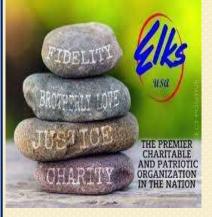


### MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER



Ed Ciesla Exalted Ruler



#### Charity and Brotherly Love. Now is the Time.

Here it is, November, the middle of Autumn. The leaves are changing color, our winter residents are returning, and we are beginning to feel the blessings of charity in our hearts. We have started collecting food for our Thanksgiving Dinner recipients. We have started planning to provide ECHO with our annual contribution to their Thanksgiving program. We have started collecting food/toys/clothing for our Christmas families. And again this year Leading Knight Donald Harrison and friends will be preparing Thanksgiving dinner

at our Lodge for our resident members, visiting members, and their guests. Yes, we have a lot of things going on these next months. And they all need volunteers. If you are feeling blessed this year and want to share your blessings with others, please contact me at EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com and I will direct you to the proper people.

With all these charitable endeavors, let us not forget Brotherly Love. Brotherly Love isn't just being kind and charitable to our community; it is also about being kind and charitable to our members, our Fraternal Brothers. Be sure to show our fellow members some of those happy feelings you are having in your hearts this season. Have a smile on your face, a happy tone in your voice, and a positive feeling of well-being while attending our Lodge this season. Just think how, collectively, we can have an uplifting effect on "the spirit of our Lodge" this season.

~ Your Exalted Ruler, Ed Ciesla ~ EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com

Brotherly love teaches us to truly cherish and care for each other. To extend the hand of friendship, offering compassion, care, and empathy to others, and to our fraternal brothers.



#### Volunteer of the month

Volunteers are very important to the success of our Lodge. Some volunteers are always pitching in, doing things around our Lodge that need to be done. There are no specifically assigned duties, no specifically assigned schedules. They just get things done.

Then there are the scheduled activities that require a scheduled commitment from our volunteers: Snack bars, Wednesday and Friday dinners, Sunday breakfasts, etc. These volunteers dedicate a particular day (or days) and contribute their time and efforts a couple times a month. Then there are the ongoing activities that require a weekly commitment. These

volunteers set aside one day a week for the good of our Lodge, and sometimes go unnoticed. This consistency/reliability makes running an activity easy. This month help me recognize Lisa Ball as November's Volunteer Of The Month for her ongoing commitment to Bingo. She is always there to help Laurie Bayne and Mary Lane

(who I also thank for their commitment), and to my knowledge, has only missed a couple nights in the last several months. That is commitment! Thank-you Lisa Ball..



RV Storage Lot Monthly storage fee increase to \$60 per month Jan 2024. If you pay for the entire year up front it is \$50 per month.

## Brandon Lodge Officers for 2023-2024 Elk Year



Ed Ciesla Exalted Ruler 813-679-7699



Donald Harrison Leading Knight 813-376-8949



Teresa Reeves Tiler 813-650-1607

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





Mark Fox Lodge Chaplain 813-785-5353



Mary Lou Schreck Secretary 813-458-5872



Nancy Price Treasurer 813-756-9341

Larry Oliver 1 Year Trustee 813-767-0870



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

Grants Coordinator - Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

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 Orientation: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425 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

Hall Rental - Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007

Hoop Shoot - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

House Committee - Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Kitchen Manager – Ed Ciesla 813-679-7699 Kitchen Coordinator – Terri Ciesla 813-679-8007

Lodge Advisors - Henry Poage 813-480-6272 & Sharon Hammersla 813-323-1992

Lodge Maintenance - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-244-4613

Public Relations - Michael Highfill 813-812-2727

Youth Activity - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

#### Next Meeting is NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> at 7:00 PM BLOE BITS Hoping to See You There!

Tis the season for giving with all the Holidays in the next couple months. But here at the Lodge it is always the season for giving.. Volunteering is a way of giving without costing any money.

Each month I talk about volunteering, but I would like to see everyone give just two or three hours of their time. We could not accomplish everything we do without our volunteers.

We have multiple catering events that require many volunteers. I would like to thank all of you that step up and volunteer. When all of us share in the work, it means no one person needs to carry the weight alone.

#### Planned events in:

Bunco November 27 Breakfast with Santa December 10 Foster kids Christmas party December 17 Drag fashion show January 20 Casino Night Roaring twenties February 3



#### Catering events:

December 2, 9, 16, we need volunteers for all of the events.

