

THE BUGLE

Brandon Elks Lodge #2383



FEBRUARY 2026

www.brandoneiks.org

Volume 26 Issue 2

800 CENTENNIAL LODGE DRIVE, BRANDON, FL 33510

ALL AMERICAN LODGE 1999-2000

PHONE 813-685-6469

FAX 813-643-5652



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER, LOU VALENCIA

We are entering February and the beginning of our 3 months of two meetings per month. This is an important time of year for our Lodge, it is the time in which our members get to vote and support the upcoming years officers, so please make sure you attend these meetings and participate in voting and supporting the newly elected leadership for this upcoming lodge year 2026-2027.

We have a date time for our Brandon lodge tour to the Umatilla Youth Camp, Feb. 22, 2026. The bus leaves our lodge @ 8 am, for those who are interested you can sign up at bar, for those that are going, please make sure to be at the lodge no later than 7:45 am.

I would like to announce that Brandon has again achieved a perfect score on our new membership orientation, please thank Jerrilyn Pietro for the wonderful work she does in welcoming and educating our new members.

We are ahead in the state in donations to E.N.F. (Elks National Foundation) who is the governing body associated with our grants for all Lodges. This is who we receive money from for Scholarships, Veterans, and Community donations, among others. Thanks to all members who donate time and money towards this. Remember, we get back about twice as much as we donate. I would like to remind everyone that you can become a sustaining donor online by going to <https://www.elks.org/ENF/supportENF.cfm> to donate. For the price of one drink a month you can make a difference.

We still have many fun events at the Lodge, Bingo, Reverse Raffle, Movie Nights, Card Nights, among others. Please check the Bugle for upcoming dates.

Fraternally Yours, Lou Valencia, Exalted Ruler



Obligation: An oath, a course of action or duty to a commitment.

Brotherly Love: Feeling For Humanity, Having Compassion, Being Tolerant, Accepting, Forgiving.

Charity: The voluntary giving of help, typically to those in need, in a generous way.

Diligence: Being conscientious of one's work or duties, showing care, protective, guarding, keeping someone safe.

Elkdom: Exemplifying charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity, by improving the quality of life for our community and lodge.



Hello PER's!



It's time to plan the PER luncheon 🍔 for February. Hope everyone can attend. This month the plan is to go to the 1916 Irish Pub 🍺 on Thursday, February 12th at 11:30am. This is located at 906 West Robertson St between Publix and the Skating rink. Hope you all have a little free time 😊 to attend and enjoy the food and atmosphere you won't be disappointed.

Your Restaurant Hunter

Kim Martinez PER

ELK OF THE MONTH – Nickie Wells and Nancy Price
Who make many of our dinners happen and do so much more for our Lodge.

Brandon Lodge Officers for 2025-2026 Elk Year

Lou Valencia
Exalter Ruler
813-376-9863



Robin Rutzke
Leading Knight
305-498-5654



Wendy Smith
Loyal Knight
813-862-8573



Michael Fultz
Lecturing Knight
813-205-5885



Christina
Puhalla
Lodge Esquire
609-217-5782



Kathy Brogli
Tiler
813-382-2898



Beverly Laundry
Inner Guard
813-446-0150



Mark Fox
Lodge Chaplain
813-785-5353

Mark Vargo
1 Year Trustee
813-376-8855



Nickie Wells
2 Year Trustee
813-716-8051



Marionette
Garvey
3 Year Trustee
813-956-3776



Ed Ciesla
4 Year Trustee
813-679-7699



Rick Weigand
5 Year Trustee
813-748-2678



2445

Committee Chairs 2025-2026

Accident Prevention - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678

Annual Calendar Updates – Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Bugle Editor – Lara McCleary 203-988-5089

Community Activities – Lou Valencia or Mark Vargo

Drug Awareness – COULD BE YOU!

Grants Coordinator - Kathy Bilinski KayBilinski@yahoo.com

Fraternal Committee -

Fraternal Sub Committees:

Americanism: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056

Flag Day: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Lodge Activities: Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Orientation: Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425

Elks Memorial Day: Lou Valencia -813-376-9863

ENF: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056

Veterans Services: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Hall Rental – Terri Ciesla – 813-679-8007

Hoop Shoot – COULD BE YOU!

