FRIDAY<br>NIGHT<br>DINNER<br>IS THE<br>PRESIDENT'S<br>VISIT<br>6PM   | 10<br>6PM<br>PRESIDENT'S<br>VISIT<br>PLANT CITY                                                       |
| 11<br>8AM -11AM<br>BLOE<br>BREAKFAST<br>HALL<br>SOCIAL &<br>SPORTS<br>LOUNGE<br>1PM | 12<br><br>LODGE<br>MEETING<br>7PM | 13<br>4:30PM -7PM<br>CARDS<br>  | 14                                                | 15<br><b>BINGO</b><br>6:30PM<br>IN THE HALL &<br>BRANDON<br>BOYS' DINNER<br>LOUNGE | 16<br>GARYOKE &<br>FRIDAY<br>NIGHT<br>DINNER<br>SEE PAGE 5<br>FOR DETAILS | 17                                                                                                    |
| 18<br>SOCIAL &<br>SPORTS<br>LOUNGE<br>1PM                                           | 19<br>7PM<br>BOARD<br>MEETING                                                                                       | 20<br>4:30PM -7PM<br>CARDS<br> | 21<br>6:30PM<br>BLOE<br>DINNER<br>& GAME<br>NIGHT | 22<br><b>BINGO</b><br>IN THE HALL<br>6:30pm                                        | 23<br>FRIDAY<br>NIGHT<br>DINNER<br>SEE PAGE 5<br>FOR DETAILS              | 24<br>DD/VP<br>INSPECTION &<br>VISITATION<br>SEBRING<br>LODGE TRUNK<br>OR TREAT<br>PARKING LOT<br>6PM |
| 25<br>SOCIAL &<br>SPORTS<br>LOUNGE<br>1PM                                           | 26<br>6:30PM<br>CARD BINGO<br>LOUNGE                                                                                | 27<br>4:30PM -7PM<br>CARDS<br> | 28<br>6:30PM<br>VETERAN'S<br>DINNER<br>HALL       | 29<br><b>BINGO</b><br>IN THE HALL<br>6:30pm                                        | 30<br>FRIDAY<br>NIGHT<br>DINNER<br>SEE PAGE 5<br>FOR DETAILS              | 31<br>11AM – 2PM<br>BLOE<br>SPOOKTACULAR<br>HALL                                                      |

## 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.

## Lounge Rental

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

## 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.

**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 also, the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month!!**

**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

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

## Save the Date

**BLOE MEETING, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**PER MEETING, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**LODGE MEETING, OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
**BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 19<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: WENDY SMITH

## OCTOBER 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**

**BY MONDAY NIGHT FOR WEDNESDAY 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

OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>



OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>



OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>



OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>



OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup>



OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>



OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>



Hello PER's

**BEEF O'BRADY'S**  
GOOD FOOD. GOOD SPORTS.

The luncheon is going to be Thursday, October 8th at 11:30. We are planning to go to Beef O'Brady's, the address is 889 East Bloomingdale Avenue, in Bloomingdale Square.

Your Restaurant Hunter Kim Martinez PER

## TO OUR ELKS RV GUESTS

Welcome to our RV Park

**ELKS MEMBERS ONLY**

OUR RATES ARE:

► NEW PRICE \$30 per night; 7<sup>th</sup> night FREE

► RV Storage is \$60 per month

**ALL RESERVATIONS ARE MADE**

**THROUGH CAMPSpot**

**SEE INFO ON PAGE 6**

Mark Vargo– 813-376-8855



### BUGLE BOOSTERS:

Richard Clark  
Karen McArthur  
Henry & Julie Ebert  
David & Kathleen Zilka  
Rob & Andrea Wetmore  
George & Mary Lou Scribner  
Robin Rutzke  
Gerri Mann  
Charlene Hart  
JR and Kathy Eldridge  
Patricia Rutzke

**JOIN THE  
BOOSTER CLUB**

Jack & Billie Piche  
Joseph Zebrak  
George & Carolyn Thomas  
Frank & Anne Behrendt  
Frank & Lynda Craft  
Jeff and Pat LaVoie  
Diane League  
Kenneth League  
Ed & Terri Ciesla  
Marissa & Jason Conner  
Jane and Marc Urser  
Ron and Esther Cantrell  
Kim Martinez