Jane Gilblair B. L. O. E. Lady President



### Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction OCTOBER



Our October Lady of Distinction can be found at the lodge helping with monthly breakfast, at Wednesday night dinners or making a delicious cake or cookies for memorial services or other BLOE events. She has held several offices and chaired committees during her years with the Brandon Ladies. For many years she collected and delivered donations to the Fischer House at the Veterans Hospital. She has recently sold her home and has started a new adventure. She can be found wrapping silverware during the week at the Elks and watching Notre Dame Football on the weekends. She loves Ireland and is very proud of her ancestry. Just mention Ireland and her face lights up and tells of her many trips to the Emerald Isle. We all know who our Lady is this month she is our special Irish Lass **Barbara O'Brien**.

#### Hostess Corner

What???? It's already November. We've come upon the busy holiday season. Lots of events for our veterans as well as our lodge members this month. Please join us on Veterans Day, November 11, for our Quilts of Valor dinner honoring veterans, fundraiser for ENF, and on November 12, as we welcome home our Parade of Hero's.. Also, Don Harrison will be cooking a Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving day from 2-4 pm if you don't have plans. We have Alan Smith and Jim McCleary (PER) cooking Friday night dinners this month, as well as our regular steak night. We are happy to welcome back Pat and Jeff Lavoie who will be cooking on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Join us at our Wednesday Spaghetti dinner and our Ladies Wednesday night dinner.

The lodge has something going on for everyone almost every night. Invite your family, invite your friends. Your guests are always welcome at our dinner and events. Look at the bugle and the online calendar so you don't miss out on any.

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Kevin Talbert Director / Owner 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

#### 500 Club Winners

Called, signed up, not present: Annie Fox Called, NOT signed up: Richard Cheek, Richard Green, Lara McCleary, Betty Hayden, David Rodriguez, Rene Tresorras Joseph Ciccarello, Christina Johnson

#### Door Duty

November 3<sup>rd</sup> –Robin November 10<sup>th</sup> – Theresa November 17<sup>th</sup> – Nancy November 24<sup>th</sup> –Mary Lou

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



join.elks.org

#### Lounge Rental

**ONLY** Elk members can rent the lounge for themselves or immediate family (children, parents, siblings, aunts or uncles).

Lodge Meetings Are Open To Members In Good Standing and is the Place to Discuss any Lodge issues. 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, May-January! February-April, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7pm Lodge Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month, 7pm Governing Board mtg – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7pm BLOE Ladies Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of month at 6:30pm

SUN	MON	1025	WED	INUN	FRI	IAC
29	30	31	01 Spaghetti Dinner Hall 6:30PM \$8	02 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	03 Music: Tourist Bob Friday night dinner see page 5	04
05 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	06 BLOE Meeting 6:30PM 7PM PER Meeting	07 5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	08	09 Elks Mid-Y BUNGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	10 ear Conventior Music: Tommy Patrick Friday night dinner see page 5	11 - St Pete Quilts of Valor Dinner Hall 6:30PM \$10
Parade of Herdes return Tampa Airport Social & Sports Lounge 1PM 8-11AM BLOE Breakfast Hall	13 Lodge Meeting 7PM	14 5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	15 BLOE Dinner Hall 6:30PM	16 MILITARY APPRECIATION DINNER HALL 6:PM No BINGO	17 Music: Fifth Gear Friday night dinner see page 5	18 11AM DD/VP Visitation Arcadia
19 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	20 7pm Governing Board Meeting	21 5-7PM Queen Cards, Pool snack bar open	22	23 2-4PM THANKSGIVING DINNER LOUNGE MUST RSVP	24 Friday night dinner see page 5	25
26 Social & Sports Lounge 1PM	27 6PM BLOE BUNCO LOUNGE	28 5-7PM Queen 🎻 Cards, Pool snack bar open	29	30 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN	01	02
Please RSVP for Dinners						

## RSVPBrandonElks@yahoo.com

#### Save the Date

LODGE MEETING, November 13<sup>th</sup> BLOE MEETING, November 6<sup>th</sup> FRATERNAL COMMITTEE, 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

#### LOUNGE HOURS

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

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

NOVEMBER 1ST TERRI & ED \$8 **ENTREE: SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS** SALAD & DESSERT



#### **NOVEMBER 3RD**

ALAN SMITH & FRIENDS \$15 ENTRÉE: BBO PORK & BEER CAN CHICKEN SIDES: HOMEMADE POTATO SALAD **& BAKED BEANS** SALAD, BREAD & DESSERT MUSIC; TOURIST BOB



Elks Never Forget

#### NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

JIM MCCLEARY & FRIENDS \$15 ENTRÉE: ROASTED PORK LOIN SIDES: MASHED POTATOES W GRAVY & GRANNY'S CARROTS SALAD & DESSERT MUSIC; TOMMY PATRICK

NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> **QUILTS OF VALOR HONOR DINNER \$10** ENTRÉE: SALISBURY STEAK SIDES: MASHED POTAOES, VEGGIES SALAD, ROLL & DESSERT

NOVEMBER 15TH **BLOE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER \$12** 1/4 BROILED CHICKEN, YELLOW RICE, BLACK BEANS, YUCCA **CUBAN BREAD & CARROT CAKE BARS** 

#### NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

**NICKI & FRIENDS** SALAD: TOSSED ENTRÉE: (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE): STEAK (\$15), SHRIMP (\$13), GRILLED CHICKEN (\$12) OR FISH (\$13) SIDES: VEGGIES AND BAKED POTATO MUSIC: FIFTH GEAR

# TO OUR ELKS RV GUESTS

Welcome to our RV Park **ELKS MEMBERS ONLY** 

**OUR RATES ARE:** ▶ \$25 per night; 7<sup>th</sup> night FREE ▶ RV Storage is \$50 per month **THANKS FOR STAYING** IN OUR PARK Frank Craft - 813-245-6238

LODGE PHONE - 813-685-6469



# Community • Friendship • Charity join.elks.org

NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> – THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER MUST RSVP - NO WALK-INS

#### \$10 2-4 pm

TRADITIONAL THANSGIVING DAY DINNER FEAST ENTRÉE: TURKEY, MARMALADE GLAZED HAM SIDES: CRANBERRY, MASHED POTATOES, SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE, GREEN BEANS, SAUSAGE STUFFING

**CORN BREAD & PIE** 



#### November 24th

PAT & JEFF LAVOIE \$10 HOMEMADE VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP **GRILLED CHEESE ON SOURDOUGH** DESSERT







#### **BUGLE BOOSTERS: BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!**

Pat & Jeff LaVoie Please help defray the cost of printing and Joseph Zebrak Kim Martinez Lynda & Frank Craft Carolyn & George Thomas John Christensen Julie & Henry Ebert Phillip Singletary Charlene Hart Grace & Rick Weigand Pat & Bernie Hiskey Connie & Henry Poage Gerri Mann **Donald Harrison** Mary Lou & George Scribner Kenneth League **Diane League** 

**Barbara Myer Rich Clark** Karen McArthur **Angela Sweeney** 



mailing out our Bugle.

Donations help a great deal!!

2565



Yes, you read that correctly . . . actively seeking a team of Brandon Members to fill in as Santa Elves for Christmas 2023!

Why did you become an Elk? Most new and long-term members say they joined because they wanted to be part of an organization that does good for their community, supports children and the military; to be personally involved in such activities. However, the biggest question I sometimes hear from members is how do I get involved and join a team if I don't even know about it?!? And you mean it doesn't involve cooking? (LOL!) And aren't there already assigned team members? Trust me, we can always use additional team members.

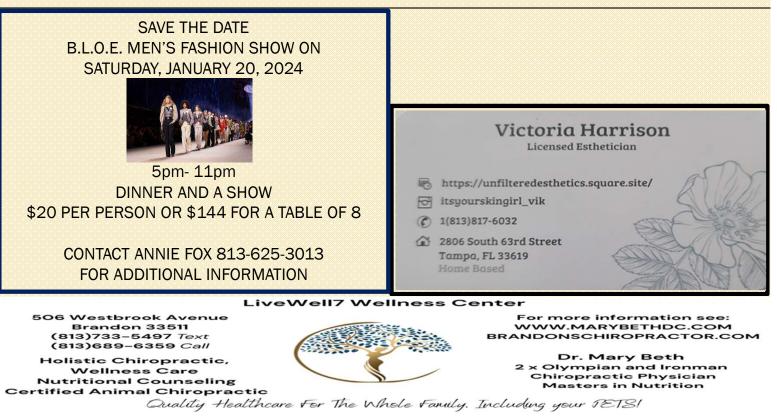
Well, I'm here to tell you that our lodge has been involved with the Walgreens Toy Drive for the past 5 years. Our PER Association chairs and organizes this event. We are actively seeking interested lodge members and/or their spouses who would enjoy being part of this team. It's an annual event that only takes a couple days of your time in December, and it is fun and rewarding. What's involved you might ask? Well......

Our lodge is assigned 14 local Walgreen stores who collect the donated toys for us. Our part is to pick up the toys within an assigned 2-day window. We sort the toys at the lodge and the best part...... we get to give them away!! As you might guess....the giving away part is the most fun!

