

THE BUGLE



APRIL 2020

www.brandonelks.org

Volume 19 Issue 11

Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 CENTENNIAL LODGE DRIVE, BRANDON, FL 33510

ALL AMERICAN LODGE 1999-2000

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LEAP
YEAR



MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER

Due to the outbreak of the corona virus and guidance from the Grand Lodge, The Brandon Lodge 2383 Governing board has decided to close the Lodge until further notice.



Mark Vargo
Exalted Ruler

Well, this isn't exactly how I expected to start the 2020-2021 Brandon Elks Lodge year.

Unfortunately, our 2019-2020 year did not end on a very happy note. We were all deeply saddened with the sudden death of our Exalter Ruler, Don Schreck. His Elks Memorial Service is scheduled for Sunday, April 19, 2020, at 2:00 P.M. in the Lodge room. With the Lodge closing, please check for updates.

In our efforts to curb the spread of this virus, as of March 17, 2020, your Board made the decision to temporarily close the Lodge/Lounge for the safety and health concerns of our members and employees. The Lodge will be closed to all activities for at least 30 days. At which time, conditions will be re-evaluated and updated. Please note that if you need any assistance during this time, please contact any of the Lodge Officer's. We will assist you any way we can. Please be assured that your Lodge is still functioning. Installation was completed during a controlled meeting to advance your Officer's to their new positions in the Lodge. Your Board of Directors will probably meet via conference calls to take care of the monthly operation of your Lodge. After this crisis is over and our Lodge is basically, back to normal operation, I will be planning a special event to celebrate the incoming Officers. Please be safe and abide by the CDC recommendations during this outbreak. Our prayers and concerns are with all of our members and their families. Take care and be safe.

Fraternally, Mark Vargo
Exalted Ruler

Elks Care - Elks Share

ELK OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH
















Although this Elk is only with us part of the year, his presence is felt as soon as he arrives. He is willing to help with anything. He and his wife, Pat, are supporters of most any event. They man the snack bar on a regular basis. They are no strangers to Friday dinners and most recently the St. Patrick's Day dinner lending helping hands. The Super Bowl Party that they chaired was a great success. Always upbeat and smiling through it all, we miss them when they leave and welcome them back with open arms. Thank you Jeff and Pat LaVoie for all that you do for our Lodge

To our Absent member
Donald Schreck PER (2020-2021)



DOB : 8/28/1938
DOD: 3/2/2020
Memorial: 4/19/2020
2:00 PM

Brandon Lodge Officers for 2020-2021 Elk Year

	MARK VARGO Exalted Ruler 813-689-2155		JIM McCLEARY Leading Knight 813-376-8855		MARIONETTE SEXTON Loyal Knight 813-956-3776		Donald Harrison Lecturing Knight 813-376-8949		Ed Campbell Esquire 813-245-0827
	Carolyn Greeson Chaplain		LARA McCLEARY Tiler 203-988-5089		ROBIN RUTZKE Inner Guard 305-498-5654		MARY LOU SCHRECK Secretary 813-689-2155		NANCY PRICE Treasurer 813-477-7676
	GEORGE SCRIBNER DDGER 1 Year Trustee 850-206-0577		NICKIE WELLS PER 2 Year Trustee 813-716-8051		DELORES WESTFALL PER 3 Year Trustee 813-363-1562		CHRISTINE VOGEL PER 4 Year Trustee 813-661-1852		Ed Ciesla 5 Year Trustee 2603

Officer of the Fourth Quarter

This Elk became a member of our Lodge 4 short years ago. She has grown up in an Elk family and had served our country for many years in the US Air Force. She is still involved in the military as a teacher in the ROTC program at Middleton High School. She became an officer and jumped in with both feet as the Chair of the Veteran's Committee. If the door needs to be attended on Friday night she is just a phone call away. Please take the time to congratulate Robin Rutzke for being named the Officer of the Fourth Quarter



Thank you, Robin, for all you do for our Lodge.



WELCOME
New BPOE Members
Initiated in March 2020

Sami Sahab, Doyce Holley, Kathleen Bischoff, John Sweet, Patricia Sweet, Janis Jacobson, & Don McWhorter



2020-2021 Brandon Officers

Ed Ciesla, Carolyn Greeson, Marionette Sexton, Donald Harrison, Jim McCleary, Lara McCleary, Mark Vargo, Robin Rutzke, Ed Campbell, Nancy Price, & Mary Lou Schreck



BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is April 2nd at 7:00 PM
Hoping to See You There 2483

By: Terri Ciesla
B.L.O.E. President

Hello everyone. Let me start by saying that I am honored to have been chosen to lead such an amazing group of ladies once again this upcoming year. I am excited to continue working with the other officers and to continue planning monthly events. Thank you to all the ladies who have volunteered to be committee chairpersons for the upcoming year.

