

# 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

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www.brandonelks.org

**JULY 2023** 





Ed Ciesla Exalted Ruler

#### **MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER**

It is July already, and we have had a busy first quarter. One of the things we have worked on for you is our communications method. We want to be sure that all of our members are getting the Lodge weekly activities schedule, the special event info, and the Bugle. We have cleaned up the e-mail list and added a few phone numbers. We have started using Mail Chimp, which will allow us to communicate more efficiently while adding a bit of spice to your experience. If you are not getting electronic communications from us, please send me your e-contact info at EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com.

Last month I spoke about all the activities we had planned for you and I was pleased that so many of our members participated. We even picked up a few more volunteers! This month is also packed with activities to add value to your membership. Check the calendar, highlight the events and the dates of those you want to attend, invite your friends, and then show up for a good time. It's that easy! And as always, if you want to be more involved, more engaged, please let me know at EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com.

Your Exalted Ruler, Ed Ciesla



### Calling all Brandon Elk Lodge Veterans

If you are a Veteran and have become a member of our lodge in the last 9 years, please email <a href="mailto:lreintz@gmail.com">lreintz@gmail.com</a> and provide me:

- 1. Your Name
- 2. Your membership #
- 3. Your branch of service

We are trying to get a complete listing of all our Veterans!

# **Elk of the Quarter**

As you may recall, back in April, I pondered the notion of what the Elk of the Month was. In the past, it has always been an outstanding volunteer. I pondered that there is more to being an Elk than just volunteering around our Lodge. I realized that many of our members volunteered OUTSIDE our Lodge as well. And by doing so, exemplified the virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. This is living as an Elk, not just being an Elk. I also realized that I needed more time to identify the members who fit these new criteria. So, I created the Elk of the Quarter. Now it is time to name our very first Elk of the Quarter. This person is very well known around our lodge for pitching in with the usual volunteer tasks. What got my attention about this quarter's Elk is her work with feeding the homeless. In addition to being active with the Nativity Food Bank, she also volunteers to feed the homeless through T.H.O.R.N. Ministries, a mobile homeless outreach.

This service to our community outside the programs of our Lodge says a lot about the heart of **Jan Jacobson**, our First Elk of the Quarter. Please congratulate her and thank her for making us proud to have her as a member of our Lodge.

#### Volunteer of the Month

Our July Volunteer of the month is **Sue Kyes Campbell McGuire**. She is another one of our members whose contributions to our Lodge go mostly unnoticed. She steps in to help around the Lodge when she sees something going on. She also steps up to the tasks when recruited for an event. Not to ignore her previous years' contributions, this year you could find her helping at the snack bar and pitching in at the Comedy Show. When you see her around, please help me extend a great big thank-you to Sue.

#### EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com

Something NEW for our members! As I mentioned last month, I want our members to be involved with their Lodge at any-and-every level. If you can help with an event, attend an event, serve on a committee, or just offer your thoughts about our Lodge, please let me know. I have created an e-mail address for you to do just that: EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com. I want to hear from you.

#### Hostess Corner

I am so happy about the Comedy night we had. It was such a successful evening. I've had many praises and requests to have it again, stay tuned. Be sure to check the Brandon Elks Facebook group, the monthly Bugle, and the website calendar so you know what's going on. Looking forward to Trivia at the end of this month Contact

**EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com** if you are interested. Your help will keep your lodge active. **Terri** 

# Brandon Lodge Officers for 2023-2024 Elk Year



Ed Ciesla Exalted Ruler 813-679-7699



Donald Harrison Leading Knight 813-376-8949



Lou Valencia Loyal Knight 813-376-9863



Robin Rutzke Lecturing Knight 305-498-5654



Ed Campbell Lodge Esquire 813-245-0827



Carol DiAddezio Inner Guard 484-678-3926



Teresa Reeves Tiler 813-650-1607



Mark Fox Lodge Chaplain 813-785-5353



Mary Lou Schreck Secretary 813-458-5872



Nancy Price Treasurer 813-756-9341





Sharon Hammersla 2 Year Trustee 813-323-1992



Mark Vargo 3 Year Trustee 813-376-8855



Jim McCleary 4 Year Trustee 813-763-9019



Marionette Garvey 5 Year Trustee 813-956-3776



2005

Member Illness / Convalescence:

Notify Lodge Secretary

# Committee Chairs 2023-2024

Accident Prevention - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Bugle Editor - Lara McCleary 203-988-5089

Community Activities - (COULD BE YOU!)

