

THE 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

DECEMBER 2024

www.brandonelks.org

Volume 24 Issue 12



MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER, DONALD A HARRISON

NOT AVAILABLE



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

NOT AVAILABLE

BRANDON #2383 Reverse Draw

\$50 - includes appetizers & 2 free drink tickets

1st #: \$25 / 25th #: \$25 / 50th #: \$50 / 75th #: \$75 / 150th #: \$2,500

(If all 150 tickets not sold, \$2,500 prize will be based on percentage of tickets sold)

Only 150 REVERSE DRAW TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!

When: Saturday - March 1st, 2025 Begins at 6:30

CHANCE TO WIN \$2,500!!!!



Brandon Lodge Officers for 2024-2025 Elk Year

Donald Harrison
Exalter Ruler
813-376-8949



Lou Valencia
Leading Knight
813-376-9863



Robin Rutzke
Loyal Knight
305-498-5654



Wendy Smith
Lecturing
Knight
813-862-8573



Christina
Puhalla
Lodge Esquire
609-217-5782



Michael Fultz
Tiler
813-205-5885



Beverly Laundy
Inner Guard
813-446-0150



Mark Fox
Lodge Chaplain
813-785-5353



Mary Lou Schreck
Secretary
813-458-5872

**Member Illness/
Convalescence:
Notify Lodge
Secretary**



Nancy Price
Treasurer
813-756-9341

Rick Weigand
1 Year Trustee
813-748-
2678



Mark Vargo
2 Year Trustee
813-376-8855



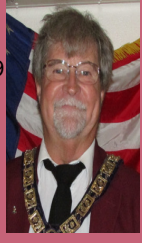
Nickie Wells
3 Year Trustee
813-716-8051



Marionette
Garvey
4 Year Trustee
813-956-3776



Ed Ciesla
5 Year Trustee
813-679-7699



Committee Chairs 2024-2025

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 - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Grants Coordinator - Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

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

State Associations: TBD (Could be You!)

Elks Memorial Day: Don Harrison 813-935-9040

ENF: Nickie Wells 813-716-8056

Veterans Services: Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

Hall Rental - Jan Czajkowski 518-312-9891

Hoop Shoot - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

House Committee - Mark Vargo 813-376-8855

Kitchen Manager - COULD BE YOU

Lodge Advisors - Henry Poage 813-480-6272

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

Lodge Purchasing Food - Stephen Blackman 813-378-1597

Public Relations - Mike Highfill 813-812-2727

Youth Activity - Don Harrison 813-935-9040

Web Master : Ray Bilinski -
webmasterbrandoneelks@gmail.com

BLOE BITS

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

Hello Ladies

Here we are already NEARING the end of the year. This year has been a very busy one and the month of December will not be any different. Before I move on to what is coming up, I want to take a few minutes to reflect on a very important moment in November. We had 3 Elk Members that the Brandon Elks Lodge sent to the Parade of Heroes 80th Anniversary of D - Day. Stearns Poor was one of them and if you get the chance to see the YouTube video of him speaking at the ceremony, it is very heart warming and I, myself, could not be prouder of our Veterans. I wish that there had been more us at the airport to welcome them home, however, Mary Lou Scribner and Terri Ciesla were there to Welcome them home.

The BLOE had a Sip and Paint event and there was a great turn for that event as well. There were about 30 new artists that attended.

December is always a very busy month. On the 1st we will draw the lucky name for the Ultimate Tailgate basket. We will have the BLOE Christmas meeting on the 2nd along with a gift exchange and secret pal gifts. The officers will service a very nice dinner of Lasagna, garlic bread, salad, desserts and sweet and unsweet tea. We will also decorate the Christmas tree for the lodge that night. I would love to see all of you there. On the 7th, ELVIS is in the building, the 8th is our Christmas breakfast with Santa, On the 14th is the Ladies Christmas tea and the JROTC Christmas Ball and there are two other catering events in December. It is NOT to late to help and volunteer or just come out and have a good time at one of them.

Being in the same room with people and creating something together is a good thing ~ Robin Williams ~

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you,
 Becky Cresswell
 President



Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction NOVEMBER



According to our yearbook – The purpose of the Brandon Ladies of Elks is to assist the BPOE with it's various social, civic and charitable projects when feasible. Our lady for the month of November has shown thru her actions just what this means. She has only been a member for several months but since she joined, she has volunteered for any fund-raising event that the ladies have put on.

