

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



JANUARY 2020

www.brandonelks.org

Volume 18 Issue10

WELCOMING A NEW DECADE



DON SCHRECK
Exalted Ruler

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a Happy Christmas! We had a busy Holiday Season starting with the **Christmas Fleece and Flannel Party** hosted by our Ladies.

Our **Adopted Christmas Family** program again saw the generosity of our members. Seventeen children were given a Christmas that they otherwise would not have had. The family also enjoyed a bountiful Christmas Dinner Basket. **Marionette Sexton** did a great job organizing this annual program which reaches out to our community...

Have you seen the new lights over the bar?? The money to buy them was given by an anonymous donor to whom we owe our thanks, and of course, **Rick Weigand** took on the task of installation. Beautiful!

As we head into the New Year, let us be mindful of the purpose of our Order and continue to practice the virtues of **Charity, Justice, Fidelity** and **Brotherly Love**.

Fraternally, Don Schreck
Exalted Ruler

Elks Care - Elks Share

Officer of the
Third Quarter
**Marionette
Sexton**



This officer has stepped up, as we say, "above and beyond". She has taken on the task of **Bingo Chair**. This is a weekly obligation and is one of the Lodge's biggest money makers. She and her crew have gotten the Bingo Night back on track. She was also in charge of the **Adopted Family Program**. This has required her and her Santa's Helpers to put in numerous hours to get these families a Christmas to remember and have a holiday meal to enjoy with their families. Please congratulate **Marionette Sexton** as **Officer of the Third Quarter**.

Elk of the
Month
Mark Fox



Mark Fox has been our **Student of the Month Chairperson** for the past 8 years. This requires gathering information for the area High School teachers and choosing a worthy candidate each month and then choosing a **Student of the Year** award to be given at the **Scholarship Banquet in May**. He helped with the **MacDill dinner** in November and has helped out with Friday dinners in the past. He and his wife **Annie** can be seen supporting many of the events held at the Lodge. Please congratulate **Mark Fox** as **Elk of the Month for December**.

2020 Dates To Save

JANUARY

- 1 - New Year's Day Brunch, 9am-1pm
- 11 - DD Clinic & Work Shop, 10 am Plant City Lodge
- 11 - BSA Eagle Scout Ceremony, 7pm
- 18 - Brandon Lodge Elks Olympics, Chicken Wing & 8-Ball Pool Competition

24 - PER Pork Dinner, Live Music

26 - Troop #690 Pancake Breakfast

FEBRUARY

- 2 - SUPERBOWL Tailgate Party and Chili Cook Off Contest in Lounge
- 12 - Troop #627 Spaghetti Dinner
- 14 - BLOE Valentine's Dance

MARCH

- 14 - BLOE Fashion Show
- 14 - Scouts Clay Shooting Tournament

APRIL

- 8 - Scout #627 Spaghetti Dinner

TO OUR ABSENT MEMBERS

May They Rest In Peace

Steven R. Sawdey, PER



DOB 9-4-47

DOD 11-20-19

Date Initiated 10-23-80

James Wayne Hutson



DOB 1-8-36

DOD 11-24-19

Date initiated 3-26-12

Carl J. Gloger, Jr.