Drug Awareness - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Grants Coordinator - Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Fraternal Committee - Jim McCleary 813-763-9019 Fraternal Sub Committees:

Americanism: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056 Flag Day: James Randall 813-833-7086 Lodge Activities: Mark Vargo 813-376-8855 Orientation: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425 State Associations: TBD (Could be You!) Elks Memorial Day: TBD (Could be You!)

ENF: TBD (Could be You!)

Veterans Services: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Hall Rental - Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007

Hoop Shoot - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

House Committee - Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Kitchen Manager – Ed Ciesla 813-679-7699 Kitchen Coordinator – Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007

Lodge Advisors - Henry Poage 813-480-6272 & Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Lodge Maintenance - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-244-4613

Public Relations - Michael Highfill 813-812-2727

Youth Activity - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

BLOE BITS Next Meeting is JULY 3RD at 7:00 PM Hoping to See You There!

As the months go by BLOE & BPOE have offered us wonderful events that have made great memories. BLOE is planning July 15, to be our Christmas in July. This event has always been one that many people enjoy.

Last month the challenge was to volunteer 4 hours in one month. If you could not volunteer last month, maybe this month will be a good time to start volunteering.

When you volunteer, you get to socialize, laugh, and feel good because you helped.

Is there an event you would like to see at the lodge, but we don't have it on our calendar. Please let us know, we want everyone to be part of

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting Monday, July 3. But also Tuesday, July 4, for the Lodge picnic. Don't forget to make your favorite sweets for our bake goods auction at the Lodge picnic.

Jane Gilblair Lady President



# Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction



There are several members of the BLOE that you know will show up for every event whether it's a fund raiser or just fun. Our lady this month is one of those people she enjoys talking and having a good time but more importantly she is one of the hardest workers we have. She is at every breakfast, memorial service, fundraiser and/or catering. She can immediately spot where she is needed and goes about her duties with little fanfare. Another one of her redeeming qualities is how she always is first to get a card out to wish you Happy Birthday, Get Well or just encouragement. She never misses an event that is taking place in someone's life whether it be happy or sad. There is always a card coming your way - you can count on it. It gives me great pleasure to introduce our Lady of Distinction for June - Charlene Hart.

### The Eleven O'clock Toast (What Do You Think?)

Since I became a member some 14 years ago, I have heard a lot of discussions about our 11 o'clock toast being conducted at 9 o'clock. When I ask our long-timers about this, they say its because our members were no longer hanging in our lounge at 11 o'clock the way they used to. So, they adopted the "Tribute to the 11 O'clock Toast" to be held around 9 o'clock, the notion being that there would be more people present for the observance.

As the conversations continued, the pros and cons of this practice emerged. Some long-timers felt that stopping the music, stopping the dancing, stopping the conversations, and making announcements are akin to announcing that the evening is over. Folks would pack up and head home after the observance, dissipating the crowd before 9:30. And, some folks would even depart before 9 o'clock. Other long-timers felt that having the observance at 9 o'clock actually kept people there past 9 o'clock and did not feel there was any "you are now dismissed" implied. And with people still there, the announcements reached a greater audience resulting in better attendance at our functions.

It is important for me to mention that the "cons" did not want to do away with the observance. Everyone agrees that we should take a moment to remember our absent members. The conversations were about how, and when to do it.

As part of my approach this year to try new things, I modified the 9 o'clock remembrance (from what we have grown used to) by not displacing our members from their seats, but rather by having them raise a glass, wherever they were in the Lodge, and toast with me a particular absent member who they have in their hearts. And the timing would be during the band's second break, keeping us there a bit past 9 o'clock. The goal was to keep it short, meaningful, and to not disturb the flow of the evening. My thoughts were that people would stay longer, and hopefully, we would have a real 11 O'clock Toast later in the evening.

Having made this change, I have not seen a difference in attendance either way. Receiving feedback, some folks expressed approval, while others expressed disappointment. As I mentioned in my speech at my installation, we should not be afraid of change. If it doesn't work, we can re-evaluate and try something else. As an important part of this Lodge, I want to hear your thoughts and suggestions on this subject. PLEASE WEIGH IN at EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com.