She works breakfast, Wednesday Night Dinners, Casino Night selling a record number of tickets and helped decorate, model and clean up at our recent fashion show. Shere presents the ladies with class and demonstrates a true example of a Brandon Lady of Elk.

She can be seen at all the lodge events and works to show just what a great place the Brandon Elks Lodge is truly living up to its name of an "All American Lodge". She can be relied on for anything she is asked to do. No job is too small or too big for her to take on.

Please join me in congratulating **Cheryl Barker** our November 2024 Lady of Distinction.



Cyndi Buchanan

Yellowfin Realty
813.391.7231

CyndiBuchanan.YFR@gmail.com

"Our focus is serving you, it's what we do"

500 Club Winners

Not available at publishing time

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Volunteers Needed

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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

DECEMBER



SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

01 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 1PM ELKS ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE HALL	02 6:30PM BLOE MEETING - HALL PER MEETING 7PM ANTE ROOM	03 5PM - 7PM CARDS 	04 6:30PM PASTA DINNER HALL	05 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm	06 10AM- 2PM LOUNGE RENTAL FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 7PM - 12AM HALL RENTAL	07 5PM - 7PM TRIBUTE TO ELVIS 7:30PM - 11PM AFTER PARTY
08 8AM - 11AM BLOE BREAKFAST HALL SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	09  Lodge Meeting 7PM	10 5PM - 7PM CARDS 	11 6PM CHRISTMAS FAMILY WRAPPING PARTY	12 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm	13 FRIDAY PER NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	14 11AM BLOE TEA HALL 6PM LOUNGE RENTAL 6PM - 11PM HALL RENTAL
15 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	16 7 PM BOARD MEETING - HALL	17 5PM - 7PM CARDS 	18	19 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm	20 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS ENF	21 6PM - 11PM HALL RENTAL
22 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	23	24 NO CARDS CHRISTMAS EVE LODGE CLOSED	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS LODGE CLOSED	26 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm	27 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	28 6PM - 11PM HALL RENTAL
29 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	30	31 NO CARDS NEW YEAR'S EVE	01	02	03	04

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.
Thank you.
Mark C. Vargo, Sr., PER
Board of Directors Chair

BLOE BREAKFAST
ALL YOU CAN EAT \$10
2nd Sunday
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Lounge Rental

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

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

Save the Date
BLOE MEETING, DEC 2ND
PER MEETING, DEC 2ND
LODGE MEETING, DEC 9TH
BOARD MEETING DEC 16TH

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.

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: Carole DiAddezio

DECEMBER MENU ITEMS

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

BY 12 NOON THE DAY BEFORE FOR ALL 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

DECEMBER 4TH



Pasta!
 Spaghetti
 Meatballs
Pasta Night
 RED OR WHITE SAUCE
Wednesday December 4th
\$10 SAUSAGE **6:30 PM**
 WITH SALAD AND DESSERT
 Penne Linguine
 Please be sure to RSVP @
RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM

DECEMBER 11TH



Brandon Ladies of Elks
Wednesday Night Dinner
Nancy and Crew
Soup's On
 Soup
 Chili
 And Salad
\$10
December 11th 6:30pm

DECEMBER 27TH



Mark Vargo and Crew
Friday 6:30pm
December 27th
All you can Eat!
 Chili
 Hot dogs
 Salad and
 Dessert
 Jukebox music night!!

DECEMBER 6TH

TBD
 TERRI CIESLA
 CHEF

DECEMBER 13TH



Mark Vargo and Crew
FRIDAY
NIGHT
Dinner
December 13th 6:30pm
 Country Fried Steak
 Potatoes, gravy
 Veggie and
 Dessert
 LIVE MUSIC WITH...
 Taylor
 And Taylor

DECEMBER 8TH



BRANDON LADIES OF THE ELKS
DECEMBER BREAKFAST
 SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH 8 AM TO 11 AM
 WITH A VISIT FROM
SANTA 10 TO 11
 Take Your Picture with SANTA!
 Children Make an Ornament to Take Home!
 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR
 BREAKFAST \$10
 FREE FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DECEMBER 20TH



Alan Smith and Friend's
Friday Night Dinner
December 20th 6:30pm
\$15
 RIBS, PORK BUTT
 POTATO SALAD
 COLLARD GREENS
 BAKED BEANS
 BREAD AND DESSERT
 Do not miss
 This!!!
 Music
 Bill D. Williams
 Please RSVP
RSVPBrandoneLks@yahoo.com

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

**THANKS FOR STAYING
 IN OUR PARK**

Don Cress 207-703-5574

Mark Vargo- 813-376-8855

LODGE PHONE - 813-685-6469



BUGLE BOOSTERS:

- Pat & Jeff LaVoie
- Kim Martinez
- Lynda & Frank Craft
- Carolyn & George Thomas
- Ron & Ester Cantrell
- Julie & Henry Ebert
- Charlene Hart
- Donald Harrison
- Kenneth League
- Diane League
- Richard Clark
- Jackie Florentino
- Gerri Mann

BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!

