

MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER, DONALD A HARRISON

July has come with heat.

Not only is the weather extremely hot, but we must also prepare for the start of school and the activities of our lodge. I will keep it short!

I am looking for three things to be addressed!

MEMBERSHIP BUILDING

I need four member to assist with membership building. All can be done in the comfort of your home at times you are free. One to simply google search the targeted group and created email labels. The formatted labels are sent by email to be printed.

Two, a person to place the labels and stamps on the envelopes.

Three, a person to stuff the envelopes with the invitation letters.

Four, a person to monitor the responsive email account from those reserving a seat at the members building dinner.

HOOP SHOOT

I need six individuals to attend basketball camps in Hillsborough County during the summer to offer invitations to children 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, of both genders to participate in the Hoop Shoot competition. Our lodge hoop shoot is scheduled in September. If possible, ask the coach running the camp for a short 10 shot free throw contest or ask the coaches whom they suggest to try hoop shoot. **Time is of the essence.**

SUSTAINING DONORS

There is an old saying, "I have more time than money or I have more money than time."

The Florida State Elks organization has one of the foremost youth camps in the USA. Additionally, more than 600 children are provided, free of charge, physical and occupational therapy EACH WEEK from one of the 38 therapist of the Florida Elks Children's

Therapy Services. The cost to Florida Elks exceeds \$3 million annually. To assist with this cost, I ask that you provide \$19 a month as a sustaining donor before the end of August to be included in our February 2025 dinner and be recognized for your contribution with your name on the sustaining board.

In closing, you can communicate your desire to take part in the above activities by emailing Elks2383sharing @yahoo.com.

Thank you, Donald A. Harrison 57th Exalted Ruler Brandon Lodge #2383



WE ARE ELKS! WHAT DO WE DO? WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE. HOW? WE HELP, WE SHARE, WE ARE SEEN.

ELK OF THE MONTH

Elks are an organization of camaraderie and service. Since 1868, Elks have provided billions of volunteer hours as well as billions in financial support within the communities they serve. Service in a community is a team effort. There are those that write grant requests to obtain grants and scholarships to use within our communities. There are those that work the front lines, touching community members directly with those grants and scholarships. But not all funds are in the form of grants from the state and national Elks organizations. Locally we raise tens of thousands in revenue to fund our lodge's charities. Whether it is back to school supplies for teachers, book bags filled with supplies for students, gifts for families in need during the holidays, collecting good for veterans and active military members, or many of the other programs we partake in, much of these activities are funded through our lodge's fund-raising activities and

programs.

Bingo is one such lodge program. Each Thursday, bingo takes place in the rental hall, overseen by the bingo chair. The chair oversees the schedule of volunteers that sells the bingo game material, verifies the winners, and calls the balls, as well as order supplies, among her other duties. The funds raised from Bingo, the tear tabs, and electronic machines fund the programs and many others.
The sign on the posts next to our lodge sign, professes we have provided more than \$1.3 million to our community. We have crossed the \$1.4 million mark with the contributions of Bingo proceeds. A new member, having joined only recently, but has been serving our lodge for years as the spouse of a member, her dedication and service to our lodge and community has made a huge impact.

I thank Laurie Bayne and announce Laurie as, Elk of the Month.

Brandon Lodge Officers for 2024-2025 Elk Year

Robin Rutzke

Loyal Knight





Christina Puhalla Lodge Esquire 813-245-0827



Michael Fultz Tiler 813-205-5885



305-498-5654

Beverly Laundy

813-446-0150

Inner Guard





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







Marionette Garvey 4 Year Trustee 813-956--3776







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 Blinski - webmasterbrandonelks@gmail.com



BLOE BITS Next Meeting is JULY 1ST @ 7:00 PM Hoping to See You There!

Well June is here and almost over!

