

# 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 2021

[www.brandonelks.org](http://www.brandonelks.org)

Volume 21 Issue 3



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER

We have just over a month until the end of our 2020-2021 Elk year. We have had elections of Officer's for the 2021-2022 year and I would like to congratulate, and thank, those who have stepped up and volunteered to serve as our Officer's and Trustees. Your new Exalted Ruler, Jim McCleary, will need numerous volunteers to chair our many committee's that our Fraternity supports. If Jim asks, please consider if not as the chairperson but as a part of the committee. Even during the closure of the Lodges, some of our committee's were still able to help out our community and veterans. If he does not ask, VOLUNTEER! Most of these committee's will only take a short period of your time. What you get in return is the wonderful feeling of accomplishment that you were able to help your fellow citizen. Our motto is "Elks Care - Elks Share".

Mark Vargo  
Exalted Ruler

Fraternally,  
Mark C. Vargo, Sr.  
Exalted Ruler



### Elk of the Month

With the Lodge being closed for so long at the beginning of the year it has been difficult to select an Elk of the Month since we have not had a lot of activity at the Lodge. This Elk has been there for our Lodge during the closure and as our members are slowly returning to our Lodge. He was active and participated in the refurbishing of our lounge and has worked tirelessly to make sure we have had bartenders (even volunteer bartenders). Elk of the Month for February is Walter Brooks. The Bar Manager position can sometimes be a thankless position. I cannot thank him enough for staying on this last year and working through all the headaches of closing, opening, closing, opening. Please thank your Bar Manager when you see him.



### From the Secretary's Desk

It is that time of year.....

**Dues must be paid by April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

There is a coupon on Page 8 with specific information.

#### The 500 Club

To be eligible to win, you must have paid your dues and be signed up!

You may sign up for the year by paying \$52 for you (and \$52 for your spouse) by the first drawing of the new Lodge year which is April 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you miss that deadline, you may pay \$26 for you (and \$26 for your spouse) by the first drawing in Oct which is Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. If you choose, you can come in and sign up \$1 per week any day in the Lounge. You may sign up after 8 o'clock on any Friday through the next Friday to be eligible for the following Friday's drawing.

So far, during the 2020-2021 Lodge year we have had only 6 names drawn that were signed up!

Fraternally,  
Mary Lou Schreck,  
Lodge Secretary



**LOUNGE HOURS**

Sunday: 1pm – 7pm  
 Monday - Thursday 4pm – 9pm  
 Friday 4pm – 10pm  
 Saturday 4pm – 9pm  
 MANAGER: WALTER BROOKS

**Mary Lou Schreck**

**LODGE SECRETARY**

Office Hours

MONDAY: 3pm – 5pm  
 WEDNESDAY: 3pm – 5pm  
 Or call for appointment












**Nancy Price**

**LODGE TREASURER**

Office Hours

MONDAY: 10am – 3pm  
 THURSDAY: 10am – 3pm  
 Or call for appointment

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT  
**Dinner \* Dancing \* Music**  
 OLDIES \* COUNTRY \* POP  
 Weekly PER & 50/50 Raffles  
 \$500 Club Drawing  
 9pm Absent Member Toast  
**Monthly Drink Specials**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>New Line Dancing</b> on 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 7pm to 9pm.	1 BLOE Meeting PER Meeting	2 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen  Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open	3 March Birthday Dinner	4  STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR:	5 SWC District President Visitation Brandon Lodge Door: Mark Vargo Friday night dinner see page 4	6
7 Social & Sports	8  Lodge Meeting 7PM	9 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen  Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open	10 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack MTG. - Hall	11  STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR:	12 2021 Officer Training Orlando March 12-14 Door: Delores W. Friday night dinner see page 4	13
14 8:00am - 11:00am BLOE Breakfast – Hall Social & Sports	15 7pm Governing Board Meeting	16 5:30pm -7:00pm Queen  Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open	17  BLOE Dinner 6:30 PM see page 5	18  STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR:	19 Door: George S. Friday night dinner see page 4	20
21 Social & Sports	22  Lodge Meeting 7PM	23 5:30pm - 7:00pm Queen  Trivia or Cards, Pool snack bar open BLOE Installation Dinner 6:30	24 Veteran's Dinner	25  STARTS: 6:30pm SNACK BAR:	26 Door: Nickie Wells Friday night dinner see page 4	27 Officer installation & dinner 6PM
28 Social & Sports	29	30	31			