DOB 3-6-44

DOD 12-9-19

Date initiated 8-28-00

2019-2020 Brandon BPOE Officers and Committee Chairs

	DON SCHRECK Exalted Ruler 813-689-2155		MARK VARGO Leading Knight 813-376-8855		JIM McCLEARY Loyal Knight 813-763-9019		MARIONETTE SEXTON Lecturing Knight 813-956-3776		GERRY WESTFALL Esquire 813-363-1713
	SHARON HAMMERSLA, PER Chaplain 813-323-1992		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
	RICK WEIGAND, PER 1 Year Trustee 813-748-2678		GEORGE SCRIBNER, DDGER 2 Year Trustee 850-206-0577		NICKIE WELLS, PER 3 Year Trustee 813-716-8051		DELORES WESTFALL, PER 4 Year Trustee 813-685-7312		CHRISTINE VOGEL, PER 5 Year Trustee 813-661-1852
	JERILYNN PIETRO Interview 813-493-0425		DONALD HARRISON Interview 813-935-9040		JERILYNN PIETRO Orientation 813-493-0425		DONALD HARRISON Orientation 813-935-9040		ROBIN RUTZKE Veteran's Affairs 305-498-5654
	RITA BLIZZARD Public Relations 813-966-9002		DONALD HARRISON Member Mentor 813-935-9040		JACK MINEO R.V. Park Manager 813-681-2531		WALTER BROOKS Lounge Manager 813-957-5389		GERRY WESTFALL Food Purchaser 813-363-1713
	DONALD HARRISON Kitchen Manager 813-935-9040		CHRISTINE VOGEL, PER Elks National Foundation 813-661-1852		SHARON HAMMERSLA, PER Grant Coordinator 813-323-1992		NICKIE WELLS, PER Harry-Anna Trust 813-716-8051		YOUTH ACTIVITY Volunteer Needed See Any Officer To Inquire & Sign Up
	DON CORNETT Drug Awareness 813-917-9872		PHIL HINKLE Entertainment Chair 813-267-9008		DON SCHRECK, ER Hall Rental 813-689-2155		MARIONETTE SEXTON BINGO 813-956-3776		THOMAS O'CONNOR Scholarship Chair 203-530-7959
	CHRISTINE VOGEL, PER BLOE Catering 813-661-1852		RITA BLIZZARD BUGLE Editor Publisher 813-966-9002		DON SCHRECK, ER Annual Lodge Calendar 813-689-2155		BILL BEATTIE Soccer Shoot Chair 813-361-4835		MARK FOX Student of the Month Chairperson
	RAY BILINSKI Webmaster 480-415-7477		JIM RANDALL Boy Scout Coordinator 813-833-7086		KIRK PENNYWITT Boy Scout Coordinator 678-524-0646		ALEC BROPHY Boy Scout Troup Leader 813-453-9613	For The BRANDON LADIES OF ELKS (BLOE) Officer Directory See page 4	

NEW

LOUNGE HOURS

Sunday: 1pm – 7pm
 Monday - Thursday 4pm – 9pm
 Friday 4pm – 10pm
 Saturday 4pm – 9pm
 MANAGER: WALTER BROOKS

Mary Lou Schreck
 LODGE SECRETARY

Office Hours
 MONDAY: 3pm – 5pm
 WEDNESDAY: 3pm – 5pm
 Or call for appointment

Nancy Price
 LODGE TREASURER

Office Hours
 MONDAY: 10am – 3pm
 THURSDAY: 10am – 3pm
 Or call for appointment

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT
 Dinner * Dancing * Music
 OLDIES * COUNTRY * POP
 Weekly PER & 50/50 Raffles
 \$500 Club Drawing
 9pm Absent Member Toast
 Monthly Drink Specials