There is not much news to report and sorry to say we are having a slow go at this year's start. I have high hopes that we will get better as the year moves on. The Ladies Wed. night dinner was delicious, and we had a great turn out. As of now we don't have anyone cooking Wednesday night dinner in July. If we don't get anyone to volunteer, we will have to cancel. I am hoping that we will not have to do this, as the regulars count on that dinner, as do we. I have had 12 ladies step up and say that they are getting cakes, cookies, or pastries ready for the 4th of July picnic cake raffle. Thank you all for doing so and let's bring in the BIG \$\$\$! The Ladies Lottery Board has been put together by Nancy Price once again this year. It is up behind the bar; tickets are on sale now thru July 4th . As always, thickets are 1 for a \$1 or 6 for 5\$. The drawing will be at the 4th of July picnic. The lady's office was cleaned out in May, and it looks great! Remember the only items going in there are the linens and stuff for the meetings. Everything else is to be kept in the shed. On Sunday, the May 19th we cleaned out the shed and everything that is stored there is to be in totes and MARKED.

I want to thank Terri Ciesla for doing Bunco and Casino Night, Nancy Price for the Lottery board and Beth Benham and Julie Elbert for the Fashion show. Thank you, thank you, thank you! I can't say it enough. We still have 3 major events that need a Chair Person. Let's get someone to volunteer so we can make them all successful with early planning.

A well done is better than well said – Benjamin Franklin

Thank you, Becky Cresswell President KNOW YOUR WORTH



Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction JUNE



Our Lady of Distinction for June is a very important member of both the BPOE and BLOE. She can be seen at the lodge almost everyday and when she is here, she is either in the kitchen or working in the office. She has been chairing the Sunday Breakfast for many years and assures us a profit every month. Her cooking expertise is well known at this lodge, and she also cooks at the Moose. She enjoys cooking and when she cooks her meatloaf, we know that there will be a line waiting to eat. She took on co-chair of catering this year and because of her long-standing experience we know that it will be covered and that our reputation of great meals and five-star catering will continue. She is also willing to help at fundraisers and events. She has been an outstanding member for many years and its about time that we let her know what an asset she is and that her hard work in the kitchen and in the office hasn't gone unnoticed. Please join me in congratulating Nancy Price as our June Lady of Distinction.

Cyndi Buchanan

Yellowfin Realty 813.391.7231

CyndiBuchanan.YFR@gmail.com

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



THE BUGLE • JULY 2024 • Page 4									
	Mary Lou Schreck ODGE SECRETARY <u>Office Hours</u> MONDAY: 3pm – 5pm DNESDAY: 3pm – 5pm r call for appointment Or call for appointment						EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT Dinner * Dancing * Music Weekly 50/50 Raffles \$500 Club Drawing		
		SUN	MON	THEO	MED	THUR	FRI	CAT	
	FERRE HAPPY HATHOF JULYI Community · Friendship · Charity elks.org		6:30PM BLOE MEETING- HALL		AUSTIN, T)		05 Friday night dinner see page 5 MUSIC: BEN MEYER	06	
	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 patake of any food and (or hoverages supplied	07 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	08 Lodge Meeting 7PM	09 5PM -7PM CARDS SNACK BAR OPEN :30PM - 6:30PM	10 Pasta Night Hall 6:30PM \$10	11 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	12 Friday night dinner see page 5	13 2PM - 6PM - LOUNGE RENTAL 6:30PM ELKS BIRTHDAY DINNER HALL RENTAL 7PM - 11PM	
	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	14 BAM-11AM BLOE BREAKFAST HALL SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	15 7 PM BOARD MEETING- HALL	16 5PM-7PM CARDS SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM		18 IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM 6:30PM 8:RANDON BOY'S INNER - LOUING	GOOD STUFF	20 DD/VP VISITATION LAKELAND 12 PM - 4PM LOUNGE RENTAL 6PM-12AM - LOUNGE RENTAL	
	BLOE BREAKFAST ALL YOU CAN EAT \$10 2 nd Sunday OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Lounge Rental	21 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	22	23 5PM-7PM	24 Veterans Dinner MEMBER ORIENTATION 6:30PM	25 BLNGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	26 Friday night dinner see page 5	27 11AM DD CLINIC PLANT CITY 4PM - 10PM 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. 2 nd Monday of each	28 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	29 6PM BUNCO- LOUNGE	30 5PM-7PM V CARDS SNACK BAR OPEN 5:30PM - 6:30PM	31	01	02	03	
	month, May-January! February-April 2 nd and 4 th 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 st Monday, 7pm	Brandon Lodge supports our Veterans Lodge Veterans please come out every 4 th Wednesday of the month to enjoy free dinner and visit with other local Vets! Prepared by Nancy and friends.							
	Lodge Meeting 2 nd Monday of month, 7pm Governing Board mtg – 3 rd Monday at 7pm BLOE Ladies Meetings – 1 st Monday of month at 6:30pm	Save the Date BLOE MEETING, JULY 1 ST LODGE MEETING, JULY 8 TH BOARD MEETING JULY 15 TH				Su Monday Fr Sa	LOUNGE HOURS Sunday: 1pm – 7pm Monday - Thursday 4pm – 9pm Friday 4pm – 10pm Saturday 4pm – 9pm MANAGER: CAROLE DIADDEZIO		