**Save the Date**

March 8th & 22nd ,Lodge meeting

March 17th BLOE Dinner

March 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM Brandon Boys

Lodge Meetings Are Open To Members In Good Standing and is the Place to Discuss any Lodge issues.

PER Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday;

Lodge Meeting 2nd Monday of month, 7:00 p.m.

Governing Board mtg – 3rd Monday at 7pm

BLOE Ladies Meetings – 1st Monday of month at 7pm

Member Illness / Convalescence: Notify Lodge Secretary

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday BLOE Breakfast \$7

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Scout's Pancake Brkfst

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday - VETERAN's Dinner

Tuesdays 7pm Boy Scouts

Please RSVP for Dinners  
 Brandonekrsrsp@yahoo.com

## MARCH MENU ITEMS

TO BE ASSURED OF A MEAL, PLEASE RSVP TO [BRANDONELKSRSVP@YAHOO.COM](mailto:BRANDONELKSRSVP@YAHOO.COM)  
BY 10 A.M. THE DAY BEFORE THE MEAL.

### MARCH 3RD

HARRISON AND GANG - HAPPY BIRTHDAY DINNER -\$8.00 - FREE TO THE MEMBER WITH A BIRTHDAY IN MARCH  
SALAD  
ENTREE ( PLEASE CHOOSE ONE): CHICKEN MARSALA, COUNTRY FRIED STEAK or NEW ORLEANS SEAFOOD (Tilapia,  
covered with shrimp and Alfredo sauce)  
SIDES: MASHED POTATOES, CORN AND GREEN BEANS  
DESSERT: BIRTHDAY CAKE

### MARCH 5TH

HARRISON AND GANG \$8  
SALAD  
ENTREE ( PLEASE CHOOSE ONE): BAKED CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS OR BAKED TILAPIA  
SIDES: POTATOES & VEGGIES  
DESSERT

### MARCH 6TH

STATE PRESIDENT VISIT  
HARRISON AND GANG  
\$10 (\$9.22 PLUS TAX)  
SALAD  
ENTRÉE: ROAST PORK AND GRAVY  
SIDES: POTATOES CARROTS GREEN BEANS  
DESSERT:CAKE

### MARCH12TH

JAN AND CREW -\$11  
SALAD TOSSED  
ENTRÉE: POT ROAST AND GRAVY  
SIDES: MASHED POTATOES & VEGGIES  
DESSERT

### MARCH 19TH

PAT & JEFF- \$10  
SALAD  
ENTRÉE: ( PLEASE CHOOSE ONE): HAND MADE CRABCAKE OR BAKED SALMON  
SIDES: VEGGIES  
DESSERT

### MARCH 26TH

HARRISON & GANG- \$11  
SALAD  
ENTRÉE: BAKED POLLOCK, BAKED TILAPIA OR BAKED PORK CHOPS  
SIDES: RICE AND VEGGIES  
DESSERT

### MARCH 27TH

HARRISON & GANG- FREE  
SALAD - CAESAR  
ENTRÉE: CHICKEN PARM W/ BAKED ZITI OR BOURBON GLAZED SALMON  
SIDES: STEAMED BROCCOLI OR BUTTERED CARROTS W/ BREAD CRUMBS; MASHED POTATOES OR GARLIC BREAD  
DESSERT



# BLOE BITS

Next Meeting is March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Hoping to See You There!

