

THE BUGLE



Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 CENTENNIAL LODGE DRIVE, BRANDON, FL 33510

ALL AMERICAN LODGE 1999-2000

PHONE 813-685-6469

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APRIL 2024

www.brandonelks.org

Volume 24 Issue 4



MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER, DONALD A HARRISON

I want to thank you, our members, for voting me into office. With your help, I hope to see our lodge grow and make significant impact within our community. My agenda is three pronged, increase membership, increase the visibility of our lodge, and invest in ourselves and the community. Although, I plan to address one prong, it will naturally assist in the other areas of focus

As to the first prong, membership, We plan to send invitation letters to selected industries, to join members of our Elks community for a sit-down dinner, at no cost. The event will introduce these invitees to Elkdom and what we do throughout Brandon. A PowerPoint presentation with a narration showing what we are doing to visualize our work is planned. With our intention to join the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations, we are likely to find folks with the same goals and desires as our own and possibly, memberships. Adding members requires visibility.

How do we become VISIBLE in the community? A monthly meeting with newspaper editors, discussing what we are doing and getting this information published. Entering parades and handing out Elk paraphernalia. But to be really seen, bright color shirts with "Brandon Elks Lodge See What We Do?" on the front, with back listing the events with which we conduct and participate. We wear them while shopping, at our children and grandchildren's events. We wear them often and proudly. Maybe if an officer spots you out and about, your photo may lead to prizes.

Finally, the third prong, a focus on you, our members. In this plan, we would expand breakfast to the 4th Sunday of the month, have a birthday dinner on Saturday to celebrate members birthday in that month, and put together an event once or twice a month on Saturday afternoon/evenings. The event may be a combination of table games(bunco, dominoes, card games, right/left/center, etc.), BB target shooting, corn hole, horseshoes, pool, darts, trivia, karaoke, and other interactions components. A number of planned events are things we did in the past. Mystery bus to lodges, a bus to the Florida Elks Camp, attendance at Rays games and local college events, are some of the member events of the past we wish to continue. The focus on members will provide opportunities to intermingle with new faces, learn more about one another and maybe find new friends.

Why do we do this? Because our obligation kinda says it. Brotherly love speaks of faults and virtues. Charity speaks of not what we keep, but what we give away. Justice talks of fairness and righteousness. Fidelity challenges us to be persistent to our causes. What do we do? Here is a list of the many things we do; scholarship for students, provide clothing to schools when we are made aware of students that lack clothing, back to school backpacks, school supplies for teachers, food and magazine drives, collection of goods for active military members and veterans with Channel 10, Christmas gift for families, toy collection with Walgreens, visiting veterans at the VA hospital, visiting members that are sick or hurt, sponsor children for summer camp, conduct children related events such as hoop shoot, soccer shoot, anti drug fishing outings, visit children at Willis Peters Exceptional School, and many other activities.

What do we need? YOU! How can you help? Emailing us at elks2383sharing@yahoo.com. What do we ask? SIX hours a month. Tell us what you would like to do. Help in the kitchen, with children related matters, veteran causes, membership, communications, visibility, parades, rental hall, sit at tables taking score, stuffing envelopes, calling members, any area or an area you would like our lodge to address.

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

Elk of the month



The engine at any lodge are the volunteers. ELK of the month for March is a lady that is tirelessly doing things at our lodge, as well as numerous activities within the community. She oversees the bar operations and the lounge and tear tab machines, controls inventory, determines the financials such as the profit and loss. You can usually find her second on the Sunday of each month, taking money for the lady's breakfast. But her labor doesn't stop there, She's also the lady President. For this reason and other efforts, **Jane Gilblair** is Elk the month for March 2024. When you see Jane, give her congratulations a hearty thank you and a hug.



