

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

MARCH 2025

www.brandonelks.org

Volume 25 Issue 3



MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER, DONALD A HARRISON

As I write this, my last message as the exalted ruler, as I reflect on my year, I have concluded, there's a lot of things I intended to try and implement and was unable to do so. On the positive side membership grew. I thought coming in, I would be able to be the chief operating officer. But reality, dictated, otherwise. It seems the ER is the backup when any of our members either are unable to work a task, or no one has volunteered. My hope, as Lou takes the reins as the ER, this message will resonate with our members, particularly our newer members, to reach out when you have a desire to assist and volunteer.

In 1868 our order was founded. And as the country grew and matured, so did the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America. As our country grew the BPOE, stepped up, reaching into our community to make a difference. As the national Elk's organization created field hospitals, and was there to assist emergencies throughout this country, the Florida Elks created its own programs. From the Florida Elks Children's Hospital, to our Elks Children's Therapy Services. So shall we, as a lodge, engage in similar projects.

For years, we have engaged in projects to assist children in our community. Projects such as Hoop Shoot, back to school bags, supplies for teachers, scholarship programs, anti-drug campaigns, the Willis Peters Exceptional School's prom, are just some of the projects we have supported at our lodge over the years. After Covid, it changed. As a member, particularly those with less than 10 years in our lodge, I ask that you reach out to the chairs, they can be found on the next page and let them know you want to be a part of these projects.

As I close, thank you to those of you who have supported this lodge, I commend you for your dedication to your obligation. The obligation of brotherly love, charity, justice and fidelity, I challenge us all, that we shall recommit ourselves to our obligation.

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



Fraternally Yours, Don Harrison, Exalted Ruler

ELK OF THE MONTH

The Elk of the month is a gentleman, who may not reside here all year, but when he is here, he provides his 8+ hours a month in service to our lodge.

Aside from what he does in the community outside of Elkdom, he works our snack bar, he assists with events and works with me to expand our membership.

When you see Tom Myers, please thank him for all he has done.



To All PER's it's lunch time again! For March 13th, the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 we will have our PER luncheon at Metro Diner located at 1901 W. Lumsden.

It is in the shopping center on the SE corner of W Lumsden and Providence the area where Bonefish and Burger King is located. Hope you can attend.

Your Restaurant Hunter
Kim Martinez PER

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
MARCH 3RD @ 7:00 PM
Hoping to See You There!

Happy March to all you Ladies,
With it being March, this is my last letter as President of the BLOE. I want to thank you all for being so nice and coming out to help us whenever you could. We did have a couple of hiccups, but we managed to pull through with all your help. The year was filled with good times, and I think that we raised a substantial amount of money and that it will help ALL the charities. We gave a very Merry Christmas to families and children in need. We are all about helping others.

March is filled with a very busy calendar. First is our meeting on the 3rd, which will be the election of the new officers coming in on the first of April. It is also our Memorial service for the ladies that have passed away this year, if my memory serves me correctly there are 5. Then on the 25th, it will be the dinner served by the BPOE and the installation of the new officers, and the revealing of the Secret Pal.

I want to thank Melinda Giffen Frater, Cheryl Barker, Teresa Reeves, Donna Cassanese, Tracy Tirado and any of the other ladies that helped make the Masquerade Ball the best it could be. I think it was very elegant, and I am hoping that Pauline Talbot (President of the FLOE) and her husband had a good time. I am also sure that this was the first event that a FLOE President had attended. I wish all the BLOE a good year next year and hope it will be a great one as well.

We have flown the air like birds and swum the sea like fishes but have yet to learn the simple act of walking the earth like brothers. ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. ~



Thank you,
Becky Cresswell
President

Brandon Ladies of Elks Lady of Distinction FEBRUARY



This month's lady of distinction is a powerhouse of energy. She can be seen at Sunday Breakfast, Wednesday Night Dinners and just about any other function that involves the ladies. She helped with two recent memorial services and is indispensable at Sunday Breakfast. She hasn't been a member for very long, but she already knows where everything is in the kitchen making her a valued helper. She is quiet and just does the job without a lot of fanfare. All this and she is only here for about six months of the year. We need more ladies like her that just get the job done.