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>FEBRUARY BUGLE DEADLINE NOTICE</p> <p>SPACE Reservations due January 20</p> <p>COPY Submission due January 24. Send email to: ritablizzard@msn.com.</p>	<p>Find your Membership Number anywhere in this month's Bugle and WIN a FREE DRINK from the LOUNGE this month. Present your current membership card to the bartender to redeem.</p> <p>Special Hours</p>	<p>1 New Year's Champagne Brunch 9am-1pm \$10 /door rsvp preferred Lounge Open till 6pm</p> 	<p>2 BINGO STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR: 5:30pm – 6:30pm Lounge Open 4-9 New Bowling League **** See Walter ***</p>	<p>3 Jukebox DJ  CHEF DONALD & CREW TACO NIGHT - \$5 DOOR: NANCY PRICE Lounge Open 4-10</p> 	<p>4</p>	
<p>5  Lounge Open 1-7 Quarterback Sneak During Game Drink Specials on all Domestic Draft Beer & Well Drinks</p>	<p>6 7pm BLOE Meeting 6:30pm Social  Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>7 7pm Boy Scouts Cards, Pool snack bar open  Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>8  Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>9 BINGO STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR: 5:30pm – 6:30pm Lounge Open 4-9 New Bowling League **** See Walter ***</p>	<p>10 Jukebox DJ  CHEF JAN & HIS MERRY MEN Lasagna and spaghetti, salad, dessert. \$10 DOOR: DON SCHRECK Lounge Open 4-10</p>	<p>11 DD Clinic & Work Shop. Plant City Lodge – 10am BSA Court of Honor Eagle Scout 7pm Ceremony & Reception Lounge Open 4-9</p>
<p>12 8-11am BLOE Breakfast Buffet \$7 Lounge Open 1-7 Quarterback Sneak During Game Drink Specials on all Domestic Draft Beer & Well Drinks</p>	<p>13 7:30pm Lodge Meeting Open to Brandon Members in Good Standing Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>14 7pm Boy Scouts Cards, Pool snack bar open  Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>15 6:30pm – 7:30pm BLOE Dinner Taco Salad or Hot/Sweet Italian Sausage Grinder with Fries Dinner \$8 Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>16 BINGO STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR: 5:30pm – 6:30pm Lounge Open 4-9 New Bowling League **** See Walter ***</p>	<p>17 Jukebox DJ  CHEF DONALD & CREW Chicken, pork, or fish entrees with side, salad, and desserts. \$10 DOOR: MARK VARGO Lounge Open 4-10</p>	<p>18  Elks Olympics Brandon Lodge Chicken Wing & 8-Ball Pool Competition Lounge Open 4-9</p>
<p>19 Steve Sawdey PER Memorial Service at 1pm Lounge Open 1-7</p>	<p>20 7pm Board Members: Governing Bodies  Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>21 7pm Boy Scouts Cards, Pool snack bar open  Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>22 6:30pm – 7:30pm Veteran's Dinner Meatloaf, Potatoes, Veggies, Salad, Dessert \$8 Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>23 BINGO STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR: 5:30pm – 6:30pm Lounge Open 4-9 New Bowling League **** See Walter ***</p>	<p>24 JUST FRIENDS Live Music PER CHEF RICK & CREW Roast Pork, Apple Cranberry Stuffing, Mixed Veggies, Salad, Dessert. \$10 DOOR: JIM MCCLEARY Lounge Open 4-10</p>	<p>25 Lounge Rental 6pm - ? Lounge Open 4-9</p>
<p>26 8-11am \$5/\$7 SCOUT'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST Lounge Open 1-7 Quarterback Sneak During Game Drink Specials on All Domestic Draft Beer & Well Drinks</p>	<p>27  Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>28 7pm Boy Scouts Cards, Pool snack bar open  Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>29  Lounge Open 4-9</p>	<p>30 BINGO STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR: 5:30pm – 6:30pm Lounge Open 4-9 New Bowling League **** See Walter ***</p>	<p>31 Jukebox DJ  CHEF JIM & GANG Sliced Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, veggies, salad, dinner roll, \$10 DOOR: MARIONETTE SEXTON Lounge Open 4-10</p>	<p>Is YOUR BIRTHDAY this Month? Ask your bartender about your FREE Birthday Drink.</p>

JAN 1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH
 JAN 11 – DD CLINIC & WORK SHOP P.C.
 JAN 14 – ELKS OLYMPICS – BRANDON LODGE
 JAN 24 – PER PORK DINNER/LIVE MUSIC
 FEB 2 – SUPERBOWL CHILI COOK-OFF
 FEB 14 – BLOE VALENTINE'S DANCE
 MAR 14 – CLAY SHOOTING TOURNAMENT
 MAR 14 – BLOE FASHION SHOW

Lodge Meetings Are Open To Members In Good Standing and is the Place to Discuss any Lodge issues.
 Lodge Meeting Schedule:
 2nd Monday of month, 7:30 p.m.
 Governing Bodies – 3rd Monday at 7pm
 BLOE Ladies Meetings – 1st Monday of month at 7pm
 Member Illness / Convalescence: Notify Lodge Secretary

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 2nd Sunday BLOE Breakfast \$7
 3rd Wednesday - BLOE Dinner
 4th Sunday – Scout's Pancake Brkfst
 4th Wednesday - Veteran's Dinner
 Thursdays at 6:30pm

**Brandon Ladies of Elks
2019 – 2020 Officers**



**TERRI
CIESLA**
President
ELECTED



**MILLIE
MARRERO**
Vice
President
ELECTED



**JOYCE
CECCHI**
Recording
Secretary
ELECTED



**TERESA
REEVES**
Corresponding
Secretary
ELECTED



**JANE
GILBLAIR**
Treasurer
ELECTED



**JEAN
BARFIELD**
Chaplain
APPOINTED



**EILEEN
SUBKO**
Parliamentarian
APPOINTED



**MICHELLE
GARCIA**
Historian
APPOINTED

One Giant Step Forward



There are many “walks of life” (avenues) that are pondered daily. The choices we make are sometimes unconsciously determined; otherwise thoughtful decisions may lead us to our desired destiny. The road to independence has been anything but smooth. Although many stumbling blocks and hurdles along the way have proven challenging, most have been overcome through mental efforts as well as gentle physical persuasion. Perseverance in spite of overcoming these difficult obstacles is reason enough to seek absolute completion and final rewards of any desired goal.

The Fraternal organization of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks long ago sought a solution to combine fellowship, celebrations, and benevolence all under one roof. The efforts of then the “Jolly Corks” has evolved into a nation of Elk Lodges. Together they annually contribute millions upon millions of dollars supporting untold numbers of charitable efforts and are able to continue to celebrate these victories in true fashion.