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



Christina
Puhalla
Lodge Esquire
813-245-0827



Michael Fultz
Inner Guard
484-678-3926



Beverly Laundy
Tiler
813-650-1607



Mark Fox
Lodge Chaplain
813-785-5353



Mary Lou Schreck
Secretary
813-458-5872

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



Nancy Price
Treasurer
813-756-9341

Rick Weigand
1 Year
Trustee
813-748-
2678



Mark Vargo
2 Year Trustee
813-376-8855



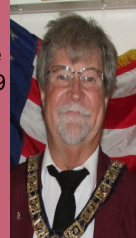
Nickie Wells
3 Year Trustee
813-716-8051



Marionette
Garvey
4 Year Trustee
813-956-3776



Ed Ciesla
5 Year Trustee
813-679-7699



Committee Chairs 2024-2025

2472

Accident Prevention - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Hall Rental - Jan Czajkowski 518-312-9891

Annual Calendar Updates - Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Hoop Shoot - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Bugle Editor - Lara McCleary 203-988-5089

House Committee - Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Community Activities - Lou or Mark

Kitchen Manager - Wendy Smith 813-862-8573

Drug Awareness - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Lodge Advisors - Henry Poage 813-480-6272

Grants Coordinator - Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

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

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

Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-387-5917

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 APRIL 1ST @ 7:00 PM
Hoping to See You There!

Hello Brandon Ladies of the Elk,
This is my first letter for the Bugle, and never having to write one before, I will do my best and have high hopes that I will get better. I don't have very much to say only that I am very happy and thankful for everyone that kept their "Chair" position and the new ladies that stepped up to filled the Chaplin (Grace W.), Parliamentarian (Terrie B.) and Historian (Tracy T.).

I am looking forward to working with everyone in hopes to be able to have an all out "Best Year ever" I know that ER Don Harrison has a lot of things that he is wanting to do for the lodge. They all sound great and truly want the BLOE to be his partner. We need to work together as a team and have communication between all parties involved. That would make it a "red letter day".

We have some very big catering events coming up in the next couple of months and I need the ladies to think about who will be able to volunteer and help. Also planned is the Horse Races again and I really would like to have a Casino night. Please be thinking of ideas that you would like to see us do this year. Bring them to the table. I am hoping that I will make the lodge proud as the new President of the BLOE for 2024-2025.

See you at the meetings,



Thank you,
Becky Cresswell
President
KNOW YOUR WORTH

Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction MARCH



This month's lady of Distinction is a very special one. She has been a member for many years and during that time has served as president and several other offices and committee chairs. She is a Sunday Breakfast regular and can be seen working at memorial services, catering, and fundraising events.

Her most recent chair position is Ways and Means. She can be seen at the lodge whenever there is a scheduled event selling raffle or dinner tickets. Her holiday basket sales have broken all records, and she continues to bring in hundreds of dollars for the BLOE. Everyone knows that they have to get their wallet out when she shows up with her roll of tickets and pen in hand. She won't take no for an answer and the BLOE gets rewarded for it.

Yearly her and her husband sponsor the St Patrick's Day Dinner and it is always the most profitable dinner for the BLOE every year. She loves the Brandon Ladies and works hard to keep our group well represented at all of the BPOE events throughout the year.

She is one of a kind and the Brandon Ladies are very lucky to call Grace Weigand our March Lady of Distinction.



Volunteers Needed

Community • Friendship • Charity
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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

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

APRIL



SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

31	01 6:30PM BLOE MEETING - HALL 7PM PER MEETING - ANTE ROOM	02 5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	03 Pasta Night Hall 6:30PM \$10	04 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	05 Music: TAYLOR & TAYLOR Friday night dinner see page 5	06
07 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	08 Lodge Meeting 7PM	09 5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	10 6:30PM BLOE DINNER LOUNGE	11 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	12 Friday night dinner see page 5	13 11AM - 3PM BRANDON AREA COMMUNITY PICNIC - HALL
14 8-11AM BLOE Breakfast Hall Social & Sports	15 7 PM BOARD MEETING - HALL	16 5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	17	18 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	19 Music: MIKE ALBRIGHT Friday night dinner see page 5	20 11AM DD CLINIC LAKELAND
21 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	22 Lodge Meeting 7PM	23 5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	24 MEMBER ORIENTATION & AUDIT 6:30PM	25 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	26 Friday night dinner see page 5	27 UNMASKING AUTISM - HILTON ST. PETERSBURG BAYFRONT 6PM - 11PM
28 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	29	30 5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	01	02	03	04

Door Duty
 APRIL 5TH - ROBIN
 APRIL 12TH - BEVERLY
 APRIL 19TH - NANCY
 APRIL 26TH - MARY LOU

BLOE BREAKFAST
 ALL YOU CAN EAT \$10
 2nd Sunday
 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

500 Club Winners
 COMING SOON

Lounge Rental
 Lounge usage will be restricted to members, spouses or widows/widowers for their specific purpose, and they must be present at ALL times.