Please join me in welcoming our new and returning officers: Vice President Millie Marrero; Recording Secretary Kathy Brogli; Treasurer Jane Gilblair; Corresponding Secretary Teresa Reeves; Chaplain Jean Barfield; Parliamentarian Lori Underberg; and Historian Terrie Buntin. Thanks go out again to Rick Weigand for the wonderful St. Patrick's Day Dinner he prepared on Tuesday, April 17th for our monthly Ladies dinner. Everyone enjoyed the corned beef dinner!

Congratulations to our Lady of Distinction for April, Jeri Pietro. We have seen her working enthusiastically at many of our functions selling 50/50 tickets. She always steps up when needed.

Julie Ebert did a fantastic job once again coordinating our Spring Fashion Show. Even with the hype of Corona Virus scare, we had a fantastic turnout, great food, good friends and lots of fun. Thank you Julie.

April 15th is our next Wednesday night dinner. I will be cooking something a little different...a French dip beef sandwich with French fries, Cole slaw and dessert. Please dine with us to support your BLOE. Remember it really helps us know how much food to prepare if you purchase advance tickets. When an advanced ticket is purchased, you will be put into a drawing for a free Wednesday night dinner. You can purchase your tickets from Julie Ebert, me, or at the bar. Advanced tickets will be sold only up until the Monday before the dinner.

Our first meeting of the year will be held on Monday, April 6th. We will be discussing the upcoming year so be thinking of suggestions and ideas to make the year successful. We already have some events on the calendar and will discuss those at the meeting.

One of my goals last year was to increase membership. I am happy to say we had 12 new members join us last year. I hope to keep that goal and keep our ladies group growing. Ideas are welcome. Let's try to bring a friend, a guest, a potential member to a meeting. There will be a special surprise for you when you bring a friend!!

Thanks to Grace Weigand and Dianne League we will be raffling off a Spring Basket. Please bring contributions for the basket to the next meeting.

I thank all the ladies of our BLOE for helping me have such a wonderful year and I am looking forward to another successful year. I cannot do it without your help.

"We should not expect from others what we cannot do ourselves,"
Unknown

See you at the lodge!

Terri

See you at the Lodge Terri

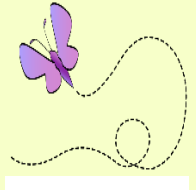
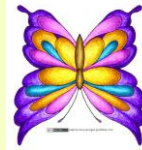
Brandon Ladies of Elks

Gerrilyn Pietro
April Lady of
Distinction



Our Lady of Distinction for March is a member of one of the well know families that belong to the Brandon Elks Lodge #2383. She can be seen at events throughout the year and is always willing to step up and help make the Brandon Ladies events a success. No one can match her soliciting for 50/50 tickets ability. She works the room with a sweet smile and is at the ready to take your \$5 for six chances to win.

She has helped decorate for several events and can be found in the kitchen helping at memorial services. She has a sweet disposition and is one of the first people new BPOE members meet during initiation. I am sure you have already guessed but please join me in congratulating Gerrilyn Pietro our March Lady of Distinction.



There were butterflies, fashions and sisterhood at the Brandon Ladies Fashion Show held on Saturday, March 14th. I have so many people to thank for making this afternoon an overwhelming success.

Thank you to all the kitchen crew – Don Harrison, Ed Campbell, Jan Czajkowski; and Josephine Shine. Donald's stuffed chicken breast was just delicious, Diane League's cake could not be out done, even with edible butterflies, Diane also donated a raffle basket and helped decorate. Thank you Beverly Messerschmidt for coordinating the vendors you always do a fabulous job.

Thanks to the models – Roxanne Hujar, Roseanne Czajkowski, Charlene Hart, Kathy Brogli, Beth Benham and Kathy Hattan - they were just wonderful. Thanks to Julie's Walk-In Closet for providing all those lovely ladies fashions.

So sorry our guest butterfly expert Jenny Roberts was not able to attend she was not feeling well. Rhonda Roger a Brandon Lady was unable to attend but she donated the yummy butterfly candies that were on the table. They were so beautiful and taste great too.

Many thanks to all those ladies that decorated, served, clean-up or helped in any way. You know how much I appreciate all of you, I know I can always count on my BLOE sisters to step up. Thank you to all the vendors that participated.

