

MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER



Marionette Sexton **Exalted Ruler**

Happy 2023 New Year! So happy to have seen you at our New Year's Eve party and hope you had a great time welcoming in 2023 with your friends and Elk family.

Elks Care - Elks Share

We had a great December. We had a wonderful Member's Appreciation Dinner, and our Brandon Lodge was well represented at the President's visit at the Plant City and Lakeland Lodges. Thank you to our members who made all this a success. The Walgreens Toy Drive was a big success again this year. We were able to distribute toys to so many causes in our community, such as Yates, Willis Peters, Lopez, Seffner, Dover, Palm River Schools. We provided toys for Adlitem and Living Stone Academy as well as The Springs. We even invited our local Fire Department to take toys to distribute in our community. It was a great success. We thank our regular volunteers that have been doing this for the past 5 years. Thank you to PER's: Mary Lou and George Scribner, Nickie

Wells, Larry Oliver, Sharon Hammersla. And this year we had some new volunteers that stepped up to help: Jenn Cameron, our ER Marionette with her husband and Lounge Manager Glenn Garvey, Joe Alberico, Ed Ciesla and Mike Fultz. Thank you to all of you. If you are interested in being involved next year, please reach out to PER Mary Lou Scribner who Chairs this each year (813-230-1943 perelkmls@hotmail.com).

We had so many wonderful Christmas events and parties at our lodge! Thank you to all our many members who stepped up for our "Adopted Families", purchased gifts and showed up for the Gift-Wrapping evening. There was a fun "Breakfast with Santa" where Christmas toys were provided to the children. Past Lady President Terri Ciesla chaired our first Christmas Party for Family Forever of Tampa Bay, an organization for foster children/foster families. Our lodge and Ladies Organization sponsored a complete Christmas dinner party with gifts for each child. Toys were donated by the Walgreens Toy Drive as well as money that was raised by the BUNCO event that was put on by Terri Ciesla, PLP. Terri put on a BUNCO event to raise funds. Over 100 tickets were sold; 88 people attended to play and \$1,830 was raised for this cause. Way to go Terri!!!

All of these families where our lodge touches their lives, are so thankful. Helping those not as fortunate is what Elkdom is all about! Tickets are on sale for January 27th, 2023, annual PER dinner. Price is still only \$15. Tickets on sale at the bar, from any PER or by RSVPBrandonElks@yahoo.com. It's a great event held in our large hall with live music and dancing. One of our largest attended events! We have a SWC District Deputy meeting on January 14th at the Sebring Lodge. ALL members are invited and encouraged to attend. The meeting starts at 10:00 am and normally finishes by noon. A great opportunity to visit another lodge, to meet other members in our District and to learn more about how Elkdom works. Hope to see you there. Questions about this? Ask me, ask an Officer, ask any PER or ask any of our own Past District Deputies George Scribner, Sharon Hammersla or Henry Poage.

And remember, go out to https://www.brandonelks.org to find out more information about our lodge or https://www.floridaelks.gov for loads of information about our organization and what's going on in our own State.

Your Exalted Ruler, Marionette Sexton

Elk of the Month

It gives me great pleasure to announce Mike Fultz as Elk of The Month. Anytime we have had a large function in the main hall, Mike is there to make sure everything goes smoothly. He will patrol the outside of our Lodge to make sure there is nothing going on that should not be going on. You can see him help with getting ice and washing glasses for the bartenders when needed. After each months BLOE breakfast you can find Mike helping with putting all the chairs and tables back in place. . He has been a real big help with the help. So please congratulate Mike Fultz as Elk of the Month



From the Secretary's Desk,

Our Grand Lodge assessment has ncreased by \$2.00 due to insurance Be advised that our 2023-2024 due II in crease by that amount making i lues \$129 per Lodge year due April

Brandon Lodge Officers for 2022-2023 Elk Year



Marionette Sexton Exalted Ruler 813-956-3776



Ed Campbell

Lodge Esquire

813-245-0827

Art Yanni Leading Knight 813-917-2554



Guard 305-498-5654

Robin Rutkze Lodge Inner



Lou Valencia



Joe Schreck Lecturing Knight 813-340-8069



Tiler 941-681-1781

Mark Fox Lodge Chaplain 813-785-5353



Mary Lou Schreck Secretary 813-689-2155



Nancy Price Treasurer 813-756-9341

Vacant 1 Year Trustee













2339

Committee Chairs 2022-2023

Accident Prevention Rick Weigand 813-748-2678	Kitchen Manager Carol DiAddezio 484-678-3926
Hall Rental Kelly Doyle 941-681-1781	Lodge Purchasing Food Stephen Blackman 813-655-4251
Youth Activity Don Harrison 813-935-9040	Americanism Nickie Wells 813-716-8056
Hoop Shoot Don Harrison 813-935-9040	Membership Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0428
Veterans Services Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654	Lodge Activities Mark Vargo 813-376-8855
Public Relations Jeffrey Carter 813-477-1410	ENF Marionette Sexton. 813-956-3776
Drug Awareness Lori Underberg 813-655-3806	Grants Coordinator Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992
Lodge Advisor Henry Poage 813-480-6272	Community Activities Marionette Sexton 813-956-3776
Flag Day Kirk Pennywitt 678-524-0646	House Committee Chair Vacant
Lodge Maintenance Rick Weigand 813-748-2678	Bugle Editor – Lara McCleary- 203-988-5089