During the 50+ years of Brandon’s Lodge No. 2383, it has enjoyed rewarding deserving applicants with Elk National Foundation Scholarships. It also has included many sponsored local ones. Through the combined efforts of officers and members developing new methods of operation (MO) many additional programs have been harmoniously added. Rewards from these new programs have contributed to greater knowledge and acceptance, that in turn help renew these efforts with continued public interest through the Elk publications as well as the local media.

The foxwithlox

**2019 – 2020
BUGLE BOOSTERS**
Thanks for your
Support

- Jean Barfield
- Jim Barfield PER
- Lewis Bartholf
- Frank Behrendt
- Ann Behrendt
- Beth Benham
- Jim Bordon
- Esther Cantrell
- Ron Cantrell PER
- Joyce Cecchi
- Frank Craft
- Lynda Craft
- Henry Ebert
- Julie Ebert
- Richard Gurrera
- Diana Gurrera
- Kathy Hattan
- Pat Hiskey
- Bernie Hiskey PER
- Deborah Knight
- Troy Knight
- Gerri Mann
- Rhea Martinez
- Frank Martinez PER
- Kim Martinez PER
- Barbara Meyer
- Dorothy Nichols
- Ginny Palumbo
- Lou Palumbo
- Mary Rine
- Don Schreck, ER
- Mary Lou Schreck
- Mary Lou Scribner PER
- George Scribner DDGER
- Judith Stouffer
- Bill Stout
- Sandy Stout
- Corrine Stuart
- Angela Sweeney
- Carolyn Thomas
- George Thomas PER
- Tom Tomlin
- Ann Tomlin
- Christine Vogel
- Jane Wright
- Joseph Zebrak
- David Zilka

1774



BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is January 6th at 7:00 PM
Hoping to See You There!

Terri Ciesla, B.L.O.E. President

Welcome to 2020

Congratulations to **Nickie Wells** our **Lady of Distinction** for last month! **Nickie** is such a hard worker with wonderful ideas. She has been a huge help to our organization. Congratulations **Nickie**.

Our next meeting will be held on **January 6th**. I hope one of your resolutions will be to attend more meetings. We cannot do it without you!

We had another wonderful and successful breakfast last month. Thank you breakfast crew.

The Wednesday night dinner was a delicious homemade grilled cheese sandwich and tomato soup. Thanks to **Gerri, CJ and Dianne**.

December 7th the ladies hosted a **Christmas Party** at the lodge. It was free and full of fun, good food, and wonderful friends. There was music and gifts. Congratulations to **Lynda Craft** who won first place in the **Christmas PJ** contest and **Mary Lou Schreck** who won second place. Congratulations also to **Tom O'Connor** for winning first place in the **ugly sweater/tee shirt** contest and to **Deborah Knight** and her husband for winning second place.

Look for upcoming movie nights in January. And a **Valentine's Day Dance on February 14th**.

"If you want to, you could find a million reasons to hate life and be angry at the world. Or, if you want to, you could find a million reasons to love life and be happy. Choose wisely." Carl Welsh

Happy New Year.
See you at the lodge, Terri

Brandon Ladies of Elks



December Lady of Distinction

Nickie Wells with Julie Ebert (right)

Our **Lady of Distinction for December** can be described appropriately as a true Santa's Elf. She has been a member of the **BPOE** and **BLOE** for many years and has seen ER's and Presidents come and go. She is always there to help whether it be a Brandon Ladies fundraiser, Friday Night Dinner, Bingo or a **Florida Elks State** function.

She and her sister (**Puppet**) are constantly in the kitchen helping things to run smoothly, working hard to make sure meals are served on time and taste good. She is known around the lodge as one of the best mashed potato makers and her lasagna is always the best.

She recently chaired our **"Sock Hop"** and as usual it was an overwhelming success because of her hard work. She is a former lady president and PER. Just in case you haven't already guessed - join me in congratulating **Nickie Wells our December Lady of Distinction**



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 14, 2020
Brandon Ladies of Elks
Fashion Show



Brandon Ladies of Elks Presents

*Our January Dinner
with our guest chefs
Julie Ebert & Crew*

WEDNESDAY, January 15, 2020



MENU
Judy D's
Famous Taco Salad

Or
Hot / Sweet
**Italian Sausage Grinder
with Fries Dinner**



Cost: Only \$8.00
Time: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

VIP Tickets available from Terri Ciesla, Julie Ebert or at bar.