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Riverview, Florida 33578 (813) 671-3730 Fax

**Kevin Talbert Director / Owner** 

Linda Hinkle Office Manager

Mark C. Vargo, Sr. **Director / Owner** 

2510

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

FRI

### 500 Club Winners

Called, signed up, not present: Mark Vargo Called but not signed up: Paula Stearns, M Jones, Mary Jacobson & Cynthia Miller



#### **BLOE BREAKFAST**

ALL YOU CAN EAT \$10

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

# **Door Duty**

July 7<sup>th</sup> - Sharon July 14<sup>th</sup> - Lou July 21<sup>st</sup> - Robin July 28<sup>th</sup> - Teresa

# **Lounge Rental**

**ONLY** Elk members can rent the lounge for themselves or immediate family (children, parents, siblings, aunts or uncles).

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!

<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 – 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

#### 25 29 30 01 Elks National Convention Minneapolis July 2nd - 5th 04 02 03 05 06 07 08 BLOE Music: Skip Spaghetti 5-7PM BINGO Social & Meeting & Nancy Queen 🥮 Dinner Sports 6:30PM Hall IN THE HALL Lounge 1PM Cards, Pool Friday 6:30PM 6:30pm snack bar open night \$8 Fraternal SNACK BAR dinner see Committee 1<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PICNIC **OPEN** page 5 Meeting 11AM - 2PM 1:30 PM 09 11 12 13 14 15 5-7PM BLOE Social & BINGO Friday Christmas in **Sports** Queen night IN THE HALL July Lounge 1PM Cards, Pool dinner see HAĽL 6:30pm 8-11AM **6PM** nack bar open page 5 SNACK BAR BLOE **OPEN** Breakfast Hall 19 DD Clinic Social & pm Governing Music: Mike BINGO **BLOE Dinner** Plant City 11:30am Sports 5-7PM **Albright Board Meeting** Hall Lounge 1PM Queen 🦥 IN THE HALL 6:30PM Cards, Pool 6:30pm Friday Outreach Trivia nack bar open SNACK BAR Celebration Lounge night HALL Snack Bar **OPEN** dinner see 9AM-1PM BRANDON BOYS page 5 LOUNGE Lounge 6:30-8:30рм Rental 4-10PM 25 23 24 27 28 29 Member Social & Friday Orientation Trivia 5-7PM BINGO Sports night HALL Queen \*\*\* Lounge 1PM IN THE HALL Snack Bar dinner see Cards, Pool Veterans 5PM 6:30pm page 5 nack bar open Dinner SNACK BAR **OPEN**

#### **Brandon Lodge supports our Veterans**

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

Please RSVP for Dinners

RSVPBrandonElks@yahoo.com

# **Save the Date**

LODGE MEETING, JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>
BLOE MEETING, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>
FRATERNAL COMMITTEE, 1ST
SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

30

Social &

Sports

Lounge 1PM

#### LOUNGE HOURS

Sunday: 1pm - 7pm Monday - Thursday 4pm - 9pm Friday 4pm - 10pm Saturday 4pm - 9pm MANAGER: JANE GILBLAIR

## 1757

# **JULY MENU ITEMS**

TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL, PLEASE RSVP TO RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM

BY 12 PM THURSDAY

JULY 5TH

TERRI & ED \$8

**ENTREE: SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS** 

SALAD & DESSERT



DENNIS & FRIENDS \$15 ENTRÉE: BBQ & FIXINS MUSIC: SKIP & NANCY



JULY 14TH

DON & FRIENDS \$15

ENTRÉE: BEEF WITH GRAVY OVER EGG NOODLES

SIDES: MASHED POTATOES, VEGGIES

SALAD & DESSERT

JULY 19TH

**BLOE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER \$10** 

**ENCHILIDAS** 

JULY 21ST

NICKI & FRIENDS SALAD: TOSSED

ENTRÉE: (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE): STEAK (\$15), SHRIMP (\$13)