					1 4 50			
LOUNGE HOURS Sunday: 1pm – 7pm Monday - Thursday 4pm – 9pm Friday 4pm – 10pm Saturday 4pm – 9pm MANAGER: GLENN GARVEY		Office Hours MONDAY: 3pm – 5pm M WEDNESDAY: 3pm – 5pm TH		LODO O MOND THURSI	Nancy Price LODGE TREASURER <u>Office Hours</u> MONDAY: 12pm – 3pm THURSDAY: 12pm – 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 Wednesd		esday	Thursday		Friday Saturday	
1 LODGE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY	2 BLOE Meeting 6:30PM	3 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open	4 Spaghetti Dinner Hall 6:30PM \$8		5 BINGO IN THE LOUNGE 6:30pm SNACK BAR		6 Hall Rental 6- 9 PM Music: Mike Albright Door: Mark V Friday night dinner see page 4	State Soccer Shoot Umatilla
8 8AM - 11AM BLOE Breakfast – Hall Social & Sports	9 Lodge Meeting 7PM	10 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen 🆘 Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open	11	1 12 B IN TH 6:		13 NGO LOUNGE Opm CK BAR Music: Skip Frye Door: Ed Ciesla Friday night dinner see page 4		14 DD Clinic Sebring 11 AM – 12 PM
15 Social & Sports	16 7pm Governing Board Meeting	17 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open	18 BLOE Dinner - Hall 6:30PM		19		20 Music: TBD Door: Larry O Friday night dinner see page 4	21 BLOE Fashion Show 11AM - 3PM Hall
22 Social & Sports	23	24 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open	Mem Orienta	5 Veterans Dinner Member Orientation 6:30PM		GO UNGE M BAR	27 PER Dinner Hall Door: Jim M Music: Hot Mix	28 Lounge Rental 6PM - 10 PM
29	30	31 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen 🍲 Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open						
		Please RS	VP for	Dinn	ers	Dron	den Lodgo ournette	aur Votorona
Save the JANUARY 9 TH , Loo BLOE Meeting JA JANUARY 19 TH , 6: Brandon Boys	Ige Meeting	SVPBrandor Lodge Meetings A Good Standing an any Lodge issue Dress code for r and collar Skirt, Dress, or le	Elks@yahoo.com re Open To Members In d is the Place to Discuss es. 2 nd Monday of each nonth! neetings is long pants ed shirt for men. ong slacks for women. ing – 1 st Monday			Lodg 4 th W free o	don Lodge supports e Veterans please of ednesday of the mo dinner and visit with Prepared by Nancy	ome out every onth to enjoy 1 other local
OPEN TO THE I 2 nd Sunday BLOE \$10 Tuesdays 7pm B	Breakfast	Lodge Meeting 2 ⁿ Governing Board BLOE Ladies Meeti ai Member Illness /	^d Monday mtg – 3 rd ngs – 1 st 1 t 6:30pm	of month Monday Monday o cence:	at 7pm of month	i i		2908

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JANUARY MENU ITEMS

TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL, PLEASE RSVP TO RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM BY 12 PM THURSDAY

JANUARY 4TH **GLENN & CREW \$8** ENTRÉE: SPAGHETTI WITH MEATBALLS DESSERT

JANUARY 6TH **TERRI CIESLA & FRIENDS \$14** ENTRÉE: CHICKEN, YELOW RICE & SALAD DESSERT MUSIC: MIKE ALBRIGHT





JANUARY 20TH **MARIONETTE & FRIENDS** ENTRÉE: (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE): STEAK (\$15), SHRIMP (\$13) GRILLED CHICKEN (\$12) OR FISH (\$13) SIDES: VEGGIES AND BAKED POTATO & SALAD MUSIC:

STEAK NIGHT



JANUARY 25TH NANCY & FRIENDS - VETS EAT FOR FREE ENTRÉE: MEATLOAF SIDE: SALAD & DESSERT



JANUARY 27TH PER DINNER \$15 ENTRÉE: PORK ROAST SIDES: APPLE CRANBERRY STUFFING, MASHED POTATOES, VEGGIES SALAD & DESSERT MUSIC: HOT MIX