PER Annual Dinner INVITATION

FRIDAY, January 24, 2020

Dinner From 6:30pm 8:00pm

Main Entrée:
Pork Roast with
Apple Cranberry Stuffing

Side Dishes:
Mixed Vegetables
Salad

Dessert

ENTERTAINMENT:
Live Music by **JUST FRIENDS**

BPOE

Brandon Lodge #2383

Invite Family & Friends To Join Us.

**SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR YOU BY
CHEF RICK WEIGAND & CREW**
\$10 Advance Tickets Available from Bartender

Brandon Lodge Helps Provide Christmas in the Community!

Written by Mary Lou Scribner, PER

For the third year the Brandon Lodge was invited by the Florida Elks State Association to be part of the annual **Walgreens Community Care Christmas Toy Drive**. This project is chaired and organized for our lodge by our **Brandon Past Exalted Rulers Association (PER)**, chaired by PER Mary Lou Scribner.

Surely you have all noticed the Christmas donation boxes at our local Walgreen Stores with the label **"COMMUNITY CARE GIFT DRIVE, Cosponsored by Florida Elks State Association?** And hopefully you might have even donated to it?

Walgreens collected toy donations during the Christmas season (from November 24th to December 15th) and our PER's are assigned to pick up the toys and deliver the toys to our lodge for sorting and distribution into the community.

This year the PER's gathered a total of 1,003 toys. Seriously! It was a ton of hard work, especially as we PER's are not getting any younger. The toys get heavy and the backs start aching, but it truly was a labor of love to be sure.

After much discussion between the PER's as well as our Lodge Officers, the toys were spread out into the community as follows:

Paula Tarver, one of our dedicated **ELK's Children's Therapist**, was contacted and invited to come to our lodge on Monday, December 16th to choose toys that would be beneficial to her and our other Therapists in working with the children during therapy. I do believe we exceeded **Paula's** wildest dreams as we excitedly helped identify toys that we thought might be useful. **Paula** took home a lunch table full of toys that will be put to good use and will benefit the community and our children. She was thrilled to receive a "balancing bike", which she was just getting ready to purchase out of her own personal funds. These toys will definitely touch the lives of children in the community.

Our lodge supports three of our local schools: **Yates Elementary, Seffner Elementary and Mintz Elementary**, all **Title One** schools. **PER Sharon Hammersla**, along with the help of **PER Mary Lou Scribner**, were like two little kids in a toy store while filling *large* bags of toys to help the schools in making a Christmas for identified children in need. **PER Sharon** hand-delivered the toys the following day, and the schools were so grateful. Again, our lodge helping and being involved in the community. We are making a difference.



Everyone there that evening helped our **Loyal Knight Jim McCleary** fill bags to provide a festive Christmas to a family of seven children that would otherwise not be celebrating Christmas. **Elks Care – Elks Share**.....supporting the community.

A last minute miracle for the teachers of **Palm River Elementary School** when we learned that their normal budget of \$1,500 was reduced to \$100 to provide Christmas to identified children of families in need. They were invited to come and pick out toys to meet this need. We not only helped the children but were able to help support our teachers. A win-win! The teachers were speechless at the generosity.

PER George Thomas and **Carolyn Thomas** identified a need for a homeless family that our local churches help. They were invited to gather toys to provide a Merry Christmas for this family. Supporting our community, helping those less fortunate, being good Elks....that's what we do!

The members of our lodge also generously support our **Brandon Adopt a Christmas Family Program** each year, Chaired by **Lecturing Knight Marionette Sexton**. Toys were donated for this program to assist **Marionette** in making sure each child per family received the same number of presents. Don't you remember as a child counting your presents and comparing against the number your siblings received? An old Christmas tradition. Way to go **Marionette!**

The remaining toys were then bagged up and **Leading Knight Mark Vargo** and **PER/Trustee Rick Weigand** delivered to the **Shriners Hospital** to be used for the children at the hospital. Needless to say the **Shriners**, who **Elkdom** has partnered with throughout the years, was elated to receive these toys to replenish their emptying shelves. A toy to a frightened child can help lessen that child's tension and fear.

So, it was another Merry Christmas.

We are extremely fortunate that the **Brandon Lodge** has been included in this fairly new program headed by **Development Director Dan Masi, Florida State Elks Association**. Last year our lodge collected 543 toys. This year it increased to 1,003 toys. Who knows what we can collect next year! But.....if this is something **you** would like to be involved in, please contact **PER Mary Lou Scribner, 813-230-1943** (perelkmls@hotmail.com). She will be happy to explain and answer any questions. We welcome any of our members to be involved. We can use your help in collecting, sorting, distributing, or suggestions on families or organizations that we can become involved with. Don't be shy.....get involved!