House Committee – Rick Weigand – 813-748-2678

Kitchen Manager – Marionette Garvey – 813-956-3776

Lodge Advisors - Henry Poage 813-480-6272 and George Scribner 850-206-0577

Lodge Maintenance - Rick Weigand 813-748-2678 & Lou Valencia 813-376-9863

Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-378-1597

Public Relations – Jerrilyn Pietro 813-493-0425 & Lara McCleary 203-988-5089

Youth Activity – Jim Randall – 813-833-7086

BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is
FEBRUARY 2ND @ 7:00 PM
Hoping to See You There!

Thank you, January, for being a laid-back relaxing month. The Ladies did have some events like movie night, card bingo, and bunco, which are always fun, and our regular ladies' breakfast and Wednesday night dinner, but for the most part, we weren't as busy as we have been.

We created a nominating committee at our January meeting. They are in the process of calling all our members to recruit future officers. Please consider taking one of the positions. The club needs you. You won't be alone. You will have support and help from many folks. The current officers are here to answer any questions you may have. Nominations will take place at our February meeting and at our March meeting before elections.

Please plan to attend the Valentine's Day brunch on February 14 and invite your friends. We will be having a lady comedian to entertain us. She is a local resident and a veteran. I've heard her perform and I'm sure you will enjoy it. Tickets are available from me or at the bar.

We also have two big catering events: February 21, and February 28. Let me know if you're available to volunteer to help at these catering events.

Remember it takes all of us to make our group successful.

We need you.

See you at the Lodge, Terri

Terri Ciesla
President



\$\$\$ Are you giving money away \$\$\$

If you are at the Lodge on a Friday night you could WIN UP TO \$500 if you have signed up for the 500 Club. If you are signed up and cannot be there you can still WIN UP TO \$250. Tell me that extra money would not make your day! The easiest way to sign up so you don't miss a drawing is to do it one time before April 1, 2026 when you pay your dues. \$52 and you're good for the year. That is much easier than paying a dollar weekly. Every member in good standing and their spouse gets their name put in the drawing bin on April 1st. Did you know you can even win more than once a year? It has happened! If your name is selected it goes right back in the bin, so you have many other chances to win. In these fast-paced days make it easy on yourself. If you have a membership card sign up! Don't miss out! Sign up before April 1st and you're done. Good luck everyone.

Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction JANUARY



One of our most committed volunteers has been chosen as our first Lady of Distinction for 2026. She consistently supports our catering needs, Sunday Breakfasts, and Saturday preparation activities. Her culinary skills are exceptional, as she has prepared numerous Wednesday Night Dinners.

In addition to cooking, she takes on the responsibility of setting up for catering events and ensuring that all areas are cleaned up afterward. Her diligence and attention to detail help make every event run smoothly. You can be sure that you will receive your Birthday Card and free drink when your day comes around, she never misses.

She is well-known among the monthly Sunday Breakfast attendees for her famous sausage gravy—a dish that has become a much-anticipated tradition.

Having recently retired, she brings even more energy and dedication to her volunteer work. Without children in her classroom to manage, she has become a driving force for our events. Her presence is unmistakable, and she consistently exceeds expectations as a volunteer, requiring little supervision. She intuitively understands what needs to be done and ensures every task is completed efficiently.

Just in case you haven't figured it out, our **January 2026 Brandon Lady of Elks Lady of Distinction is Cathy Hudson.**

BLOE Elected Officers

President: Terri Ciesla
Vice president: Jane Gilblair
Recording Secretary: Donna Mancuso-Fultz
Corresponding secretary: Beth Benham
Treasurer: Janis Jacobson
Past Lady President: Jane Gilblair

Appointed Officers

Chaplin: MaryAnn Kramer
Parliamentarian: Nancy Price
Historian: Jerrilyn Pietro

Official Hostess: Lara McCleary

Committee Chairpersons

Audit and Budget: Roseanne Caracciolo
Birthdays and anniversaries: Cathy Hudson
Bylaws: Mary Lou Scribner
Catering: Terri Ciesla and Nancy Price
Charities: Wendy Smith
Lady of distinction: Julie Ebert
Lots of luck: Kathy Hattan
Membership: Jane Gilblair
Program: Laurie Bayne
Properties: Carolyn Thomas
Publicity: Jerrilyn Pietro
Scholarships: Kathy Eldridge
Secret pal: Millie Marrero
Sunday breakfast: Nancy Price
Sunshine: Karen McArthur
Telephone: Charlene Hart
Ways and Means: Terri Ciesla
Wednesday dinners: Terri Ciesla
Yearbook: Lori Underberg