Finally, I would like to thank all the ladies that came to our show. The afternoon was fun and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Stay healthy – Julie Ebert

Audra Nikolajski will be a graduate of Bloomingdale High School's 2020 graduating class. And let's congratulate her for being named Brandon Elks Teenager of the Month for April 2020. She is dedicated, perceptive, self-motivated and has qualities that set her apart from her peers. Academically, Audra has challenged herself with rigorous coursework, including honors, dual enrollment and advanced placement courses. She has an impeccable transcript with a perfect 4.0 unweighted grade point average and has been awarded an academic letter at Bloomingdale for her excellence in the classroom. Her current weighted GP A of a 6.52 has placed her in the top two percent and number 13 in her class of 574 students. Audra's academic accomplishments are recognized with inductions into the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society, National Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Quill and Scroll Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. Audra personifies the definition of leader. She has become an integral part of making Bloomingdale High School an amazing place for students and faculty, because of her commitment to being a leader. As the Editor and Chief for Bloomingdale's yearbook, the Minotaur, she has been responsible for managing and creating a milestone publication for her peers and their families to enjoy for a lifetime. Audra is the co-founder of Bloomingdale's online school newspaper and currently writes as a student reporter for the community's local newspaper The Bloomingdale Gazette. She serves as the BETA Club President, the Secretary of Records for the National Honor Society, an Executive Board Member as well as Spirit Committee Head of the Student Government Association, and as a Community Teen Advisory Board Member. Audra has a heart and dedication to serve others. This passion shows through the investment she has made with 154 hours of community service currently logged. Her hours include time with Bell Shoals Baptist Academy, the Bloomingdale Public Library and multiple events hosted at Bloomingdale. Within school, Audra has participated in several clubs including the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Humane Society and has been a member of Freshman Steering. During her freshman and sophomore year, she was a member of the junior varsity volleyball team where her teammates selected her as Co-Captain and Most-Valuable Player. She also played travel volleyball for five years and served as Captain for three of those before succumbing to a foot injury that put her on the sidelines. This injury was a turning point for Audra in her high school career, as she had to make major decisions on her future. During her recovery time, she discovered new passions about herself and she fell in love with writing and her academics. She would use the creative side of her as a catalyst to bigger and greater things. Audra is an impeccable writer. Her most recent masterpiece titled "The Girl", won her 2nd place for fiction writing in all of Hillsborough County. "The Girl" is written from the perspective of a tree that was planted across the street from an elementary and middle school in southern Georgia. The tree watches throughout the years as a young girl grows and moves on to the high school down the street. This tree has been witness to the girl's friendships, to her first boyfriend, her first kiss and to hearing of hopes and dreams of her future. On a wet and cool day during the girl's senior year, the tree hears a loud, unrecognizable and extremely disturbing sound. In all of the confusion, the tree tries to piece together the chaos that surrounds it and it seeks feverishly to see the girl. As the day continues, the tree hears several students crying and listens as they say 21 students are gone. The tree becomes a memorial where students leave flowers and condolences. A picture of the girl with her name comes to rest on the ground and for the first time the tree has her name. This incredible story shows the reality and tribulations that student's face in the world today as told from an outside viewpoint. Audra is a mature, responsible, and ambitious young woman. Her positive influence makes her a favorite amongst the faculty and staff at Bloomingdale High School. Her journey continues for her education at the University of South Florida, so let's congratulate Audra for being named Brandon Elks Teenager of the Month for April 2020



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VETERANS AFFAIRS
Committee Chair
Robin Rutzke

BPOE Inner Guard
USAF (ret)
305-498-5654
2066



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.



Southwest Central Olympic Winners for 2019-2020 year, 1st Lakeland Lodge # 1291, 2nd Brandon #2383 & 3rd Plant City Lodge #1727 (Lakeland Pictured)



Our own Jan and Ed, Brandon Lodge 2383, won 2nd place in Horseshoes,



Lasagne contest was won by Jeff Lavoie with Tina Goodwin 2nd and Megan Henderson 3rd.

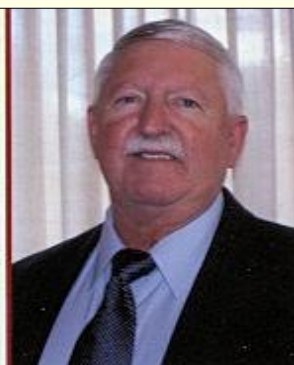
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