

THE BUGLE

Brandon Elks Lodge #2383



SEPTEMBER 2020
www.brandonelks.org
Volume 20 Issue 6

800 CENTENNIAL LODGE DRIVE, BRANDON, FL 33510
ALL AMERICAN LODGE 1999-2000
PHONE 813-685-6469
FAX 813-643-5652



MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER



Mark Vargo
Exalted Ruler

We had our FIRST official meeting of 2020 in August and it was Great! Along with your Lodge Officer's, we had several members attend. We will have our September Lodge meeting on Monday, September 14, at 7:00 P.M. Don't forget your 2020-2021 Dues card. We have several new candidates to vote on and will conduct initiation during our meeting.

Our Veterans Chair, Robin Rutzke and Sharon Hammersla had a VERY successful "drive by" drop off of non-perishable food goods and magazines for the local food banks and our Veterans. Due to your most generous outpouring, they collected approx. 1200 pounds of food items for our local Food Banks and 30-40 pounds of readable magazines for our Veterans at Liberty Manor and the V.A. We even had some sizeable monetary donations. We're living by our motto: Elks Care – Elks Share. Great job ELKS!

Our Bags of Brotherly Love Chair, Bob Blair, is also having a "drive by" drop off at the Lodge for our homeless citizens. They are in desperate need of personal hygiene items (travel size containers) for them to distribute to the homeless. He will be in front of the Lodge on Saturday, September 12, 2020, from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. There will also be a plastic bin inside the Lodge foyer for you to drop off items if you cannot make it during the "drive-by". Stop by during Lodge office hours.

As of Tuesday, September 1, 2020, the Brandon Elks Lodge is fully open with CDC safe-distancing guidelines. At this time, only Members (and spouses) are allowed inside the Lounge. Because of CDC/DBPR guidelines, no guests are allowed inside the lounge area.

Please stay safe and let us know if you need any type of assistance.

Fraternally,

Mark C. Vargo, Sr.

Exalted Ruler

Elks Care - Elks Share

ELK OF THE MONTH FOR JULY



We have several Brandon Elk members that just can't seem to sit still, even during these uncertain times and conditions. We have one member that, to me, is constantly thinking, Elkdome. She has done so much for our Lodge over these last few months (and several years) as our Grants Coordinator, and is also our District V.P. She has stayed up past midnight several times to get our Grant applications in before everyone else on opening day of Grant application. Even with her busy schedule with our District, she always tries to be available to volunteer at our Lodge. The "Elk of the Month" this month is Sharon Hammersla, PER. Please congratulate Sharon when you see or talk to her

Brandon Lodge Officers for 2020-2021 Elk Year



Mark Vargo
Exalted Ruler
813-376-8855



Jim McCleary
Leading Knight
813-689-2155



MARIONETTE
SEXTON
Loyal
Knight
813-956-3776



Donald Harrison
Lecturing Knight
813-376-8949



Ed Campbell
Lodge Esquire
813-245-0827



Carolyn
Greeson
Lodge Chaplain



Robin Rutkze
Lodge Inner
Guard
305-498-5654



Lara McCleary
Lodge Tiler
203-988-5089



Mary Lou
Schreck
Secretary
813-689-
2155



Nancy Price
Treasurer
813-477-
7676



George
Schribner
1 Year
Trustee
850-206-
0577



Nickie Wells
2 Year
Trustee
813-716-
8051



Delores
Westfall
3 Year
Trustee
813-363-
1562

4 Year
Trustee
open



Ed Ciesla
5 Year
Trustee
813-

LODGE DINNER AND MAJOR EVENTS (VISITATIONS)

Brandon Elks members: If you intend to attend a scheduled or unscheduled dinner or event at the lodge, please RSVP by 10:30 on the day before the event. This is an effort to plan our meals and reduce waste in the kitchen. We will make a few extra dinners, but don't count on arriving without a reservation and getting to eat.

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	Saturday
Lounge re-opening on Tuesday September 1st..		1 5:30pm -7:00pm Queens of Diamonds Cards, Pool snack bar open	2	3  STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR:	4 Door: Ed Ciesla
6 Social & Sports	7 Labor Day	8 5:30pm -7:00pm Queens of Diamonds BLOE Meeting Cards, Pool snack bar open	9 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack MTG. - Hall	10  STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR:	11 Door: Mark Vargo Friday night dinner TBA
13 8:00am - 11:00am BLOE Breakfast – Hall Social & Sports	14  Lodge Meeting	15 5:30pm -7:00pm Queens of Diamonds Cards, Pool snack bar open	16 BLOE Dinner 6:30 PM	17  STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR:	18 Door: Nancy Price Friday night dinner TBA
20 Social & Sports	21 7pm Governing Board Meeting	22 5:30pm -7:00pm Queens of Diamonds Cards, Pool snack bar open	23	24  STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR:	25 Door Mary Lou Schreck Friday night dinner TBA
27 8:00am -11:00am Cub Scouts Pancake Breakfast Social & Sports	28	29 5:30pm -7:00pm Queens of Diamonds Cards, Pool snack bar open	30 Veterans Dinner		New Line Dancing on 1 st , 2 nd , and 4 th Thursday 7pm to 9pm:

Save the Date

September 7th Picnic
September 12th Bags of
Brotherly love Hygiene
Product collection
September 14th Lodge
Meeting
September 16th –
BLOE Dinner
September 17th 6:00 PM
Brandon Boys

Lodge Meetings Are Open To Members In Good
Standing and is the Place to Discuss any Lodge
issues.

PER Meeting – 1st Monday;
Lodge Meeting 2nd Monday of month, 7:30 p.m.
Governing Board mtg – 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
4th Sunday – Scout's Pancake
Brkfst
4th Wednesday - VETERAN's
Dinner
Tuesdays 7pm Boy Scouts

Pease RSVP for Dinners
Brandoneiksrsvp@yahoo.com



BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is September 3rd at 7:00
PM

Hoping to See You There!

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

Hello

Not much to report since we've been closed and have had no meetings or activities. I just heard the lodge will be closed another month. I'm hoping we will be able to have a ladies meeting in October and proceed with scheduled events.

We have a Wedding with catering on October 17 and we are hoping to have a Halloween party the end of October. I am still planning to attend the FLOE conference September 24 if it doesn't get cancelled.

Meanwhile, hang in there and stay healthy. Hope to see you in the near future.

"Everything in life is temporary. So if things are going good, enjoy it because it won't last forever. And if things are going bad, don't worry. It can't last forever either." Anonymous

**See you at the lodge,
Terri**

Brandon Ladies of Elks

Due to the current Pandemic and the lack of activity at the Lodge, There will not be a selection of a Lady Elk.

500 Club Winners

There has only been 3 500 club winners since April; 1st 2020

Ann Fox

Audrey Harris

Don Moon

The rest of the names drawn were not signed up.

Bingo coming soon!

We need volunteers for the following areas:

Calling back bingo winners- starts at 6:30 pm

Collecting money - this starts at 4 pm

Calling Bingo - starts at 6:30 pm

Please call Puppet at 813-956-3776 and leave a message.

Kitchen Manager Needed

The Elks Lodge needs a member to manage the Kitchen. This position requires coordinating with member cooks to arrange for Friday night dinners and Tuesday and Thursday night snack bars.

Controlling the Kitchen by maintaining the cleanliness of the Kitchen and passing health inspections.

. Please RSVP for Dinners “brandonelksrsvp@Yahoo.com”

Office hours during this time when the Lounge and Kitchen are closed down remain unchanged!

Lodge Secretary can be reached in the Office on Monday and Wednesday from 2 to 5 PM.

Lodge Treasurer can be reached in the Office on Monday and Thursday from 10 AM to 2 PM

Annual Calendar

The annual calendar will be updated to reflect any dinners or events that will take place if we can reopen the Lodge. You should also check the Brandon Elks Facebook page and Brandonelks.org for events. Please RSVP for Dinners “brandonelksrsvp@Yahoo.com”

Bugle Editor

We need a lodge member to step up and take over the publishing of the monthly Bugle News Letter. If interested. Please contact the Exalted Ruler or Gerry Westfall at 813-363-1713. Training will be provided and requires only a basic knowledge of Power Point and email.

MONTHLY LODGE MEETING

We're Back! Your Board of Directors has voted to allow us to hold our regular monthly Lodge meetings in the Lodge Hall, with social distancing. We will have our first regular Lodge meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. in the Lodge Hall. If you feel comfortable attending, please do. Don't forget your 2020-2021 Dues card. We have our regular business to attend to and we have several applications to vote on. Face masks are still optional. Hand sanitizers are still available. Please enter at the front Lodge entrance. The lounge is still closed.

Dress code for meetings is long pants and collared shirt for men.
Skirt, Dress, or long slacks for women.

Attention RV Storage Users

It was brought to our attention that a license plate was stolen from the RV Storage area. Because of this incident, we request that you periodically check on your RV's to make sure everything is ok. The Elks lodge is not responsible for any damage or loss as indicated in your signed agreement.

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



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Brandon Elks Lodge Bags of Brotherly Love

For the months of June, July, and August, the Bags of Brotherly Love have continued helping the homeless by providing food to the hotel in Brandon and the hotel in Tampa near USF. The hotel homeless received a 60 day extension for their occupancy at these hotels which means they will be there through September. We will continue to help with their food needs and distribute food to them that lasts about 2 weeks for each delivery. Bags of Brotherly Love still continue to assemble our hygiene and food bags from the re-entry building on Orient Rd. that is run by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. We have been getting more requests for our bags due to the homeless situation that has been on the increase due to the pandemic. With this said, we would like to conduct a drop off of trial size hygiene products only to help supply this much needed endeavor.