Title 1 schools, home for battered women, shelters for abused children, our own teachers, and toys for our Elk Therapists, just to name a few of the recipients who are invited to come to our lodge and "shop" for free. We literally get to be Christmas Elves ...... Santa's Helpers.

Let me give you some idea of the impact this annual event has had on our community. Our lodge collected a total of 6,304 toys in the past 5 years. At an average cost of \$5 a toy, that's at least \$31,520 in free toys that we have shared with our community to bring smiles to children.

If you have any interest in being part of this annual event or have questions ..... please contact me (Mary Lou Scribner, PER) at 813-230-1943 or perelkmls@hotmail.com. We would absolutely love to have more of our Brandon members involved to share the fun. Here's your chance to jump on board! Please help!



#### 2401

**VETERANS AFFAIRS Committee Chair Robin Rutzke** 

**BPOE Lecturing 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!



arade of Heroe mmunity • Friendship • Charity

Please come out and join us and support our veterans!



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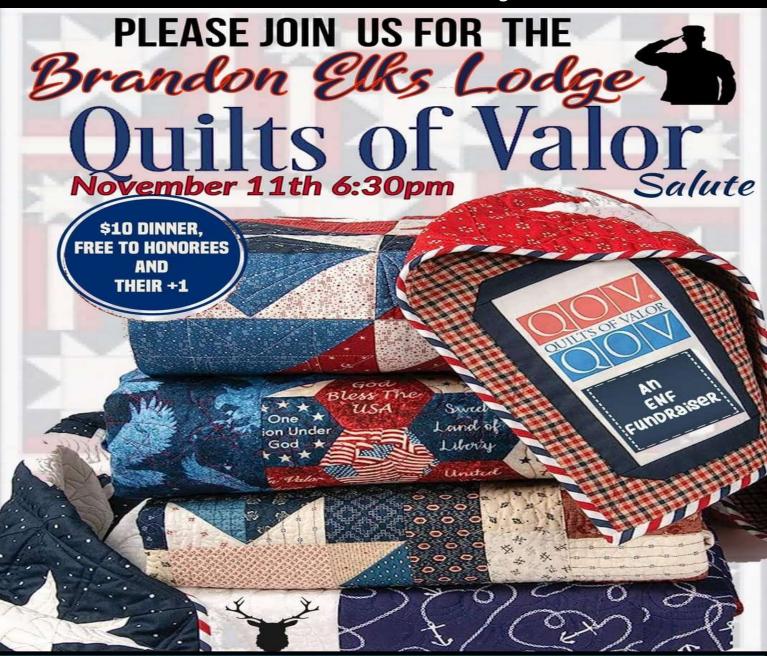
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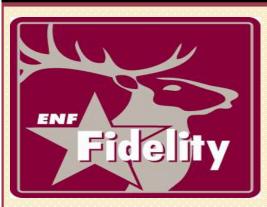
Wasn't That Fun?!? So Let's Do It Again......

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 26th, 2024. 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 218 dinners were prepared and sold!!!! This raised over \$3,200 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@yahoo.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! And the price remains at \$15 a ticket!

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!

We are starting sale of tickets early this year so that you can purchase as a "Christmas Gift".





The ENF Fidelity Club

The Foundation's Monthly Giving Program

Much of the money we give to our children and Veterans comes from the ENF. In order to get, we must give. We actually get MORE than we give, so it makes sense to donate to the ENF rather than donate directly to our community (although we do that, too). Do you contribute to the Elks National Foundation? What if you could donate without having to think about it? You can! Become a member of the Fidelity Club, the ENF's monthly giving program.

Why Join the Fidelity Club?

• Ease: The ENF Fidelity Club recognizes automatic, regularly scheduled donations through your bank account or credit card. These donations occur monthly (minimum \$5).

- Eco-Friendly: Save a tree and save time with paperless donations!
- Convenience: No need to purchase stamps or mail a check. It takes just five minutes to sign up, and you're good to go!
  - Flexibility: You can increase, modify or cancel your gift at any time.
  - Security: It's safe, reliable and allows the ENF to spend less time on administration and more time on our charitable mission.

Becoming a member of the Fidelity Club is easy! Enroll online at enf.elks.org/recurring . If you have questions, contact me EdTheBrandonER@gmail.com



DECEMBER 13, 2023

Our Christmas wrapping for our Christmas families' children will be at 6:30 p.m.

We will be taking donations to help with the families Christmas dinner.

If you have any questions, please contact.

Marionette at 813-956-3776

#### Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

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