PLEASE READ: When using anything in the kitchen it is your responsibility to put everything back. Please do not leave your clean dishes in the dish drainer. 1985

ANY food placed in the freezer or refrigerator needs to be labeled with the date and what is in the bag

TO THE RV GUESTS

Just a few words to Welcome you back to our RV Park

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



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:

Diane League Gerri Mann Kim Martinez Jeff & Pat Lavoie Frank & Lynda Craft David & Kathleen Zilka Karen McArthur Terry & Nina Rickett Julie & Hank Ebert Mary & Larry Lane

Barbara Myer George & Carolyn Thomas Joseph Zebrak Kenneth League **Richard Clark** Bernie & Pat Hiskey **Donna & Michael Fultz**



BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is December 5th at 7:00 PM Hoping to See You There!



By: Ann Fox **B.L.O.E.** President

Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

I can't believe the 2022 year is coming to an end. We had our short meeting this month followed by our Christmas Party Dinner; cooked by the Brandon Ladies of Elks Officers. During the festivities, membership decorated the Christmas tree in the lounge, which was donated by Grace and Rick Weigand. Looks great ladies, thank you. Santa came to visit the children at the Ladies Breakfast. Besides that, we hosted a couple of other events, the Brandon High School ROTC Ball and the Forever Families of Tampa Bay, attended by their staff, children and their families. New Years Eve hosted by the BPOE went great. It looked like everyone had a blast.

Hope to see you ladies at our next meeting in the New Year!!!

Ann Fox

500 Club Winners

NOT SIGNED UP: Angela Galinat, Nancy Miller, David Kerr, Kathleen Scanlan WINNER: signed up and present - Jeff LaVoie

Absent Members

Christina Thergode DOB 11/09/1958 DOD 08/31/22 Initiated 01/13/2020

Delores Westfall, PER DOB 04/05/1952 DOD 12/12/2022 Initiated 07/11/2011



Brandon Ladies of Elks December Lady of Distinction



This time of year, makes us think of how blessed we are to know certain people. They are like angels. The December Lady of Distinction is a good example of an angel on earth. She always has a smile and a kind word about everyone. She is also one of the special ladies that can always be relied on to help. She can be found in the kitchen or serving at all our catering events, she helped get the cranberries ready for Thanksgiving and worked non-stop for the recent Bunko.

She had a little setback last year and broke one of her wings, but now she is back to her old self and helping whenever she is needed.

Please help me in congratulating Beth Benham - Our December Lady of Distinction.

Brandon Ladies of Elks

Presents Wednesday JANURY 18TH, 2022

Chef - Nancy Price

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm Cost \$10

Menu: Shepherd's Pie, salad, roll & dessert

RSVP: RSVPBrandonElks@yahoo.com



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VETERANS AFFAIRS Committee Chair Robin Rutzke

BPOE Inner Guard 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.





"Adopt a Family" for Christmas has been a long-standing tradition of the Brandon Elks Lodge #2383 for many years. And this year, Exalter Ruler Marionette Sexton-Garvey continued this tradition. Eleven families with a total of 26 children were adopted by individual members of the lodge. What a fantastic way to share the true meaning of Christmas. Families in the community who needed a little assistance are identified. Members get the opportunity to make a difference in the child's life at Christmas with gifts tailored to the child's "Christmas Wish List". On Wednesday, December 14th, the Brandon Elf's then got together and wrapped each gift. Marionette and her husband Glenn, see that all the presents are delivered to each family in time to be under their Christmas tree for Christmas.

You can ask any member that has participated in this, and they will tell you just how rewarding and fun it is. This is a tradition that ER Marionette is dedicated to and will ensure it continues for years to come.

All toys and clothes are donated one-hundred percent from the lodge members.





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ON THE MOVE



Thank you to Past Lady President Terri Ciesla! Terri met with a lady who was interested in renting our hall, and immediately saw a perfect fit for what we do as Elks. She went directly to our Board and got permission to proceed. As a result, our lodge put on the most exciting event that hopefully will become an annual event.

On Sunday, December 18th, our lodge partnered with "Family Forever Tampa Bay" and put on a fabulous Christmas party for close to 200 foster children and over 75 adults. All food was provided by our lady's organization and funded by a Bunco fund raising event that Terri organized and put on in record speed. This successful fund raiser brought in \$1,833. The money was used to cover the cost of the food, tablecloths and some decorations. Our ladies brought in cupcakes for dessert. B.P.O.E. donated the use of the hall as well as the entire building at no cost. In record speed B.L.O.E. and B.P.O.E. members stepped up and volunteered to cook, set-up, organize, decorate, clean-up, pick out and organize toys to work with Santa. There were many volunteer hands in making this event such a huge success. Thank you to each and every one of you!