We would have this drop off on **Saturday, September 12th from 9AM-12PM** at the lodge. It will be a contactless drop off where we can collect the items from your car trunk or passenger area. For your convenience, we will also have a collection bin in the lodge foyer for these same items that would be there for the month of September. We ask these hygiene products only be in trial sizes as anything larger is too inconvenient for the homeless to carry around. We do not need toothbrushes as a local dentist supplies these for us. We can utilize toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, hand sanitizer, and razors. In these trying times, we appreciate our members more than ever as we continue to strive for Elks Care, Elks Share. Since we are not able to hold fundraisers at this time, any financial donations are very much appreciated.

We continue to hope that our fellow members are doing well and following all proper protocol. When the lodge is able to reopen, we hope to see everyone there. Thanks again for all you do and for helping to bring dignity back into the lives of those less fortunate.

Bob and Elisa Blair
813-758-8894

✘ **Brandon Lodge #2383 Believe Community Needs**
 ✘ **Never Stop Especially During COVID-19**

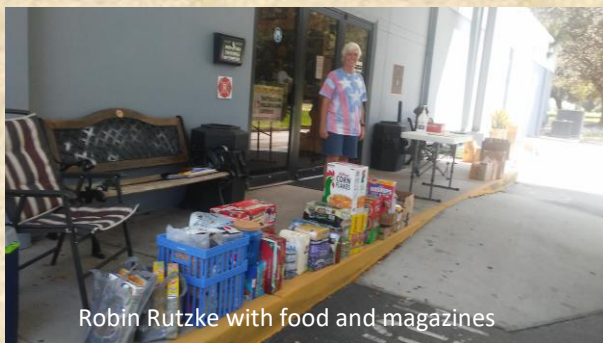
During this time of being shut-in and closed down due to COVID-19, Brandon Veteran Chair Robin Rutzke along with her side kick, SWCD DVP Sharon Hammersla, spearheaded an event to support the Brandon local food bank and also our Veterans. Robin contacted Kim Peatee, recreation therapist at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, to inquire as to their needs. Kim asked if our Elk members could help with donation of magazines. Brandon Elk members were craving more ways to be involved again in community service, and DVP Sharon felt a food drive for our local Nativity Food Bank would also fit that need. The Nativity Food Pantry supports a number of pantries in the Brandon Lodge area. Robin believed the Lodge could do both, and together the idea was born.

The word was spread via email chains and Facebook. On Saturday, August 1st the drive-by drop-off at the Brandon Lodge was scheduled. Both Robin and DVP Hammersla manned the event from 8:00 a.m. to noon. During this time members of the Brandon Elks dropped by with food donations for the food drive and magazines for our James A. Haley Veterans. Social distancing was enforced; members didn't even have to leave their cars; Robin and Sharon gathered the donations right from the trunks of their cars and the back of their SUV's.

This was a first time event. Robin said they received many favorable comments and were even asked numerous times if the Lodge was going to do this again on a regular basis. Because of all the positive feedback from the members, Robin is hoping to turn this into a quarterly reoccurring event.

During this initial drive, 29 participants dropped by with donations; 20 Elks and even 8 non-Elks. The lodge collected over 1,200 pounds of food that Sharon delivered that following Monday to the Nativity Food Bank's warehouse. And Robin had a SUV full of over 300 pounds of recycled magazines, one of the few selected items that James A. Haley could accept during this pandemic. As requested by the hospital, Robin will be isolating the magazines for two weeks before delivering. In addition, a \$2,000 donation was received from members to be used by the Veteran Committee specifically to further support our Veterans.

Both Robin and Sharon were thrilled with the results for this initial event. It was not only good for our community, but also provided Brandon members a much needed and appreciated opportunity to give back to our community. Once again Elk's found a way to put in action..... "Elks Care – Elks Share".



Robin Rutzke with food and magazines



Front is Robin Rutzke;
Back Sharon Hammersla, DVP SWCD



Sharon with Food

Brandon Lodge Notices & Announcements

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.

Attention Brandon Elk Members

We have vacancy for a 4 year Trustee. If interested in the growth and management of our Lodge, please come to the Lodge meeting on 14 September to be properly nominated and voted on or to nominate another member.



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Kevin Talbert
Director / Owner



Linda Hinkle
Office Manager

Riverview, Florida 33578
(813) 671-3730 Fax

Mark C. Vargo, Sr.
Director / Owner

Tape
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Tape
Here

Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

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800 Centennial Lodge Drive
Brandon, FL 33510



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- ▶ RV Storage is \$50 per month

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IN OUR PARK**

Jack Mineo 813-681-2531



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