Merry Christmas!



**Christmas Spirit was everywhere at
Brandon Elks Lodge #2383**

Written by Mary Lou Scribner, PER

The **Brandon Elks Lodge #2383** adopted **8 families** with a total of **17 children** and made sure these families will enjoy a wonderful Christmas. Wednesday night, December 18th there was plenty of Christmas spirit at this lodge. Christmas carols were playing. Brandon Elk "elf's" were all wrapping gifts. Grandchildren of Elk members were sharing in the merriment, learning first-hand what Elks do! **Elks Care – Elks Share!**

This is an annual tradition at the **Brandon Elks Lodge**. Each year families are sought that have fallen on hard times; families that may not have a Merry Christmas with toys and turkey. **Marionette Sexton, Lecturing Knight**, chairs this event. Elk members pick their child to adopt and presents purchased and wrapped.

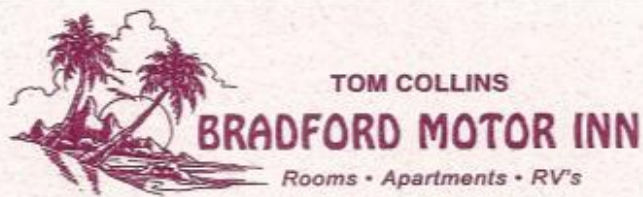
Not only are clothes and toys for the children wrapped, but an entire Christmas dinner is also provided. No detail is missed to ensure the family will enjoy the Christmas season.

And Christmas is felt in the heart of the **Brandon Elks**. If you were not part of this event this year and would like to be involved next year.....just contact **Marionette Sexton** or any Lodge Officers.

2711



Brandon Ladies of Elks Christmas Dinner & Tree Decorating Party on December 2, 2019



2811 Hwy. 60 East
Valrico, FL 33594

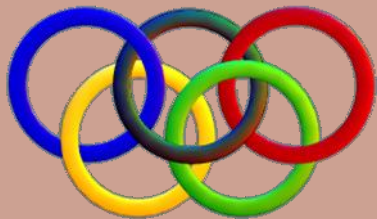
Office: 813-681-9940
Home: 813-651-0062

Scrappin' for Jesus
To benefit those in need

James Deputy
813-486-6161

Anything metal will be picked up for free.
All scrap metal big or small including aluminum,
Steel, copper, brass, scrap appliances, parts etc.

"...whoever is kind to the needy honors God." Proverbs 14:31



Brandon Lodge Olympians Needed!

We are currently tied for 2nd Place with Plant City, and need your help to bring the trophy to Brandon where it belongs! Our next Lodge Olympics is at our home lodge of Brandon on January 18th.

We need competitors to make your most dynamite, killer chicken wings you can possibly make, and to play 8-Ball Billiards. (2-person teams).

Food turn-in is at 12:30pm for judging, and we'll all eat at 1:00, with the billiards competition to follow shortly thereafter.

Chicken wing competitors eat free, all others eat for just \$5.00.

For wings, please make 6 wings (no drumettes) for judging, and recommend at least 2 dozen more for sharing.

Come out for some fun competition, and friendly camaraderie with our fellow district lodges!

Sign-in sheets are in the lobby, so please sign up and show Plant City and Lakeland how it's done!

For questions or further details, please contact Loyal Knight, Jim McCleary or Leading Knight, Mark Vargo.

NEWS FROM THE LOUNGE

See Page 3 Calendar for revised Lounge hours

SUPERBOWL **LIV** @ The LODGE Sunday, February 2

FEATURING:

- Big Screen TV
- Annual Chili Cook-off (Fan Judged this year)
- Sabrett Hot Dogs
- Pot Luck - Bring a dish to share (Appetizers, Main Dishes, or Desserts)
- Games with Prizes
- First Half Drink Specials
- Tailgating Begins at 1pm - Kick-Off at 6:30



Bring a family member, a friend or a family of friends.



Superbowl Chili Cook-off Sunday, February 2 \$5 entry fee

Chili due in kitchen before 4:13 PM
Anonymous samples will be brought out for everyone to judge one tray at a time.

For \$1, fans can vote for their favorite chili.
Chili will be free for all after votes are counted.

If you call it Chili, enter it!