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



Happy Birthday

TO OUR DECEMBER BIRTHDAY MEMBERS

DONNA CASSANESE, JANE GILBLAIR, THOMAS DIPINTO, LEE HARVEY, MARK MILLER, WALTER BROOKS, ROBERT BARON, THOMAS LEAVITT, TODD PATTON, DAVID REES, HENRY BOX, DAVID BUSCHMAN, JR., DONALD CLARK, KAREN MCARTHUR, JIM RANDALL, KEN MUZYK, RAY BILINSKI, ANITA BLACKMAN, NELSON GUGGINO, MARK CRAFT, GREGORY YAPLE, TIMOTHY WILLIAMS, JOSEPH LANGE, ANGELO SANTOS, CINDY BUCHANAN, CHRISTINA PUHALLA, LISA BOONE, AMANDA FLOOD, CHRISTINE VOGEL, CAROL HERLEHY, GENE PIKE, DAVID KERR, KRISTINA GRAY, GERALDINE MANN, WILLIAM MUMBAUER, KIRK PENNYWITT, RICHARD VOGT, ROBERT ROSS, JR., CHARLES BRINKMAN & DIANE KEMP

DON'T FORGET TO COME OUT ON 1/4/25 FOR YOUR FREE BIRTHDAY DINNER

ATTENTION TO ALL ELKS THAT HAVE SOME TYPE OF VEHICLE/CAMPER IN OUR STORAGE AREA

We have completed the north side of the storage lot with new marked and numbered spaces. We will be doing the south side of the lot soon. When completed with the new marked spaces, we will be asking those on the south side to re-position their RV's/Boats. Please have some type of identification placed on your stored vehicle (name, telephone and email).

If you have something stored in our Storage Area, please contact Mark Vargo at 813-376-8855.

We need to know what you have stored and how big.

We are asking all those that temporarily stored in the RV park, to please move back to the storage lot.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL YOU PER'S out there and to all the membership. Just a reminder for a member to become a PER, *YOU MUST* become an officer and be elected as an ER, then you can join the Past Exalted Rulers for lunch. Now for my business. PER'S MARK YOUR CALENDAR THURSDAY DECEMBER 12TH AT 11:30, at CHEDDARS SCRATCH KITCHEN. The address is 10140 Bloomingdale Ave, Riverview 33578 that is by Target at Bloomingdale and Gornto Lake Rd. My wish for Santa is that more PER'S can attend. Hope to see you then.

Your Restaurant Hunter

Kim Martinez PER

SUSTAINING DONATIONS

[BECOME A SUSTAINING DONOR](#) - HARRY ANNA

[BECOME A SUSTAINING DONOR](#) - ENF

Thank you

Donald A Harrison

Exalted Ruler, Brandon Elks Lodge #2383



Elks
National
Foundation



VETERANS AFFAIRS
Committee Chair
Robin Rutzke



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!



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

Please join the
Brandon ELK's
Wrapping Party

Wednesday
December 11th
6:30pm

Brotherly Love
Charity

Brandon Ladies of Elk

Rockin Roll

Dec 7th **7:30-11 pm**

After Party

FOOD ★ MUSIC ★ FUN ★ DANCING

★ \$10 WITH ELVIS TICKET ★ \$20 PARTY ONLY ★

Brandon Ladies of Elks
Christmas Tea

Peace ON EARTH

Saturday December 14th
11am-2pm

\$20

Theme: ANYTHING CHRISTMAS

Tickets available from **Terri Ciesla and Terrie Buntin**

Brandon Ladies of Elk

T.C.B. Presents

Gene Styles
 Elvis Impersonator
A Tribute To

ELVIS

Saturday December 7th
5-7pm

\$25 Includes Show & Appetizers

Earlier you get tickets The better your seat if getting a table of 8
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Tickets available at bar or **Terri Ciesla**
 800 Centennial Lodge Dr
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