2349

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

FEBRUARY

LOUNGE HOURS

Sunday: 1pm – 7pm
Monday - Thursday 4pm – 9pm
Friday 4pm – 10pm
Saturday 4pm – 9pm
Memorial, 4th of July and Labor Day
11am – 6pm
Manager: GLENN GARVEY

To All Lodge Members:

To clarify an apparent misunderstanding regarding our lounge being reserved by one of our members. Our lounge is always open to our members, and their guests, during normal operating hours. If there is a private event also happening during those hours, members/guests are not allowed to freely partake of any food and/or beverages supplied by the member that reserved the use of our lounge unless you were invited to the event, or the member grants you permission to partake of their food/beverage.

Lounge Rental

Lounge usage will be restricted to members, spouses or widows/widowers for their own specific purpose, and they must always be present during the rental

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.

Lodge Meetings Are Open To Members In Good Standing and is the Place to Discuss any Lodge issues. 2nd Monday of each month, February-April! 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month May-January!!

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 – 3rd Monday at 7pm

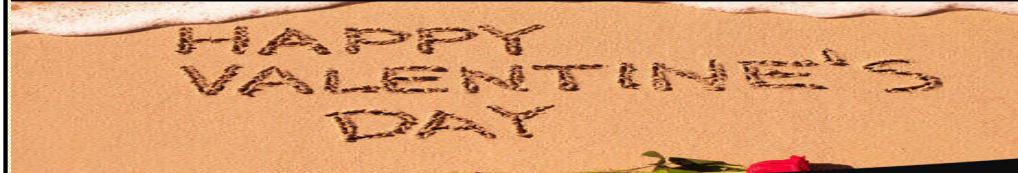
BLOE Ladies Meetings – 1st Monday of month at 6:30pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		TUESDAY CARDS NOW STARTS AT 4:30PM				
1 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 	2 7PM BLOE MEETING – HALL 7PM PER MEETING – ANTE ROOM	3 4:30PM - 7PM CARDS 	4 6:30PM PASTA DINNER LOUNGE 	5 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm 4PM – 9PM LOUNGE RENTAL	6 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	7 4PM – 10 PM LOUNGE RENTAL
					QUARTERLY MEETING UMATILLA	
8 8AM -11AM BLOE BREAKFAST HALL SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	9 LODGE MEETING 7PM 	10 4:30PM - 7PM CARDS 	11 6:30PM BLOE MOVIE NIGHT LOUNGE 	12 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm	13 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	14 STATE HOOP SHOOT 11AM – 2PM BLOE GALENTINE'S DAY TEA
15 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	16 7 PM BOARD MEETING – HALL	17 4:30PM - 7PM CARDS 	18 6:30PM BLOE DINNER 	19 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm BRANDON BOYS' DINNER 6:30PM LOUNGE	20 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	21 5PM JRCOC BALL HALL RENTAL
22 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	23 LODGE MEETING 7PM 	24 4:30PM - 7PM CARDS 	25 6:30PM VETERAN'S DINNER HALL 	26 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm 6PM BLOE GUEST SPEAKER LOUNGE	27 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	28 WEDDING RENTAL HALL

Save the Date

BLOE MEETING, FEBRUARY 2ND
PER MEETING FEBRUARY 2ND
LODGE MEETING, FEBRUARY 9TH & 23RD
FEBRUARY 9TH NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS
BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 16TH

ELKS



FEBRUARY MENU ITEMS

THE ONLY WAY TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL IS TO RSVP RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM

BY THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT BEFORE FOR FRIDAY NIGHT MEALS!

THIS HELPS US MAXIMIZE RESOURCES AND MINIMIZE WASTE
TEXTING OR CALLING THE LODGE IS NOT CONSIDERED AN RSVP!

