



# 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





**APRIL 2023** 

www.brandonelks.org

Volume 23 Issue 4

Ed Ciesla Exalted Ruler

# Message From Your Exalted Ruler

CAN YOU FEEL IT?





Can you feel all the NEWness around us? A NEW season (Spring), a NEW Lodge year (2023-2024), a NEW Exalted Ruler, a NEW team of officers, a NEW team of committee members, a NEW Lodge Hostess (Terri Ciesla), and a NEW spirit of excitement! We are all looking forward to the NEW things that we will be bringing to our lodge.

Our NEW team is: ER- Ed Ciesla; Leading Knight- Donald Harrison; Loyal Knight- Lou Valencia; Lecturing Knight- Robin Rutzke; Lodge Secretary- Mary Lou Schreck; Lodge Treasurer- Nancy Price; Lodge Chaplain- Mark Fox; Lodge Esquire- Ed Campbell; Lodge Inner Guard-Carole Diaddezio; Lodge Tiler- Teresa Reeves; 1-year Trustee- Larry Oliver; 2-year Trustee- Sharon Hammersla; 3-year Trustee- Mark Vargo; 4-year Trustee- Jim McCleary; and 5-year Trustee- Marionette Garvey.

As all ERs before me, my goal is to finish the year better than it started. That is, having an increase in membership and a stronger financial position. I also intend to 1) Have a decrease in membership non-renewals. 2) More activities for our members. 3) Involve our NEW members in Lodge events, activities, and committees. 4) Change/improve some of the ways we've been doing things. 5) Ensure ALL of us have FUN in our Lodge doing the things Elkdom is all about. But these goals can only be achieved if we ALL work together as a team. Membership involvement at any-and-every level is vital. Please, be involved.

I cannot conclude my inaugural message without acknowledging the contribution of our newest PER, Marionette Garvey. She really has worked hard this past year, putting in MANY hours. As I immerse myself into this position, I am realizing all the efforts that go into all the behind-the-scenes duties and obligations. It truly is a lot of work! Thank-you Marionette, for your love of our Lodge.

Your Exalted Ruler, Ed Ciesla

#### Elk of the Month

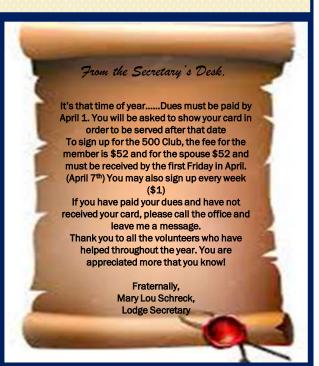


It gives me great pleasure to announce Glenn Garvey as Elk of The Month. Glenn has been our Lounge manager for the past two years and has done a fantastic job. . He has put on spaghetti night dinners each month along with cooking steaks for quite a few years. If you needed someone to help with other dinners he has been there. You can also find him in the kitchen on the Ladies Breakfast cooking bacon, sausage and biscuits. Any time you ask Glenn for help he is there with a helping hand. So please congratulate Glenn Garvey as Elk of the Month

#### Hostess Corner

Hello everyone! I'm so excited about being your lodge hostess this year. Be sure you check the bugle, your emails, the Brandon members Facebook group site, as well as the Brandon Elks website so you can keep track of all the fun things going on at the lodge. Bringing back trivia, karaoke and many other fun and exciting things to do. Invite your friends to join you and they might become new members. Ed and I are welcome to ideas so if you have something you'd like to see at the lodge let us know. Or if you have suggestions for Friday night dinners, let me know. Looking forward to a great year.

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 813-650-1607



Mark Fox Lodge Chaplain 813-785-5353



Mary Lou Schreck Secretary 813-689-2155



Nancy Price Treasurer 813-756-9341





Sharon Hammersla 2 Year Trustee 813-323-1992



3 Year Trustee 813-376-8855



Jim McCleary 4 Year Trustee 813-763-9019



Marionette Garvey 5 Year Trustee 813-956--3776



2511

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

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 Membership: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0428 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

Grants Coordinator - Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Hall Rental - Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007

Hoop Shoot - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

House Committee - Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Kitchen Manager - Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007

Lodge Advisor - Henry Poage 813-480-6272

Lodge Maintenance - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-655-4251

Public Relations - Michael Highfill 813-812-2727

Youth Activity - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

# **BLOE BITS**

Next Meeting is APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> at 7:00 PM Hoping to See You There!

I want to thank all of you for supporting me, the Brandon Ladies of Elks, and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks this past year (2022-2023).

We had very successful events this past year and raised a great deal of money. After purchasing a Char Grill and the Freezer for the kitchen, 2 Elk Clocks for the Hall and the Lounge, and the Stage Skirting, we still had a great deal left over that we gave to the Exalted Ruler, Marionette Garvey, at the BPOE Officer Installation on March 25.