## TO OUR OCTOBER BIRTHDAY MEMBERS

THOMAS MYER, JACQUELINE PIETRO, JOSEPH HIGHSMITH, PHILLIP PETRY, LINDA HINKLE, TIMOTHY ROSENAU, ART YANNI, TERRY HALL, HOWARD SHIREY, DORINDA ROUNDTREE, PENNY BENZON, DAVID DEMEZA, JENNIFER ROBERTS, BRYAN BEBNOWSKI, KEVIN SOLOMON, LAURIE BAYNE, EDWARD BEJARANO, CHRISTINA JOHNSTON, SUSAN MEEHAN, GEORGE THOMAS, MATTHEW HAUDENSCHILD, ROBERT MAESTAS, JERRY BROCKMEIER, JOYCE BELMORE, JOHN SWEET, MICHAEL AZZARO, ALICIA RODZ-SMITH, BETH BENHAM, RICHARD LANGILL, KEN LENTFOEHR, FRANK CRAFT, TOM COLLINS, PATRICIA JACKSON, JAMES MCDONALD, BARRETT HIGGINS, TERRY OSKERSON, ALEZ BAKER, MIKE HORTON

**ASK THE ER OR LEADING KNIGHT  
ABOUT YOUR BIRTHDAY INCENTIVE**



Left to right: David Oberne, Doug Williams, Lillie Brown, Lawrence Brown

***Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of  
Distinction  
SEPTEMBER***



For the month of September, we look back and see everything that has added up in the past few years. Always there to step up and help when she is available. You can find her dressed in black and white volunteering at a catering event serving multiple tables. She also knows how to set the tables with all the correct silverware. Without her, we would not know the positive and negative in our group. She keeps the books balanced and reports to us each month. So, this month we will give the **Lady of Distinction award to Jan Jacobson** for her efforts as the treasurer working on her 4th year at this position.

**Lodge Olympics Lakeland  
November 7, 2026**

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN & FRIENDLY COMPETITION!**



November 7, 2026, I hope to see all of you at Lakeland lodge for fun, games, and food. Will you be one of the members to help us take home the victory?

The games members will be competing in are Darts and Horseshoes. The food is Wings and Pies. This time we are asking for people to sign up for food competition too. If you want to be part of the competition, there is a folder at the bar to sign up.

Food must be in the Lakeland kitchen by 12:30. Judging starts at 1:00. As chairperson for the Olympics (Jane Gilblair), I will select the judges. If you are interested in being a judge, please contact me.

If you are not interested in competing, please join us there for some fun and support of our lodge. If you don't want to drive there, ask around and carpool. There are always people going that will give you the opportunity to join them on the ride over.

## Exalted Ruler Recognition & Thank You

*With Appreciation & Gratitude*



★★ From Your Exalted Ruler ★★

### Nickie Wells & Nancy Price

Baby Vargo Fundraiser Fairy Godmothers. They waved their magic wands and poof — success!

### Gary Varum, Bill Guyer & Edwin Lopez

Bus Bosses of Elks Day at the Rays. They planned, organized, and executed transportation like a trio of logistical wizards.



### Marisol Hester, Dana Nelson & Marianne Cheek

Bathroom Beautification Brigade! They painted the women's bathrooms so fabulously that even the mirrors are blushing.



### Tuesday Snack bar "Fearsome Four"

A squad so mighty they could run a snack bar with one hand tied behind their backs. Fearsome, fabulous, and full of flavor



### Eamonn Doyle

Tuesday Night Snack bar's reigning **Wing King**. His wings don't just fly off the plate — they practically take flight.



### Ken Muzyk, Clay Poage & Rick Weigand

Banner-Hanging Heroes. They installed the entrance banner announcing **1.5 million** contributed to community events — basically our lodge's bragging rights in giant print.



### All Members Who Helped with the Boxing Event & Labor Day Picnic Setup

The Setup-Kitchen-Prep-Tear-Down Dream Team. You flipped the hall faster than a heavyweight champ and then turned around to organize the Labor Day Picnic like pros.