By: Terri Ciesla  
B.L.O.E. President

It's March and plans for the new year are underway. We will be voting on next year's officers at our March meeting. Looking forward to having more events as Covid gets more under control. At the meeting in February we initiated 2 new members and nominated officers for next year. Welcome Barbara Babiarz and Margaret Van Dame to our ladies group. Lynda Craft is our Lady of the Distinction for February. We truly appreciate all her help all the time.

February 13<sup>th</sup> we held a Car Show and vendor event. The event was successful with many attending to see beautiful cars, vendors with unique items, and great pork sandwiches. Thanks to all that helped make this event a success.

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> was our ladies breakfast which is never a disappointment. Thanks for bringing your Valentines to breakfast.

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> was the Wednesday night Dinner. Nancy Price cooked a scrumptious Pork dinner and also served fish for those observing Ash Wednesday. Thank you Nancy and those that assisted her. Our next Wed night dinner falls on St Patrick's Day and Rick Weigand will be making his famous annual corned beef and cabbage. I am so looking forward to that meal!

The installation of new officers for our ladies group will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM. Please RSVP as soon as you can so we know how many to cook for.

As we look into the new year, let us try to increase our membership. Invite a friend to join. Invite a friend to be a guest at a meeting. There are some BPOE spouses that are not members of our group. Let's try to get them as well as some other friends involved with our group. Our goals should include increasing membership, increasing participation, increasing events, and having FUN!

"You'll never change your life unless you change something daily. The secret of your success is found in your daily routine. Author unknown

See you at the lodge, Terri

## Brandon Ladies of Elks



### MARCH LADY OF DISTINCTION

When you attend a Brandon Ladies Monthly Meeting there are certain ladies that you can bet on being there. These ladies are the ones that help at breakfast, fund raisers and Wednesday night dinners. This particular lady along with her husband never miss a dinner or any other event whether it be a holiday picnic, Friday Night or just about any activity at the Brandon Elks. She can be found in the kitchen helping at dinners, setting up for memorial services and other events. If she isn't helping on a rare occasion, her and her husband can be found in the lounge supporting both Brandon Ladies and Elks events. You can always depend on her being there. She quietly goes about setting up, working in the kitchen and cleaning up no matter what event is taking place. She is the first one to comment on our Facebook about events because she and her husband are always there. She never looks for accolades with her quiet manner and sweet smile but we are very proud and happy that she has chosen Brandon Elks as her home. Please join me in congratulating **Lynda Craft** – Brandon Ladies February Lady of Distinction

2387

## 500 Club Winners

The 500 club names recently drawn were:  
Elena Lindy, E Sylvester, Don Cornett, R. Cassella, Joe Zebrak and Robert Casey, Sr.  
**NOT SIGNED UP!**



Brandon Ladies of Elks

### Annual St Patrick's Day Dinner Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Guest Chef – Rick Weigand

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 pm Cost \$12.50

Menu: Green Jello Salad, Corn Beef or Ham, Red Potatoes, Carrots/Cabbage

Special Dessert by Stephanie Shirey

Tickets: Grace Weigand, Lounge Bar



## Kitchen Manager Needed

2584

The Elks Lodge needs a member to manage the Kitchen.

This position requires coordinating with member cooks to arrange for Friday night dinners and Tuesday and Thursday night snack bars.

Controlling the Kitchen by maintaining the cleanliness of the Kitchen and passing health inspections.

### Bingo Schedule for December

Bingo Helpers	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Table 4 6:30	Barbra	Grace Weigand	Barbra Myers	Grace Weigand	Bob
Table 4 6:30	Sandy/Jim	Mary Ryan	Barbra	Sandy/Jim	Mary Ryan
Table 4 6:30	Trudy Wade	Trudy Wade	Trudy Wade	Trudy Wade	Trudy Wade
Call Bingo 6:30/7:45	Nicky Wells	Mark Vargo	Ron Mathews	Jane Moon	Ron Mathews
Call Bingo 7:45/9:00	Nancy Price	Mary Lou Scribner		Rick Weigand	Marionette
Call Bingo 6:30/7:45	Jeannie Barfield	Jeannie Barfield	Jeannie Barfield	Don Moon	Jeannie Barfield
Call Bingo 7:45/9:00	Lori Underberg	Sharon H	Beth Benham	Jeannie Barfield	