DINNER IS FROM 6:30PM – 8PM

FEBRUARY 4TH



FEBRUARY 6TH



FEBRUARY 8TH



TO OUR ELKS RV GUESTS

Welcome to our RV Park
ELKS MEMBERS ONLY

OUR RATES ARE:

- \$25 per night; 7th night FREE
- RV Storage is \$60 per month

**ALL RESERVATIONS ARE MADE
THROUGH CAMPSPOT
SEE INFO ON PAGE 6**

Mark Vargo- 813-376-8855
LODGE PHONE – 813-685-6469



FEBRUARY 13TH



FEBRUARY 14TH



FEBRUARY 18TH



FEBRUARY 20TH



FEBRUARY 25TH



FEBRUARY 27TH



BUGLE BOOSTERS:

George & Carolyn Thomas
Jeff & Pat LaVoie
Kim Martinez
Gerri Mann
Joseph Zebrok
Frank & Lynda Craft
Diane & Ken League
George & Mary Lou Scribner
Bob & Jackie Florentino
Charlene Hart
Henry & Julie Ebert
YOUR NAME COULD APPEAR HERE

BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!

Please help defray the cost of printing and mailing out our Bugle. Donations help a great deal!!

**JOIN THE
BOOSTER CLUB**

TO OUR FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY MEMBERS

JOHN NORIEGA, ROBIN RUTZKE, EAMONN DOYLE, PAT HUDSON, SAM MILLER, MELVIN RAY, BEV LOWE, WENDY SMITH, CHRIS THOMPSON, MICHAEL CAMERON, JAMES HESLIN, JANE MOON, HENRY POAGE, DENNIS ROBERTS, HUBERT BEASLEY, SAMUAL MILLER, RON CANTRELL, CAROLYN GREESON, MICHAEL PLANTE, DAVID RODRIGUEZ, SEAN BRELFSFORD, JAMES HELM, JOHN CHRISTENSEN, MICHAEL FULTZ, EDWARD PELLENZ, RUSSELL CHRISTY, KATHLEEN CHILDREE, JERRY NOVAK, CHARLES FEE, LARA MCCLEARY, TREVOR WEEKS, WILLIAM STOUT



BUS TRIP TO UMATILLA

A bus trip has been scheduled to tour the Florida Elk's Youth Camp in Umatilla for February 22, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. After the tour, the Youth Camp will provide lunch. The bus will depart the Brandon Lodge at 8 a.m. We will also be visiting some Elk's lodges along the way home! Interested members who wish to attend, must sign-up at the bar in the Lounge.

RV RESERVATIONS - CAMPSPOT

There has been a change to scheduling and paying for camping reservations at the Brandon Lodge RV park. Reservations and payment will now be completed online via the RV park info link on brandonelks.org website. Individuals desiring to camp at Brandon Lodge 2383 will be redirected to the elks.org website where he or she will log in to verify membership and enter the CampSpot website to complete the reservation.

WHAT IS A BUGLE BOOSTER? It may be something you have forgotten about or don't know what a Bugle Booster does. Believe it or not there are members in our Lodge that do not have a computer, so they depend on the Bugle Boosters to keep them informed on lodge news and activities. So, we mail them a Bugle every month. This program reminds those members that they are always invited to our beautiful Lodge and what is going on so they can make a monthly plan. **CAN YOU SPARE \$5 A YEAR?** That's what I said just \$5. That's less than two cents a day. Help keep all our members informed and you get your name printed in the Bugle as a Booster. When you pay your dues just add that extra \$5 with your dues and let the office know that it is for the Booster Club. Don't forget you get your name printed in the Bugle that's cool all by itself. I'm a member. Do you know who I am? *Remember Elks care Elk's share!*

Brandon Elks Lodge

YOU ARE INVITED TO
**Installation
Dinner of
Officers**

Saturday March 28th

Drinks at 5:00pm
Heavy Hors-d'oeuvres at 6:00pm

BLOE Movie Night!

Wednesday February 11th
Starts at 6pm

XOXO SWEET VALENTINE'S DAY PEAS

This is a Free event!

EW, GROS

Please bring a Dish to share!