Please join me in congratulating **Jackie Florentino** as February Lady of Distinction..



Cyndi Buchanan

Yellowfin Realty
813.391.7231

CyndiBuchanan.YFR@gmail.com

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Riverview, Florida 33578
(813) 671-3730 Fax

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

MARCH

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










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.

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
30 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 2PM LOUNGE RENTAL	31 BUNCO LOUNGE 6PM – 9PM	OFFICER TRAINING – ORLANDO 3/14 - 3/16					1 REVERSE RAFFLE 6:30PM LOUNGE
2 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	3 6:30PM BLOE MEETING – HALL PER MEETING 7PM ANTE ROOM	4 5PM-7PM CARDS 	5	6 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm	7 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	8	
9 8AM -11AM BLOE BREAKFAST HALL SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM	10  LODGE MEETING 7PM	11 5PM-7PM CARDS 	12	13 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm 6:30PM	14 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	15 ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER HALL SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	
16 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	17 7 PM BOARD MEETING – HALL	18 5PM-7PM CARDS 	19 6:30PM BLOE DINNER HALL	20 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm BRANDON BOYS LOUNGE	21 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	22 12-4PM LOUNGE RENTAL 5PM LOUNGE RENTAL	
23 SOCIAL & SPORTS LOUNGE 1PM 	24  LODGE MEETING 7PM	25 5PM-7PM CARDS  5PM BLOE INSTALLATION – HALL	26 6:30PM VETERAN'S DINNER HALL	27 BINGO IN THE HALL 6:30pm	28 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	29 5:30 BPOE INSTALLATION 6:30PM DINNER SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS	

Save the Date
BLOE MEETING, MAR 3RD
PER MEETING, MAR 3RD
LODGE MEETING, MAR 10TH
LODGE MEETING, MAR 24TH
BOARD MEETING MAR 17TH

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: WENDY SMITH

MARCH 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

MARCH 7TH

Mary Lou and Friends

FRIDAY NIGHT Dinner 6:30pm
March 7th

\$15

Smothered Chopped Sirloin Steak
 Potatoes
 Veggies, salad and Dessert!

Live Music by: **BEHRENS**

Come out And support!!

MARCH 15TH

Chef Rick And Grace

B L O E

Eat Drink & Be Irish
 Celebrate **ST. PATRICKS DAY**
Saturday March 15th

Dinner 6:30-7:30pm

Dine to Irish Music

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

\$15

MARCH 26TH

Wednesday Night

VETERANS

Non-Vets \$10 Dinner **VETS EAT FREE**

March 26th 6:30pm
Nancy's Meatloaf

MARCH 9TH

Best Breakfast in Town

Brandon Elks BLOE Breakfast

sunday breakfast
SUNDAY MARCH 9TH
8AM-11AM

\$10

Open to the public

ALL YOU CAN EAT

MARCH 21ST

Nickie and Friends

Friday Steak Night
 Join us for the best steak in town!!
March 21st
 Dinner @ 6:30

Steak, fish, or shrimp with potato, veggie, salad And dessert

\$13 **\$15** **\$13**

Rock out with.... **THEY'RE BACK!! SKIP AND NANCY**

MARCH 28TH

Brandon Boys

FRIDAY NIGHT Dinner **\$15**

Friday March 28th 6:30pm

Pork Chops
 Mashed Potatoes
 Green Beans
 Grilled Onions
 And Mary Lou's Dessert

LIVE MUSIC
 Taylor and Taylor

Please RSVP Rsvpbrandonelks@yahoo.com

MARCH 14TH

We are back and better than ever!!