### Gary Varum & Crew

Float-Fabrication Fanatics. Prepping the flat trailer for parade glory like a group of glitter-loving engineers ready to roll into victory.



### Marisol Hester

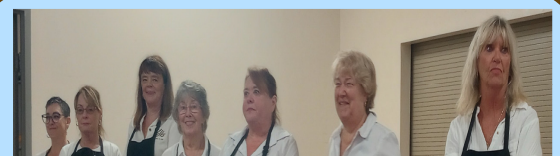
BLOE Labor Day Picnic Cake Auctioneer Extraordinaire. She sold cakes with the enthusiasm of someone auctioning off treasure chests.



### All Lodge Members, BLOE & Guests

The District Fundraiser Dream Crowd. You showed up, pitched in, and turned the event into a roaring success — teamwork at its finest.

**Joshua Vargo** swooped in like a culinary superhero, apron-cape fluttering, to rescue the fundraiser dinner when our dishwasher fell ill. Last-minute? Yes. Legendary? Absolutely. He kept the plates clean, the chaos calm, and the kitchen spirits high — all with that trademark Vargo gusto.



### Terri Ciesla & Crew

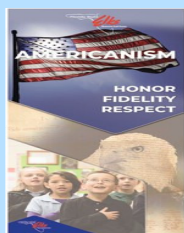
District Fundraiser Culinary Commanders. They cooked and served entrees with the precision of a five-star kitchen and the charm of lodge family.

## Brandon Elk's Lodge #2383 did not disappoint at the Labor Day Picnic

As Leading Knight, it was my responsibility to coordinate the Memorial Day Picnic, the July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic and the Labor Day Picnic. While the Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> picnics were successful, the Labor Day Picnic was nothing short of monumental. It was a packed house. I am personally thanking every member on attending and showing support of our great All-American Lodge. At a District Deputy Clinic, it was mentioned that the Brandon Lodge are over-achievers. Wear that title proudly! Each member definitely has earned it.



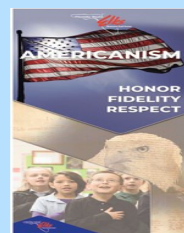
## Americanism Essay Contest



Sponsored By the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America

THEME:

"Explain a Constitutional Right or Privilege and How It Affects You and Your Family."



"The rights and privileges are the same for everyone but, impacts people in many ways. We would like the students to pick just one way so that a right or privilege affects them and their families". (Mark Eaton, GL Fraternal Committee Member)

**RULES:** 1. At the time of the contest, eligible participants must be students enrolled in one of these four divisions: I—5<sup>th</sup> grade; II—6<sup>th</sup> grade; III—7<sup>th</sup> grade; or IV—8<sup>th</sup> grade. 2. Essay length is not to exceed 300 words. 3. Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink. Also, essays must be submitted as written (or typed) by the entrant. 4. Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks Lodge nearest to the address of the entrant. 5. Participant must be identified by name, grade, school attending, and sponsoring Elks Lodge on the essay.

**Procedures:** 1. Go to [Elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm](https://Elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm). 2. Read, fill out application and author essay. (Write the essay with your own words. Artificial Intelligence is not acceptable). Originality counts for 30 points. 3. Submit package to Brandon Elks lodge (Americanism Committee Chair, Exalted Ruler or Lodge Secretary) by December 15, 2026.

Contact Americanism Chair Carol DiAddezio or Robin Rutzke, Exalted Ruler for more information.

## Schedule Initiations to Honor New GER

By Rick Gathan, G/L Membership Marketing Director

3089

In honor of Grand Exalted Ruler Timothy Jaeger, all candidates initiated during September and October will receive special recognition. These new Members will be reported separately on line 21 of the November 1 Mid-Year Membership Report and highlighted with gold frames, a meaningful tribute to both GER Jaeger and the candidates joining our Order.

To maximize participation and ensure every candidate is counted in this special recognition, Lodges are strongly encouraged to schedule at least one initiation ceremony during September and one in October. Don't leave candidates waiting. Make sure, they experience the pride and excitement of becoming a member during this honored period.