**We are still looking for a few more volunteers to help with Bingo - Call marionette at 813-956-3776**



**JUST TO LET THEM KNOW WE CARE.....**

The Brandon Elks Lodge continues to come up with little ways to say "Thank You" and "We Care". Mary Lou Scribner/PER baked a cake and dropped it off at the local Fire Department around the corner from the Brandon Lodge, with a note from the Brandon Elks saying thank you-we care. The firefighter who graciously accepted the sweet treat was truly appreciative and surprised. It was such a big reaction from such a little gesture, that Mary Lou went to the next meeting of the Brandon Ladies of Elks and asked the ladies (as well as Elk members) if they would be interested in volunteering to either bake a cake, cookies, brownies, pie or pick up a sweet treat from a local grocery and drop it off at their local Firefighters. Just to stop by, drop it off and say thank you..... we are thinking of you.....and we care! The Ladies and Elk members are stepping up, signing up for specific months, or just randomly stopping by their local Fire station.

For Valentine's Day, Robin Rutzke (Veteran Chair), stopped by her local grocery store, picked up a treat of cupcakes and stopped by Hillsborough Fire Station 18. All it took was a friendly smile and a thank you to let them know they are appreciated. A little gesture does go a long way.

Just a reminder that everyone appreciates and enjoys to be recognized for their service. No one turns down a thank you..... and seldom does anyone turn down a "sweet" treat.

*'Elks Care - Elks Share'*

### Annual Calendar

The annual calendar will be updated to reflect any dinners or events that will take place in the Lodge. You should also check the Brandon Elks Facebook page and Brandonelks.org for events. Please RSVP for Dinners "brandonelksrspv@Yahoo.com"



**Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 a.m. – Noon**

**Drive-By Donations**

**Non-Perishable Food for  
Food Pantries  
&  
Gift Cards for our First Responders**



Come by the Lodge on Saturday, March 20th between 8:00 a.m. and noon and drop off your donations of non-perishable food and/or gift cards. You don't even have to get out of your car! Robin Rutzke/Veteran Chair, Sharon Hammersla/SWC DVP and Mary Lou Scribner/PER will be there happy to accept your donations.

All donations of non-perishable food will be for the benefit of our local Food Banks to be distributed to help those in need in our Community.

All gift cards (grocery, gas, restaurants, etc.) will be presented to our local Firefighters at Station 11.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Sharon at (813) 323-1992 or Mary Lou at (813) 230-1943.

We hope to see you Saturday, March 20th for another successful event to show that the members of Brandon Elks Lodge #2383 support their community! That's what we Elks do!

*Elks Care Elks Share*



***BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!***

Please help defray the cost of printing and sending out our Bugle. A small donation of \$5 per year will go a long way to help.

***Bugle updates***

Please submit all Bugle entries to [lreintz@gmail.com](mailto:lreintz@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month in an editable format, no PDFs. Time is needed to develop, proofread and send for printing before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month

***MONTHLY LODGE MEETING***

We will have our regular Lodge meeting on the second Monday of every month, at 7:00 P.M. in the Lodge Hall. If you feel comfortable attending, please do. Don't forget your signed 2020-2021 Dues card. Face masks are still optional. Hand sanitizers are still available.

**Dress code for meetings is long pants and collared shirt for men.**

**Skirt, Dress, or long slacks for women.**

2664

**Scrappin' for Jesus**  
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Anything metal will be picked up for free.  
All scrap metal big or small including aluminum,  
Steel, copper, brass, scrap appliances, parts etc.