Phil and Crew's
Friday Night Dinner
March 14th 6:30 pm

Philly's Cheesesteak **\$12**

Chicken or Steak
 Served with French Fries or Onion Rings And Dessert

Live Music by: **Loosely Wound Band**

MARCH 22ND

Happy Birthday

March
 Please join us For dinner To celebrate YOU!
March 22nd 6:30pm

Country Fried Steak Or Tilapia w/ the fixings
 Potatoes, Veggies
 Salad and **Birthday CAKE**

\$15

Free to all Members With a March Birthday

MARCH 29TH

Installation of Officers Dinner
Saturday March 29th

Installation @ 5:30
 Dinner following

Menu
 Baked Chicken
 Rice Pilaf
 Vegetables
 Dessert

Free Dinner!
 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

Jeff LaVoie- 518-586-6428

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
- Karen McArthur
- Angela Sweeney
- Joseph Zebrak
- David Zilka
- Mary Lou & George Scribner
- Pat & Bernie Hiskey

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

Happy Birthday

TO OUR MARCH BIRTHDAY MEMBERS

WILLIAM WISEMAN, WILLIAM BELCHER, ROBIN WAHLER, MARC GLASS, IVAR SWANSON, KATHY BROGLI, ROBERT DEL MONACHE, DONALD OSTERHOUT, ROBERT WEBB, SAM FERLITA, CARL LORD, ROY JOHNSON, YVONNE PREZIOSI, VICKI SMITH, EMILIO GELFENSTEIN, ERIKA SUBERO, DEBRA GRAUMAN, PHILLIP SMITH, MICHAEL BAKER. VICTORIA GUARRERA, ALBERT PAONE, ROBERT SUBKO, JOE SCHRECK, ROBIN HUJAR, ED CIESLA, STEPHEN VANHEUVEL, ROXANNE HUJAR, NYALINE SUGENT, JAMES WHEELER, JAMIE SANDIN, PATRICIA SCHWARTZ, MARY YAPLE & JOE PIETRO!

DON'T FORGET TO COME OUT ON 3/22/25 FOR YOUR FREE BIRTHDAY DINNER

 I'm **\$20**

I'm **BUNCO** Night! Back!

 **\$20**

Brandon Ladies of Elks

MONDAY MARCH 31ST

Dinner - 6:00pm/Game - 6:30pm

Cash prizes for :

Most wins / Most losses

Most Bunco's / Last Bunco



**MONIES BENEFITING
LODGE ELKS CHARITIES**



Get your tickets at the bar and with Terri Ciesla

Florida Elk Night with the Orlando Magic!



VS

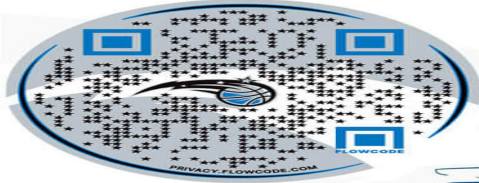


Tuesday, April 8th at 7pm

Get ready to cheer on the Orlando Magic with your fellow Elks at Florida Elk Night!

A portion of each ticket sale will benefit the Harry-Anna Trust Fund!