Prizes split:

2/3 to Winner, 1/3 to 2nd Place

(If you don't like your chili, enter someone else's and call it your own!)



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Jim@McClearyMoves.com
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DID YOU KNOW –

Our **Grants Coordinator, Sharon Hammersla**, on behalf of the **Brandon Elks Lodge #2383** applied for and again was awarded the **Beacon Grant**, which the lodge uses to help our youth by partnering with some of their local schools.

Using this year's **Beacon Grant** and matching **State Funds**, our lodge was able to help **Burnett Middle School** with a much needed and appreciated audio system for the school, as well as **Civics Test Preparation Software**. Teacher **Matthew Kiati** had been bringing in his equipment from home for their special events. The staff is overjoyed with the assistance and new community partnership with the **Brandon Elks**. And the students, we are confident, were happily surprised when the new system was used for a dance planned for the upcoming weekend.

DDGER George R. Scribner, PER Sharon Hammersla, PER Christine Vogel and **PER Mary Lou Scribner** were on hand to deliver the equipment and to make the presentations to the school. But *did you know* that any and all of our **Brandon Elks** are welcomed to attend such presentations. If you are interested in being involved with any of our various events that partner with our community, just contact your **Exalted Ruler, Don Schreck** or our **Grants Coordinator Sharon Hammersla**. Be an involved Elk! It's who we are and what we do.....and I'm betting what you joined the Elks for!



Bottom left to right: Assistant Principals Stacey Schbarbarum and Terrella Brooks, Principal Valerie Newton, Teacher Matthew Kiati and Rosie Alfonso, Media Specialist

Middle left to right: PER Christine Vogel, PER Sharon Hammersla, PER, Mary Lou Scribner, PER

Top: DDGER George R. Scribner



Alyssa M. Personius

**JANUARY
TEENAGER OF
THE MONTH**
Durant High School

Alyssa M. Personius has been selected as the **January 2020 Teenager of the Month**. Academically she is a magnificent student maintaining a 6.4 weighted/3.94 unweighted G.P.A. She is a member of the **Durant Honor Court** ranking 7th out of 540 seniors. She has continually challenged herself with rigorous coursework throughout her high school career to include multiple AP and Dual Enrollment courses earning college credit and was named an **AP Scholar with Distinction**. She was also selected for our **National Honor Society** and has been an integral member the past two years. She has demonstrated that she is that rare student that is able to balance stellar academics, extracurricular activities, employment, and community service through superior time management, organization, and a desire for greatness. She is the **Vice-President of our Senior Council** and in this position helps plan school-wide activities that positively impact our entire 2400 student population. She is also the **President of our SAC (Students All Connected) Club** which promotes service and a positive school climate.

Despite her very busy schedule she has held part time employment for the last year at **Jeremiah's Italian Ice**. They have recognized her talents and honored her as a featured employee in their Magazine. That is quite an honor since that company only chooses two employees each year to recognize. That is quite a feat in a workplace that employs many young adults! It also further demonstrates her work ethic and dependability.

Her community service demonstrates she cares about people and her community. She has volunteered 130 hours in her community earning many of these as a mentor and counselor in the **Girls with Confidence Community Outreach**. This is an outreach organization that works to boost self-esteem and build positive identity in young girls in our area. Her commitment to help change these young lives and impacts her community and they are blessed to have such a fabulous role model.

Alyssa is such a multi-talented young lady and has also discussed her interests in architecture and design to possibly pursue in college and future career. She's already begun to dabble in home staging and design, working alongside her parent who is in Real Estate.

Whatever the future holds, she will continue to be a tremendous success. She will be an incredible asset to any university and worthy candidate for recognition and scholarship. So, please join me in congratulating **Alyssa M. Personius** as our **January's 2020 Teenager of the Month**.

Article Submitted by E. M. Fox., M.S.



**Elks National Foundation Scholarships for Elks Families
The Elks National Foundation Legacy Awards Contest
Deadline to Enter is January 31st**

BY: Tom O'Connor, Brandon Lodge
Scholarship Chair

The Legacy Awards program offers 300 college scholarships worth \$4,000 each to children and grandchildren of Elks members. Applicants compete against other children and grandchildren from the state of their sponsoring Elks Lodge. **Deadline: Applications must be submitted online on or before January 31, 2020 at 11:59 a.m. Central Time.**

For more information about eligibility requirements and to access the online application, visit enf.elks.org/leg

Contact Scholarship Chair, Tom O'Connor for additional information at teoconnor1234@gmail.com.