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JULY 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

JULY 13TH

opu Kisthaau

Please join us

For dinner

Country Fried Steak Or Tilapia w/ shrimp parm. sauce Potatoes, Veggies Salad and

Birthday

JULY 14TH

Best Breakfast in Town Brandon Elks BLOE Breakfast

SUNDAY JULY 14TH 8AM-11AM

JULY 17[™] B.L.O.E.

Annie Fox's

Wednesday Night

July 17th

Shepard's Pie

Salad, Bread,

and Dessert

Please RSVP RSVPbrandonelks@yahoo.com

Diny

Dinner @6:3

S10

sunday breakfast

Open to the public

ALL YOU CAN EAT

July 13th

brate YOU 8th 6:30pm

\$15



JULY 10TH



Wednesday July 10th



Please be sure to RSVP @ RSVPBRANDONELKS@YAHOO.COM

JULY 12TH



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 \$50 per month THANKS FOR STAYING IN OUR PARK Frank Craft - 813-245-6238 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** Karen McArthur **Donald Harrison Angela Sweeney** Kenneth League Joseph Zebrak **Diane League** David Zilka **Richard Clark** Mary Lou & George Scribner Jackie Florentino Pat & Bernie Hiskey Gerri Mann

JULY 19TH





JULY 26TH



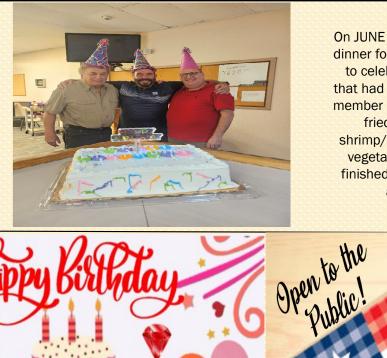
BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!

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





Community • Friendship • Charity elks.org



On JUNE 15TH we had a birthday dinner for members of our lodge to celebrate those members that had a birthday in June. The member had a choice of country fried steak, fish with a shrimp/parm sauce, potatoes, vegetables and a salad and finished with a song and cake and ice cream.

Brandon Elks Lodge **

Please join us For dinner **To celebrate YOU!** July 13th 6:30pm

Country Fried Steak Or Tilapia w/ shrimp parm. sauce Potatoes, Veggies Salad and Birthday

\$15

Free To all Members With a June Birthday

11am-

2pm

ebration

800 Centenial Lodge Dr.

★ Hotdogs★Hamburgers ★

★1/4 Chicken★Coleslaw★

\$5

JUL

2607

WANTED VOLUNTEERS

Our lodge runs 99% on the labor of volunteers. What do we do? What is planned?