Review your candidate list and schedule an initiation as soon as possible. Communicate your September and October dates widely to your Officers, Members, and candidates. Make sure your Lodge is ready to welcome new Members with enthusiasm. A positive first impression sets the stage for long-term engagement. After initiation, invite new Members to participate in upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Show them how they can make a difference from day one.

"Ready Elks—Let's Go" and schedule those initiations and grow membership!

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

**BPOE Exalted Ruler**  
**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!**



## RV RESERVATIONS – CAMPSPOT

There has been a change to scheduling and paying for camping reservations at the Brandon Lodge RV park. Reservations and payment will now be completed online via the RV park info link on [brandonelks.org](http://brandonelks.org) website. Individuals desiring to camp at Brandon Lodge 2383 will be redirected to the [elks.org](http://elks.org) website where he or she will log in to verify membership and enter the CampSpot website to complete the reservation.

**The price per day for the RV park is \$30 per day, 7<sup>th</sup> night free!**

## ELKS SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships available to High School students planning on attending a four-year college. Please continue to read how they could be the recipient of an Elks scholarship.

Students should submit all applications to the local Elks lodge:

[floridaelks.org/lodges](http://floridaelks.org/lodges)  
 Brandon Elks Lodge 2383  
 800 Centennial Lodge Drive  
 Brandon, FL 33510.

### Eligibility: Most Valuable Student Scholarship

- Applicants do not need to be related to a member of the Elks.
- Scholarships are available only to students who are high school seniors enrolling in a four-year undergraduate degree program at an accredited U.S. American college or university.
- Applications available online starting August 1, 2026, at [enf.elks.org/MVS](http://enf.elks.org/MVS)
- Deadline on or before November 12, 2026
- Counselor Report due November 19, 2026

### Eligibility: Legacy Award Scholarship

There are \$6,000 scholarships available to children and grandchildren of Elks members.

The 2027 contest opens September 1, 2026, and closes on February 1, 2027.

Legacy Awards are \$6,000 scholarships (\$1,500 per year for four years). The

Foundation will offer a total of 400 awards in the 2027 contest.

- Children and grandchildren will compete separately against other children and grandchildren in their state.
- We have waived the standardized test requirement for the 2027 Legacy contest. You do not need to submit ACT and/or SAT scores.
- Applications available online starting September 1, 2026, at [enf.elks.org/leg](http://enf.elks.org/leg)
- Deadline on or before February 1, 2027, at 11:59 a.m. (noon) Pacific Time

### Eligibility: JROTC; CIVIL AIR PATROL SCHOLARSHIPS

High School senior with 3.0 GPA or higher

- Florida resident, U.S. citizen (JROTC only)

- Demonstrates leadership, participation in school activities, community services, and good citizenship.
- For full details and requirements, visit our websites.
- applications opened August 1, 2026 -deadline January 17, 2027

#### JROTC SCHOLARSHIP

[floridaelks.org/jrotc](http://floridaelks.org/jrotc)

#### CIVIL AIR PATROL SCHOLARSHIP

[floridaelks.org/civil-air-patrol](http://floridaelks.org/civil-air-patrol)

Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 Centennial Lodge Drive  
Brandon, FL 33510

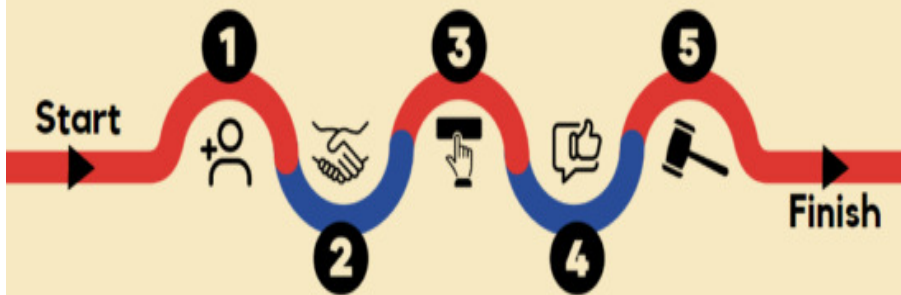
**\*\*Change Service Requested**



# 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)



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### 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



Jack S. Scaglione Insurance

11700 N 58th Street  
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[JScaglione3@briighthouse.com](mailto:JScaglione3@briighthouse.com)

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