Hoping all of you continue supporting our Lodge! See you around.

Thanks again.
Annie Fox
Past Lady President

# A Night At The Races 2023 Brandon Ladies of Elks



It's Time To Get Down And Derby!
So, Grab Your Hats And Place
Your Bets
Get Ready For A Night You Won't
Forget
Saturday, April 29th, 2023
6PM-10PM

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# Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction March



Who is that lady? Who is that lady helping at the BLOE Wednesday Night Dinner, who is that lady working hard to make the Sunday Breakfast is delicious - smiling and making sure that everyone is fed timely and leaves happy, who is that lady that is helping with the Christmas Party for the Kids? Who is that lady that just helped make the latest memorial service a success? Who is that lady that since she came to the Brandon Elks has been working tirelessly to make any event sponsored by the BPOE or BLOE an overwhelming success. That lady is the Brandon Ladies of Elks – Lady of Distinction for March

- Karen McArthur.

# **Brandon Ladies of Elks**

Presents

Wednesday APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>
Chef - Tracey Hyde, Becky Cresswell & Jerrilyn Pietro

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 pm Cost \$10



Menu: Beef Stroganoff, Rice, Salad & Dessert

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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

01

08

FRI

#### 500 Club Winners

NOT SIGNED UP: Michael Goodman, Jan Thurberg, Richard Montpass

# **Door Duty**

April 7th - Robin April 14th - Teresa April 21st - Nancy April 28th - Mary Lou 26

#### 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

# Please RSVP for Dinners RSVPBrandonElks@yahoo.com

02 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM

03 BLOE 5:30-7PM Meeting 6:30PM PER Meeting snack bar open 7pm

Ante Room

10

05 Spaghetti Queen 🥮 Dinner Cards, Pool Hall 6:30PM \$8

BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm

SNACK BAR

Music: Fifth 12-4PM Gear Fultz Lounge Friday night

Social & Sports Lounge 1PM 8-11AM BLOE Breakfast Hall

09

5:30-7PM Queen \*\*\* Cards, Pool snack bar open

11

13

IN THE HALL 6:30pm **SNACK BAR** 

20

14 Music: **Good Stuff** 

dinner see

page 5

Friday night dinner see page 5

10AM-3PM Brandon Community Picnic Hall

15

6-10PM Martin Party Lounge

# **BLOE BREAKFAST ALL YOU CAN EAT \$10** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

16

Social &

Sports

Lounge 1PM

7pm Governing 5:30-7PM Board Meeting Queen \*\*\* Cards, Pool snack bar open

BUNCO 6PM HALL

19 **BLOE Dinner** - Hall 6:30PM /lember

12

BLNG Orientation 6:30PM

IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR

Friday night dinner see page 5

Music: Hot

Mix

22 5-10PM Wedding Hall

23

Social & Sports Lounge 1PM

> Sorority Function 1-5PM Lounge

> > 30

Social & Sports

Lounge 1PM

**Lodge Meeting** 

25 26 5:30-7PM

Veterans Queen 🐠 Dinner Cards, Pool snack bar open

27 BING IN THE HALL

6:30pm SNACK BAR

Music: Tommy **Patrick** 

28

Friday night dinner see page 5

05

HORSE RACE 6-10PM HALL

29



**Lodge Meetings Are Open To Members In** Good Standing and is the Place to Discuss any Lodge issues. 2nd Monday of each 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7pm BLOE Ladies Meetings – 1st Monday of month at 6:30pm

Save the Date

APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup>, Lodge Meeting

BLOE Meeting APRIL 3RD

#### **LOUNGE HOURS**

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

# **APRIL MENU ITEMS**

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

BY 12 PM THURSDAY

APRIL 5th

TERRI & ED \$8

**ENTREE: SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS** 

SALAD & DESSERT

APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>

TERRI & FRIENDS \$15

ENTRÉE: PARMESAN CRUSTED FISH

SIDES: ROASTED RED POTATOES, BROCCOLI ALMONDINE

SALAD & BREAD

**DESSERT** 

MUSIC: FIFTH GEAR



ALAN & FRIENDS \$15 ENTRÉE: RIBS, CHICKEN

SIDES: POTATO SALAD, BAKED BEANS, BREAD

**DESSERT** 

MUSIC: GOOD STUFF

#### APRIL 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: HOT MIX

#### APRIL 26TH

NANCY & FRIENDS - VETS EAT FOR FREE

ENTRÉE: MEATLOAF SIDES: SALAD & DESSERT

#### APRIL 28TH

JIM & FRIENDS \$15

ENTRÉE: ROAST PORK LOIN

SIDES: MASHED POTATOES, GRANNY'S CARROTS

SALAD & APPLESAUCE

DESSERT

MUSIC: TOMMY PATRICK













Dress code for Friday night dinners Men: Dress pants, collared shirt Women: Dress, skirts or long pants

# TO THE RV GUESTS

Just a few words to

Welcome you back to our RV Park

**OUR RATES ARE:** 

- ▶ \$25 per night; 7<sup>th</sup> night FREE
- ▶ RV Storage is \$50 per month THANKS FOR STAYING

IN OUR PARK

Jean Sullivan 402-391-4136 RV Hostess



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

Please help defray the cost of printing and sending out our Bugle. A donation of \$5 will help a great deal.