INTEH BUE NOT OVER
Intertwining couples and singles in Los Angeles break-up and make-up based on the pressures and expectations of Valentine's Day.

The Legacy of Brandon Ladies of Elks



Everyone in our Lodge knows how important the Ladies are to our Lodge. But did you know our Brandon Ladies of Elks (the BLOE) has a rich history? They are a strong group of ladies who have proven over the years to be supportive of not only our Brandon Lodge, but also the Elks Major Projects, and our community. Countless hours are devoted, and great events are developed and carried out. Friendships are formed that last forever. Some have even provided their support at the State level of the Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE), representing all ladies affiliated with a lodge. Did you know that Brandon has 4 Past State Ladies of Elks Presidents? They are Lillian Tourville in 1989, Beverly Messerschmidt in 2008, Jane Moon in 2015 and Connie Poage in 2017. This is remarkable and says a lot about the Ladies of Brandon!

At this time of year, when officers are elected for the upcoming year, the Brandon Ladies of Elks sometimes struggle to find someone to step up to a leadership role. Everyone wants to help, but no one wants to be in charge. For those that do step up, an everlasting sense of pride follows. AND, there is plenty of help and guidance for the new leaders.

They will not be left to flounder. If no one steps up, our Ladies group will fold, and a horrible tragedy will have occurred. Our Lodge needs our BLOE. Yes, we can survive without them. But do we really want to? Be a part of the legacy. Step up to a leadership role.

10510 Riverview Drive
 (813) 671-3121

Kevin Talbert
 Director / Owner



Linda Hinkle
 Office Manager

Riverview, Florida 33578
 (813) 671-3730 Fax

Mark C. Vargo, Sr.
 Director/Consultant

Brandon Elks
Lodge



Watch it
on the
BIG screen!!

Sunday February 8th

4:00pm
Eat, Drink, Games and Fun!
6:30pm BIG game starts

**Bring a covered
dish to share**

BLOE
Galentine
Brunch

Saturday
February 14th
11 am

\$15

LADIES

Celebrating
Ladies

VETERANS AFFAIRS
Committee Chair
Robin Rutzke

BPOE Leading 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!



Life Member Eligibility

The following Members of Brandon Lodge 2383, are eligible for Life Member.

They have paid Lodge dues for a period of 30 years and have reached 65 years of age.

This will be voted on at Lodge meeting on Feb 23, 2026

Cecil R. Hock

David Jones

Geraldine Mann

Chef Rick
B L O E and Officers



Eat Drink
& Be Irish

Celebrate

ST. PATRICKS DAY

Wednesday March 18th

Dinner 6:30-7:30pm

Dine to
Irish
Music

Menu:
Corned Beef
or Ham
Cabbage
Carrots
Potatoes
Jello salad
Cake

\$15



Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

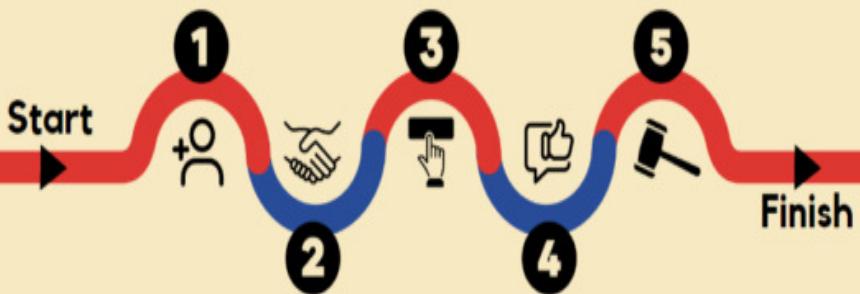
800 Centennial Lodge Drive
Brandon, FL 33510

**Change Service Requested



ELKS

2054
Every Member Begins as a Guest!
NEW MEMBER RECRUITING



1. Ask a friend to join the Elks.
2. Invite your friend to the Lodge.
3. Ask them to apply on-line.
4. Follow-up with the application.
5. Schedule an initiation.

Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org



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www.jackscaglioneinsuranceagent.com
JScaglione3@brighthouse.com

Jack Scaglione
Licensed Insurance Agent

Medicare Supplements ~ Medicare Advantage
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Term Insurance ~ Annuities