SCAN HERE



MAKE IT MAGIC

Jack Lensky 407) 916-2949 | jlensky@orlandomagic.com



50/50
raffle

Join us for the Elk Olympics!! Saturday

May 31st 1:00pm (chefs 12:00)
Brandon Elks Lodge

Max 8 person
Per event/Per lodge

*\$5 entry fee pp
For team events*

*\$10 pp
For meals*

**Lodge with most
attendance at each
Event awarded
2 points!!**

**8 BALL POOL
TOURNAMENT**



Cornhole



**Cupcake
competition**



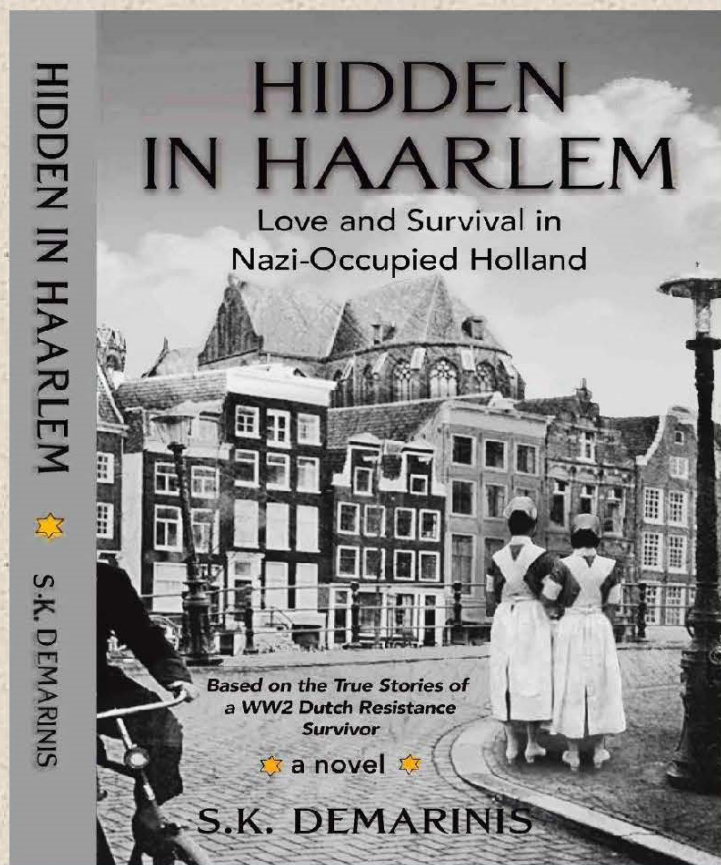
**Chili
competition**



**Brandon Elks Lodge
800 Centennial Lodge Dr
Brandon, FL 33510**

~AUTHOR TALK on HISTORIC FICTION NOVEL~

“HIDDEN IN HAARLEM”



“*Hidden in Haarlem*” weaves the true stories from an interview with an elder who survived WW II in Holland as a teenager. Many stories tell of war heroes and the persecuted, but this novel aims to bring to light **stories of the regular folks** who tried their best to bring a horrific war to a close. They went to extremes to survive and help save as many as they could, often at a great personal risk. It is the hope of this author to honor those citizens who have been hidden from the stories of history.

DATE: April 21st 2025

TIME: 5:30PM

LOCATION: 800 Centennial Dr.

Brandon, FL 33511

Author S. K. DeMarinis retired after 30 years as a chiropractor and took up writing novels to broaden her passion for storytelling. “*Hidden in Haarlem*”, her fourth novel, weaves the true stories from an interview with a 95-yr-old elder who survived WW II in Holland as a teenager. Actual wartime events and some added fictional characters bring the reader inside history. Fascinated by his tales of resistance as a **citizen saboteur**, Sue further investigated this period of the 20th century. She presents a 1-hour slide show of her research of old newspapers, vintage photos, documents of other survivors, and digital encyclopedia references.

Sue DeMarinis, author



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!



ATTENTION – ATTENTION – ATTENTION!

Parade of Heroes
recognizes and honors veterans from
WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, Gulf War,
Operation Iraqi Freedom and
Operation Afghanistan Freedom.



Parade of Heroes

3-day, all expense paid event
in our nation's capital honoring our Military Veterans
over Veterans Day

If you are interested in participating in the
Parade of Heroes

For more details go to our
FSEA Historical Programs 2025 Parade of Heroes Website
for enrollment and more details.

Registration opens on www.floridaelks.org
second week in January, 2025

Reach out to Brandon Veteran Chair, Robin Rutzke
305-398-5654 rrutzke@gmail.com

Brandon Lodge has participated in this event each year sending many of
Military Veteran Brandon Lodge members to Washington.

If you are a Military Veteran,
take advantage of this great opportunity and event!



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Term Insurance ~ Annuities

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ALL Elks members, Family & Friends Looking to Buy or Sell?
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PLUS \$250 donation to an Elks charitable cause of your choice.

For more information contact Gavin Frater – 908.577.1257

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