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!

Dress code for meetings is long pants and collared shirt for men. 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

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, APRIL 1ST
 LODGE MEETING, APRIL 8TH
 BOARD MEETING APRIL 15TH
 LODGE MEETING APRIL 22ND

LOUNGE HOURS
 Sunday: 1pm – 7pm
 Monday - Thursday 4pm – 9pm
 Friday 4pm – 10pm
 Saturday 4pm – 9pm
 MANAGER: CAROL DIADEZIO

2664



APRIL 3RD

APRIL 12TH

APRIL 24TH

Pasta!
Night

Wednesday April 3rd

\$10 WITH SALAD AND DESSERT

6:30 PM

Please be sure to RSVP @
RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM

Chef Don and Friends

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER
April 12th
Dinner: 6:30-8pm

Salmon
Beef Tips
Pork Chops
Shrimp
Chicken

\$15

Sides
Salad
And Dessert

All You Can Eat!!

Music: Jukebox

Wednesday Night
VETERANS

\$10 Non-Vets Dinner **VETS EAT FREE**

April 24th
6:30pm

Nancy's Meatloaf

APRIL 5TH

APRIL 19TH

APRIL 26TH

Jan and Friends

FRIDAY NIGHT Dinner

Smoked and Baked
Pulled Pork
Mashed Potatoes
Veggies, Salad, and
Dessert

\$15

LIVE MUSIC BY:
Taylor and Taylor!!

Nickie and Friends

Friday Steak Night
Join us for the best steak in town!!
April 19th
Dinner @ 6:30

Steak, fish, or shrimp with
Potato, veggie, salad
And dessert

\$13 \$13

\$15

DANCE THE NIGHT WITH:
Mike Albright

Alan Smith and Friend's
Friday Night Dinner

April 26th
Dinner starts at 6:30pm

\$15

BBQ CHICKEN
RIBS, PORK BUTT
POTATO SALAD
AND DESSERT

Music: Jukebox

APRIL 10TH

APRIL MENU ITEMS

TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL, YOU **MUST** RSVP
TO RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM

BY 12 PM THE DAY BEFORE FOR **ALL** MEALS!
TEXTING SOMEONE IS NOT CONSIDERED AN RSVP!
DINNER IS FROM 6:30PM – 8PM

B.L.O.E.
Becky Tracy & Jerri's
Wednesday Night Dinner
April 17th
Dinner @ 6:30pm

Lakeshore Goulash

Salad, Bread,
and Dessert

\$10

Please RSVP
RSVPbrandonelks@yahoo.com

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:

COULD BE YOU

BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!

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

**JOIN THE
BOOSTER CLUB**

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, all expense paid event

**in our nation's capital honoring our Military Veterans
over Veterans Day weekend**

November 9th – 12th



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!**



Thank you to everyone who donated food and magazines for the February drive supporting Nativity Food Bank. And especially Gregg and Ann Knepple who volunteered to help collect items the morning of the drive. We collected 286 pounds of nonperishable food. In addition, for the 2023-2024 Elks year a total of 1449 pounds of food was collected and donated. ELKS CARE - ELKS SHARE



**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!



A BIG thank you to every Elk who supported a Veteran's activity this past year. From bringing in magazines, Nancy Price and Nickie Wells and friends for cooking the Veterans Wednesday dinners, donating and packing Veterans Christmas gift bags for JAHVH patients, supporting JAHVH Foster Care fall and spring picnic, supporting JAHVH baby showers plus many other activities. Robin Rutzke ~ Veteran's Chair



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