"...whoever is kind to the needy honors God." Proverbs 14:31



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The bags of brotherly love have been graciously endowed with another Elks National Foundation Impact Grant for 2021. They approved \$4,000 for the year for the project and we are ever so grateful. We can continue the mission of bringing dignity back to the lives of those less fortunate. Thanks again to Sharon Hammersla for helping our lodge and this project by garnishing this much needed grant. In February, we were able to distribute 65 bags between two homeless initiative partners. One of those partners, Guided Path Foundation, is new to our homeless initiative group and we are happy to help them in their endeavors to serve those in most need. Gracepoint has continued needing our bags on a monthly basis and they are very appreciative of this donation since they have seen an increase in their homeless clients. Another partner that has donated feminine hygiene products to the bags of brotherly love is Global Girls Initiative. This is run by a 15 year old girl that is trying to provide these products to as many ladies as she can with an effort towards helping those in need in the Hillsborough County area. Discussions are in the works about conducting a limited homeless outreach in the coming months and we will keep all our members apprised of the outcome once we know. Baby steps are still being taken due to the pandemic, but safety is of utmost importance and that is what everyone is striving for in these talks. We continue to have meetings in our own area with partners close by to keep aiding the homeless through various organizations that help with basic needs of housing and food. Again, we thank all our members for their continued support and generous donations. Elks Care, Elks Share rings true with each donation and act of kindness to those in need. We will pick up any travel size hygiene items or shelf stable food that you may have if you are unable to get to the lodge to drop them off. May everyone stay well and vigilant during these times and hope to see you at the lodge soon.

Bags of Brotherly Love  
Bob and Elisa Blair  
813-758-8894

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## Life Member Eligibility

The following Members of Brandon Lodge 2383, Johnathan W. Kramer and Bernhard Lehwald are eligible for Life Membership. 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 March 8th

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Elks Lodge Members,

This is a reminder that your Lodge dues must be paid by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Life Member dues are \$42.00. (Life members must be voted in)

Regular Member dues are \$122.00.

Dues can be paid by check, cash, or credit card.

Credit card payments may be made during Lounge hours.

Checks can be mailed or dropped off and cash can be dropped off in the office or the Lounge.

PLEASE INCLUDE THIS NOTICE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_



Brandon Lodge Notices & Announcements

**VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Committee Chair  
Robin Rutzke**



Any questions or concerns about the Veterans the Elks Lodge serves or note worthy Veteran events, please address them with Robin.

**BPOE Inner Guard  
USAF (ret)  
305-498-5654**

God Bless our Veterans.



**Sweets & treats for our veterans**

On February 14th Liberty Manor veterans were surprised with Valentine greetings by the Brandon Elks veterans committee chairman, Robin Rutzke. The veterans living at Liberty Manor were given cupcakes, cookies and numerous items of Tampa Bay Buccaneer Super Bowl LV championship merchandise purchased by money from the Spotlight Grant. The vets were very excited to receive gifts of Buccaneer championship T-shirts, adjustable caps and commemorative souvenir Sports Illustrated and ESPN magazines.

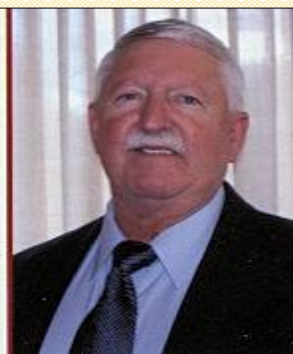
As always, Elks Care-Elks Share.



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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

**Brandon Elks Lodge #2383**

800 Centennial Lodge Drive  
Brandon, FL 33510

**\*\*Change Service Requested**



Label Here

**TO THE RV GUESTS**

Just a few words to

Welcome you back to our RV Park

AS YOU KNOW OUR RATES ARE

- ▶ \$20 per night; 7<sup>th</sup> night FREE
- ▶ RV Storage is \$50 per month

**THANKS FOR STAYING  
IN OUR PARK**

Jack Mineo 813-681-2531



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**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Every Thursday Night at 6:30pm  
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