**VETERANS
AFFAIRS
Committee Chair
Update
By: Robin Rutzke
BPOE Inner Guard
USAF (ret)**



Thanks to the Brandon Ladies of Elks (BLOE) for hosting the veterans from James A. Haley Hospital and Liberty Manor at their monthly lodge dinner in November.

All the veterans loved the Chicken Enchiladas and are grateful for what the BLOE members do for them and the continued support of our lodge members.



November BLOE Dinner with Julie Ebert extending a warm welcome to our veterans from Liberty Manor.

This year the Annual visit for the James A. Haley VA Hospital is scheduled for January 3, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Our lodge members and the Brandon Ladies of Elks (BLOE) will be distributing gift bags to the patients in the Spinal Cord Injury / Poly-trauma unit. Volunteers are needed for the distribution of gift bags at the hospital and a personal visit with the patients to show them we care.

For more information, please contact Robin Rutzke, Veterans Affairs Committee Chair to volunteer and get details on transportation and delivery coordination at 305-498-5654.

Brandon Lodge Notices & Announcements

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO BRANDON ELKS LODGE #2383

Monday, December 9, 2019
6:08 PM

By-Laws change for the following:

1. Regular meeting time from 7:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Article IV: MEETINGS. Section 2.

The regular hour of meeting shall be ~~7:30 P.M.~~ 7:00 P.M.; but at any time, however, the regular meeting may be held at an hour to be determined by vote of the Lodge to that at the previous meeting; provided that written notice of such change of meeting hour shall be given to all the Members.

2. Initiation Fee Change

Article X. FEES AND DUES. Section 1.

The fee for initiation in this Lodge for an applicant who has passed his twenty-sixth birthday shall be ~~\$25.00~~ \$50.00, all of which should accompany the proposition.

The fee for initiation in this Lodge for an applicant making application prior to his twenty-sixth birthday shall be ~~\$25.00~~ \$50.00, all of which accompany the proposition.

Submitted by By-Laws Committee

Mark C. Vargo, Sr.
Jim McCleary
Sharon Hammersla
Donald Harrison

1757

DD Clinic and Work Shop Jan. 11th at the Plant City Lodge.
Required Officers must attend. 10am.

Posted By: **George R Scribner, DDGER**

January 18th - ELKS OLYMPICS – Brandon Lodge.
Chicken Wing Contest and 8-Ball Pool Competition.



See **Loyal Knight, Jim McCleary** or **Leading Knight, Mark Vargo**.

Thank you to **Mary Lou Scribner** for all her hard work in organizing the Walgreens toy pick up and sorting them all out.
GREAT JOB AS USUAL. THANK YOU.

Posted By: **Nickie Wells, PER**

Want to thank the **BLOE** for honoring me with the **Lady of Distinction** for **December**. There are many ladies that deserve this award and without their help, I could have not received it. Thank you all; it means a lot to me.

Posted By: **Nickie Wells, PER**

January 11 – Scouts BSA National Eagle Scout Court of Honor
7pm – Ceremony at Lodge, Reception to Follow
Scout Pack 690 (K-5 grade)

Pancake Breakfast – 4th Sunday of the month in 2020
8am -11am; Tickets \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door

Boy Scout Troop 627

Spaghetti Dinner – February 12: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
\$5 advance, \$7 at the door

Save the date. March 14: Clay Shooting Tournament. Detail tba.

Spaghetti Dinner – April 8: 6pm – 8pm; \$5/advance / \$7 at door

Posted by: **BSA Troup #627 Leader, Alec Brophy, 813-453-9613**

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Linda Hinkle
Office Manager

Mark C. Vargo, Sr.
Director / Owner

Tape
Here

Tape
Here

Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

A Fraternal Organization

800 Centennial Lodge Drive
Brandon, FL 33510



“Change Service Requested”

Invitation To New Year's Day Brunch

Wednesday, January 1st from 9am - 1pm

Breakfast & luncheon items will be served.

Tickets are \$10 and include your choice of a
split of Champagne, a Screwdriver or Mimosa

Advance Tickets Preferred (or pay at Door).

Lounge Open Till 6pm New Year's Day



TO THE RV GUESTS

Just a few words to

Welcome you back to our RV Park

AS YOU KNOW OUR RATES ARE

- ▶ \$20 per night; 7th night FREE
- ▶ RV Storage is \$50 per month

**THANKS FOR STAYING
IN OUR PARK**

Jack Mineo 813-681-2531



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Every Thursday Night
at 6:30pm

Brandon Elks Lodge



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