GRILLED CHICKEN (\$12) OR FISH (\$13) SIDES: VEGGIES AND BAKED POTATO

MUSIC: MIKE ALBRIGHT

JULY 26TH

NANCY & FRIENDS - VETS EAT FOR FREE

ENTRÉE: MEATLOAF

SIDES: SALAD & DESSERT

JULY 28TH

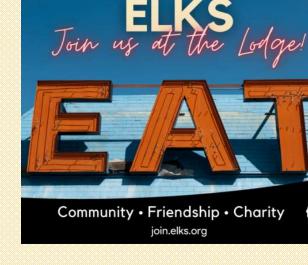
LARRY OLIVER & MARK FOX \$15

ENTRÉE: STEVE SAUDY'S FAMOUS CHICKEN & CRAB CAKES

SIDES: POTATOES, GRAVY, VEGGIES & DESSERT













and Gratitude



# TO OUR ELKS RV GUESTS

Welcome to our RV Park ELKS MEMBERS ONLY

**OUR RATES ARE:** 

▶ \$25 per night; 7<sup>th</sup> night FREE

▶ RV Storage is \$50 per month

THANKS FOR STAYING IN OUR PARK

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#### BUGLE BOOSTERS:

Pat & Jeff LaVoie
Joseph Zebrak
Kim Martinez
Lynda & Frank Craft
Carolyn & George Thomas
John Christensen
Julie & Henry Ebert
Phillip Singletary
Charlene Hart
Grace & Rick Weigand
Connie & Henry Poage
Donald Harrison
Kenneth League

Diane League

#### **BE A BUGLE BOOSTER!!!**

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



Angela Sweeney
Pat & Bernie Hisley
Gerri Mann
Mary Lou & George Scribner

### THE BUGLE • JULY 2023 • Page 6







Patriotism has characterized the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America since the early days of the organization. Allegiance to the flag of our country is a requirement of every member. In 1907, the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks designated, by resolution, June 14 as Flag Day. The Grand Lodge of the Order adopted mandatory observance of the occasion by every Lodge in 1911, and that requirement continues.

Saturday June 17, 2023, the Brandon Elks held their Flag Day Ceremony, although the crowd was small (see attendees below), we were mighty and proudly celebrated Ole Glory!

Picture top right: Left to Right Cadet Wyatt Hoxter, Cadet Gabriel Santos, Cadet Tyler Ward, Ed Ciesla (ER), Cadet Dejuan McDuffie, Cadet Josmary Valiente, Cadet Jer'Baria Buckins, Don Harrison (Leading Knight), Robin Rutzke (Lecturing Knight)







# Victoria Harrison

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VETERANS AFFAIRS
Committee Chair
Robin Rutzke

BPOE Lecturing 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!** 







Donations of new baby items needed. Support James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, VA Women Veteran Program quarterly (July) baby shower. Boxes are by both entrances, or you can leave items in the Ante room for pick-up. The following items are requested (new items only please):



Diapers, Size 2 or 3
Baby wipes
Onesies 3-6 months
Socks 3-6 months
Toiletries for baby; body wash, shampoo, etc
Baby Blankets
Burp Cloth
Pajamas 3-5 months
Any other items a newborn baby may need.



Please contact Veterans Chair, Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654 for more information or speak to her at the lodge.





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Our Lodge Loves to Donate Food to Our Community!

Saturday morning, May 20<sup>th</sup>, Robin Rutzke, Veteran Chair and Lecturing Knight along with PDDGER Sharon Hammersla and PER Mary Lou Scribner, hosted the quarterly drive-by food drive, which was another success due to the support of both the lodges newer as well as seasoned members. Our lodge members donated 431 pounds of much needed food along with boxes of magazines that Robin delivered to James A. Haley Veterans Hospital for the reading pleasure of our Veterans.

All food donations go directly to the local Nativity Catholic Church Food Pantry, who services all faiths and needs of the community. Nativity Food Pantry volunteer (and Past Lady President) Julie Ebert said that the food donations and support of the Brandon Elks Lodge is invaluable in helping the food pantry meet the needs of the community. She shared that just that same Saturday as the Brandon food drive, the pantry had 200 cars drive to the food pantry in need of food donations to feed their families.

This past food drive was successful due to the support of long-standing Elks as well as some of the newer members who heeded the message of getting involved and making a difference. New member Joycelyn Sheely came by with a trunk load of food donations. Joycelyn's husband also recently became an Elk and as a result, Joyce was so impressed by the good works she saw firsthand in supporting Veterans, Children and the community, she wanted to be more involved and became an Elk just 3 months ago. New member of only 5 months, Karen McArther also drove by with food donations. In addition, other members to name a few, such as Ray and Kathy & Ray Bilinski (Brandon Webmaster), Beth Benham (Elk and B.L.O.E. Vice President and Barbara Rhodes (widow of PDDGER Dick Rhodes) delivered their donated foods in support of the drive and the community.