- 4th of July Parade and picnic
- Snack bar 10 times a month every Tuesday and Thursday and one Saturday a month
- Dinners 8 to 10 times a month, three Wednesdays, 4 to 5 Fridays and a Saturday.
- Bingo each Thursday
- Visitations with members of the VA community.
- Food and magazine drives 4 times a year.
- 50/50 raffles.
- Queen of Hearts game each Tuesday.
- Membership committee: assist with recruitment, retention, and engagement.
- Lodge Olympics, where we travel to other lodges and compete in cooking and sports related competition.
- Mystery bus, where members are taken to lodges, unknown which lodges until we arrive. This gives us the opportunity to see others in their lodge environment.
- Bus to Umatilla youth camp to meet the staff of the camp and be exposed to all the Florida State Elks organization does throughout this state.
- A day at the Rays, a bus to see the Tampa Bay Rays play in Pinellas County. It is a statewide function. Last year there were about 1400 Elks in attendance.
- Hall rentals and catering that generates income for our lodge and charity programs.
- Communication: individuals overseeing the Bugle, our website, our calendars, Facebook, dinner and event flyers, contact with the media to promote our events, bulletin board and digital TV information in the lounge and other mechanisms we use to get the word out to our members.
- Christmas gift and wrapping. We post a list of children and information on their wish list.
- Back to school support. Supplies for teachers and students.
- Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving.
- Toy collection with Walgreens.
- Collecting supply for active-duty service members.
- Member recruitment dinners.
- MacDill dinner in November (Guests by invitation only).
- Photographer: members to assist in capturing what we do.
- Entertainment: Booking of our entertainment is handled by a member.
- Bar support: The bar manager maintains fiscal control; orders supplies and goods. Sees that the bar is maintained in a safe and health manner.
- Kitchen support: In addition to cooking food in the kitchen, equipment and the kitchen from time to time must be deep cleaned. This requires removing the equipment out of the kitchen, cleaning and returning. As that is happening, stripping and waxing the floor occurs.
- Food buyer: This member is responsible to purchase much of the food and supplies for kitchen functions.
- Hall rental: A member meets with prospective parties to answer any questions on renting the hall. This person also handles the rental contract.
- Ground keeper: From time to time, members trim trees, remove clutter from drain line and spouts, blow leaves from entrances to reduce accidents and maintain our flowerpots and outside patio areas.
- Building maintenance: Painting, fixing a leaking toilet, and generally much of the same maintenance we do in our own homes.
- Accounting and record keeping: We maintain records and file reports as required by law and Elk rules.
- Anti drug campaign: MCing fishing events to impress upon the younger crowd the dangers of drugs.
- Visits with Willis Peters Exceptional School to entertain and assist children and their families with their children that are physically and emotionally delayed.
- Coordinating the rental of our hall for car, coin, and other shows.



There are many activities and functions that demand our labor to accomplish the goal of Elkdom:

I AM ASKING THAT OUR MEMBERS ASSIST IN OUR MISSION TO CARE AND SHARE. Share 8 hours a month. Many of the tasks mentioned can be done in the comfort of your home and on a schedule that is not overly demanding.

Yes, many actual require you be in the lodge and do tasks of a physical nature. To put in in perspective, your labor, had you been paid to perform, is donated to our lodge. If we have a rental, generating \$1200, \$600 in bar sales and \$1100 in food sales, your labor helped to generate that \$2900 in profit. IT is that income that pays the \$3000 electric bill, the \$600 trash bill, and supports much of what we do in our community.

I ask that you send an email to <u>elks2383sharing@yahoo.com</u> with your choice of how you can be the labor for our community and lodge.

Donald A Harrison 57th Exalted Ruler, Brandon Lodge #2383



SUSTAINING DONATIONS

BECOME A SUSTAINING DONOR - HARRY ANNA BECOME A SUSTAINING DONOR - ENF

Thank you Donald A Harrison Exalted Ruler, Brandon Elks Lodge #2383







L to R: Debbie Grauman, Karen Williams, Cheryl Barker, and Ronald Harrison

Steven Russell Sawdey Memorial Scholarship HEART FELT THANK YOU

No words could adequately express how touched we were upon reading about the establishment of the memorial scholarship program in Steve's honor. Steve loved his chicken dinner and would have been so proud to know that his friends are carrying on in his memory and dedicating the proceeds to a cause he cared so passionately about. From the bottom of our hearts- thank you. Thank you for remembering our Steve and honoring him in such a special way.

With love, from Deana Sawdey and family

VETERANS AFFAIRS Committee Chair Robin Rutzke

BPOE Loyal 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!







Thank you to those who donated to the quarterly food and magazine drive on May 19th. A total of 209 pounds of food was collected for Nativity food bank and magazines were given to Kathryn Bryant, JAHVH foster care recreation therapist.



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