#### These folks are BUGLE BOOSTERS:

New list coming in May

If you want to be a BUGLE BOOSTER for 2023-2024 Elks year, please see Mary Lou or your bartender to give your donation.

JOIN THE BOOSTER CLUB

## THE BUGLE • APRIL 2023 • Page 6

VETERANS AFFAIRS
Committee Chair
Robin Rutzke

BPOE Lecturing Knight USAF (ret) 305-498-5654



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!** 





# Are You Proud To Be An Elk?



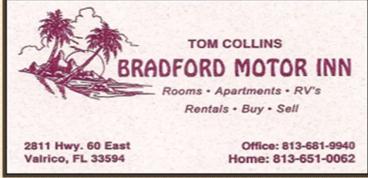
The Order of Elks is an organization of American citizens who love their country and desire to preserve its cherished institutions; who love their fellow man and seek to promote his well being; and who love the joyousness of life and endeavor to contribute to it, as well as to share it.

The Order questions no man's religion; nor bars him an account of his creed. It is not concerned with one's political affiliations. And it does not permit either religion or politics to be injected into, or to have any effect upon, its fraternal deliberations, national or local.

It lures no man to its doors by any promised material benefits, which might appeal to his self-interest. It pledges no support to the furtherance of personal ambitions. It has no insurance feature to appeal to one's sense of economy. It is beneficent, not merely benevolent, and it believes that doing good is better than merely being good. It teaches that it is nobler to serve than to be served; that laughter is better than tears, a kind word more potent than a frown, and that life is all the sweeter for a song.

It therefore seeks to draw into its fraternal circle only those who delight in wholesome associations with congenial companions; who are deeply imbued with the spirit of patriotic loyalty and devotion; and who desire, without the fanfare of the trumpets of publicity, to share with their associates in the endeavor to feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless, to relieve those in distress, and to prove themselves true friends to all in need.







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## THE BUGLE • APRIL 2023 • Page 7

# Registration for the 2023 Parade of Heroes is now OPEN. ATTENTION ALL VETERANS OF WWII, KOREAN, VIETNAM & GULF WARS

"Parade of Heroes"
An annual event held in Washington D.C.
on Veterans Day week
for our Elk Veterans

This is an event that hosts Elk Veterans of WWII, Korean War, Vietnam & Gulf War to an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C.

This event features tours of the memorials, as well as a "Parade of Heroes" which includes outstanding bands, choirs and JROTC cadets from around the country in a special tribute to <u>all</u> veterans from WWII up to and including Gulf War veterans at the World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War memorials.

If you are interested in participating in the "Parade of Heroes", lease complete the form found on www.Floridaelks.org.

Someone will be in contact with you as soon as possible to discuss the details in securing your participation in this truly historic event.

# **ENROLL NOW!**

Question, Comments or Concerns?

Please contact Brandon Veteran Chair Robin Rutzke at <a href="mailto:rrutzke@gmail.com">rrutzke@gmail.com</a> or (305) 498-5654 and she will be happy to answer your questions

or help you with the process.

The Parade of Heroes is a major step to help mend the wounds suffered during and after any of the conflicts especially the Vietnam war.



#### Brandon Lodge Continues to Feed their Community!

On Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, both Veteran Chair Robin Rutzke and SWCD PDDGER Sharon Hammersla were at our Lodge early in the morning accepting food donations from our members. Each quarter these two dedicated Elk members organize the drive-by food drive. This was a brainchild of theirs during COVID, and due to the continued support of our members, continues to be a much-supported activity. With this quarter's food drive, the lodge collected 235 pounds of food. PDDGER Sharon Hammersla delivered the food to the Nativity Food Pantry, who makes the food available to those in need in the community. Julie Ebert, Past Lady President, volunteers her time at the Nativity Food Pantry and was there for the food delivery. Nativity Food Pantry always looks forward to receiving the donated food from the Lodge's food drive.....they always comment that the food drive always donates the most needed items, and they love that the cans aren't dented. It's been and will continue to be, a long-standing partnership working together to support those less fortunate. It's just what Elks do! And Brandon Lodge members do it well!



Picture: Past Lady President Julie Ebert, PDDGER Sharon Hammersla

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