The quarterly drive-by food drive was the brainchild of Robin Rutzke during COVID. It was a way our lodge members could still be involved in supporting our community. Now that the COVID restrictions have been lifted, Robin thought possibly the needs had changed and voiced discontinuing the quarterly drive-byes. But our members voiced loud and clear ..... they want to keep this quarterly drive-by food drive as a regularly occurring Brandon Lodge community event. Way to go Robin (and her side kick Sharon Hammersla who has worked side-by side from the beginning)! And thank you to our members who have and continue to support this food drive each and every quarter. Keep your eye on the Bugle and/or our calendar for dates of future food drives.

Brandon Elks do Care and Brandon Elks do Share!



Wednesday July 27th

# Gift Bags Needed



The lodge veterans committee is collecting medium size gift bags (Christmas or solid color) only to be used for items donated to James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. Please leave in the ante room with a note designating to veteran's chair, Robin Rutzke.



Last month we had a lot of activities for you to participate in, the highlight of which was Comedy Night. For those of you that didn't make it, let me tell you about it.

We had nearly 200 people in attendance! The evening started with cocktails at 6:30, followed by food at 7. The food was a charcuterie board at each table loaded with salami, turkey, ham, cheddar, Swiss, and Colby cheeses, pickles, olives and crackers. In addition, each person had an individual fruit cup with yogurt, and an individual vegetable cup with ranch dressing. The show started at 7:30 with a welcome and an introductory joke or two by our ER, Ed Ciesla. Next, the first of four comedians came up to tell a few better jokes, and then introduced the first performer, Roscoe Nash. When he finished, the second comedian was introduced; Victoria Yepes, and she delivered her performance.

Next was the intermission. This was the time folks refreshed their drinks and grabbed dessert. Desserts were donated by our members in the way they usually do: A tremendous assortment in a tremendous quantity.

After the 30-minute intermission, Ed the ER welcomed the crowd back and delivered another joke or two. After the audience stopped moaning, the third comedian, Tony Gaud was introduced and then he performed. The last performer was our headliner, Anaria Turney, and she cracked us up for nearly 30 minutes.

It was a great evening and could not have been a success without the help of our volunteers. A GREAT BIG THANK-YOU goes out to Terri Ciesla who organized and executed this event. She had significant help from Jane Gilblair, Mary Lou Scribner, and Sharon Hammersla. They spent no less than 6 hours each preparing the food. More thank-you's go out to Beth Benham, Larry and Mary Lane, Carole DiAddezio, Sue McGuire, Becky Cresswell, Jerrilyn Pietro, Ken Muzyk, Michael Highfill, and Jan Jacobson. And thank-you's go to everyone who helped clean up.

The final thank-you goes out to you, our members. Without your support, this event could not have been a success.











SNACK BAR PRIZES RAFFLES

#### **OUR DRESS CODE**

One of the items I field from our members frequently, are questions about the **DRESS CODE**.

Since it has been brought to my attention often, I want to re-visit the requirements with you. I have paraphrased in order to get to what is needed for you to know:

**Friday Nights:** Men – Full-length trousers and shirt with collar, or dress shirt designed without collar, for eveningwear. Ladies – Slacks, dresses, skirts, and dress shorts with appropriate tops.

Dress shorts and shorts outfits may be worn at any time, but are not considered proper attire for Lodge functions held in the Lodge room.

**Other Nights**: Ladies shorts, shorts outfits, men's dress shorts, T-shirt, and dress shirt without collar may be worn in the lounge.

#### **BPOE MEETING ATTIRE:**

Men – Full-length trousers and shirt with collar.

Ladies – Slacks, dresses, skirts with appropriate tops.

Tank Tops and T-shirts with offensive language or graphics is not considerate proper attire.

Cut-offs, short shorts, gym shorts, and halter tops are not considered proper attire and shall not be worn at any time.

For a more detailed description, see the signs posted at the entrances to our lounge. Its not often that one of our members is in violation. Usually, it is a guest of a member not knowing we even have a Dress Code. So as you invite guests to our Lounge, please take a moment to let them know.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 Centennial Lodge Drive Brandon, FL 33510

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H1036-119-000-2022

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