Somehow, not sure just how, Annie and Terri talked Mark Fox into being "Santa". Mark did an absolutely fantastic job as Santa. The line of kids waiting to tell him what they wanted for Christmas went on forever. And because of the toys gathered from the Walgreens Toy Drive, Santa was able to let each child pick out a toy to take home. Thank you, Mark, (or should I say Santa)! Hope you will do it again next year. And Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a visit from the Grinch...... so in character...... Donald Harrison. Thank you...always there for the kids!

Our lodge was full of happy, smiling faces of sweet children in ever crevice of the lodge, from the hall all the way back to the pool tables. It was children everywhere. It was exciting and fun to see and be a part of.

Family Forever Tampa Bay is a non-profit organization led by passionate volunteers caring for foster, adopted and kinship children, children abused, abandoned or neglected. They are dedicated to finding forever homes to adopt these children. Like I said at the beginning.....a perfect fit!





Our lodge once again held a "Breakfast with Santa" on Sunday, December 17th. The Brandon Ladies of Elks held their normal monthly Sunday all you can eat breakfast, but this year they again invited Santa! Members and guest were invited to bring their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews as well as neighbors. Santa spent time with 15 children and each good little boy and girl was provided a Christmas toy. The "Breakfast with Santa" has become an annual event that the kids and our members look forward to. Even our Lady President Annie Fox, took the opportunity to tell Santa her wish list for Christmas!





Brandon Lodge #2383 Uses Gratitude Grant to feed the Community!



Our used its Gratitude Grant to support two local organizations that continue to bridge the gap between crisis and stability. Nativity Food Pantry provides food to 140+ families and to several local food missions. ECHO provides food, clothing, and access to life-stabilizing resources such as computer training and resume creation. In November PER Mary Lou Scribner and PDD Sharon Hammersla divided the grant funds of \$2,500 to support these two great organizations. They went shopping and purchased the groceries most needed by each organization and delivered the food to ECHO on November 17th and to Nativity Food Pantry on November 22nd. The goal of both organizations is to support our community and alleviate food insecurity. A total of over 2,000 pounds of food were provided to these two organizations.

MEMBERS: We invite you to get involved. Want to help with the food shopping? Want to help with the delivery? We are always looking for our members to get involved and be part of our lodge's good works. Maybe you are not sure what you can do to help but would like to get involved..... please contact PDD Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992 shammersla@tampabay.rr.com or PER Mary Lou Scribner 813-230-1943 perelkmls@hotmail.com. They will be happy to answer any questions you might have. Don't be afraid to get involved...... this is what Elks do!



Picture: PDD Sharon Hammersla with Nativity Food Bank Manager Chris.







JANUARY 21, 2023 WINTER STORMS **OF FASHION**

Brandon Ladies of Elks Fashion Show

Doors open at 11:00am. Tickets available from Annie Fox, Julie Ebert and the Lounge. If you are interested in being a vendor contact Annie Fox at annfoxrealtor@gmail.com or 813-625-3013. You can also contact Annie Fox with any questions you have or information you may need.



Brandon Elks Lodge #2383 Annual **PER Dinner** Live Music \$15 Pork Roast with Get your Friday, January 27th tickets now! Veggie Dancin Held in the 6:30 - 8:00 pm Salad Dessert **Big Hall**

DINNER INCLUDES ALL THE TRIMMINGS And Dessert!

Apple Cranberry Stuffing Mashed Potatoes Prepared by Chef Rick Weigand with his sou chef lean

Wasn't That Fun?!? So, Let's Do It Again......

For the past many years, the Past Exalted Ruler Association (PER) puts on an annual fabulous Friday night dinner. The next annual event is scheduled for Friday, January 27th, 2023. The food, we have been told by many, is absolutely delicious. The dancing and listening entertainment is always good. This is an event where our members always invite their family, friends, church and sorority groups. Last year 236 dinners were prepared and sold!!!! This raised over \$3,000 in profit for our lodge improvements. This is the PER's largest fund-raising event for our lodge. This is not an evening you want to miss.

It takes a lot of hard work by our PER's and their spouses. Chef Rick Weigand and his sou chef team will once again be cooking. Tickets are on sale from Past Exalted Rulers, behind the Bar, or RSVPBrandonelks@vahoo.com. Menu is Pork Roast with Rick's infamous Apple Cranberry Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Salad, and Desserts made by spouses of our PER's. It just doesn't get any better than that!

The PER dinner is served in the big hall. There is dancing on the large dance floor! Plenty of room to spread out and just have fun. It's a time to bring family and friends. We invite you to be part of this annual event and hope you will be one of many to support this PER event. We can cook the best dinner there is in Brandon, but we need our members to buy tickets to make it work!

Sincerely. The Past Exalted Rulers Association Of Brandon Lodge #2383



Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 Centennial Lodge Drive Brandon, FL 33510

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