

### MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER, DONALD A HARRISON

School has started and the heat continues. Please stay safe and drink plenty of water and look out for the children as they make their way to school.

With that said, I are attempting to embark on a few tasks related to children. I need assistance in forming a number of committees to address scholarships, school uniforms and supplies for struggling families, and other recognition of school performance.

Additionally, I am still looking for a few members to assist with Friday dinners and Tuesday and Thursday snack bar. We are about to see the return of RVers, please greet all with a smile and a welcome.

The recent district visitation/inspection went very very well. Nancy and Mary Lou were 100 percent ready with the required documentation and I thank both for that. The inspection, found one fault, the tags on the fire extinguishers which we immediately addressed.

As a fraternal organization, I ask that members assist with functions 8 hours a month. Be it in the kitchen, a committee position, Bingo, rental hall, or any of the many opportunities presented.

On September 8th, (1 to 4 pm) we are having a member's building picnic. I am looking for 15 members that are veterans to sit at a table with the vets, potential members. To share stories of your service and the Brandon Elks.

Finally, I want to thank Terri, Charleen, Ronald, Teresa, George, Gail, Jerrilyn, Ed, Mary Lou, Cheryl, Mary Lou Scribner, Becky, Kathy, Jerri, Beth, Annie, Mark, and all that assisted in the DD dinner. It was well received.

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 volunteers are the breath, heart, blood of any lodge. Without volunteers, we cease to exist. Our lodge simply will not function with out members stepping up, filling a role, and bringing the pieces together.

This month's elk member is a lady that wears many hats. At times, her hat requires her to monitor the postings on our Facebook member's page to assure compliance. Another hat, setting the lounge to themes for the time of the year. She wears the Bugle editor hat. If that is not enough, she wears the communication director hat, responsible to coordinate with other people to assure the menus, website, annual calendar, press releases, and public relations are all on the same page. And importantly, she is a valued advisor. **Thank you and congratulations to Lara McCleary, ELK OF THE MONTH.** When you see her, please thank her for all she is doing to include each member in all our events and

programs.

### THE BUGLE • SEPTEMBER 2024 • Page 2

# Brandon Lodge Officers for 2024-2025 Elk Year

Loyal Knight





Christina Puhalla Lodge Esquire 609-217-5782



Michael Fultz Tiler 813-205-5885



Robin Rutzke 305-498-5654

**Beverly Laundy** 

813-446-0150

Inner Guard

Wendy Smith Lecturing Knight 813-862-8573



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 Bilinski – webmasterbrandonelks@gmail.com

### THE BUGLE • SEPTEMBER 2024 • Page 3

# **BLOE BITS**

#### **Next Meeting is** SEPTEMBER 3RD @ 7:00 PM Hoping to See You There!

Hello everyone and I hope everything is good. First off, I hope that everyone weathered the storm with little or no damage. If you had damage, I hope that you are all safe now. If help is needed, please let us know so that we can see how we can help.

August was a very busy month, and we are starting to get into our holiday season. We have a lot of activities coming up and we hope that you are all back and ready to take part. We had a lady's fashion show on the 24th and that was a great success. On Sept. 7th we have our longawaited Casino night. We are hoping for a sellout. The BLOE is having a "Theme Baskets" contest, the baskets will be raffled off on Casino night. We will have some great baskets for you to win. BLOE is assisting the BPOE on the 8th of September for a "Patriots Day" dinner and we are hoping that the ladies will come out and talk with the lady Veterans and make them feel welcomed.

Remember that Sept. 19-21 is the FLOE convention, we would really like to see a good turn out from our Brandon BLOE. You still have a little time to register, https://floridaelks.org/floe/conference

The BLOE has many more activities coming up throughout the rest of this year, so keep an eye out. Remember our Wednesday Night dinners each month and the Halloween party on October 19th, it should really be a good one and I would hate to have you miss it !!

There's always a sunrise and always a sunset and it's up to you to choose to be there for it. Put yourself in the way of beauty. ~Cheryl Strayed ~

Thank you, Becky Cresswell President



### **500 Club Winners**

Called Not Signed up - Vickie Knott, Patty Pelton, Gary McCormack Alvin Hecker, Gary Guerrera Signed up; not present - Linda Hinkle



# Brandon Ladies of Elks 🛛 📲 Lady of Distinction AUGUST

Always helping and smiling is the best way to describe this classy lady who is this month's lady of distinction. She can be seen at catering, fundraisers and memorial services she is always there when help is needed.

She has taken charge of a "big money" fundraiser this year and has proved herself worthy by getting the most popular ladies store in Brandon Chico's to provide the fashions for the show. She has been attending other shows to get ideas on how to boost attendance and other ways to maximize profits. She has inundated Facebook and other social media to get the word out about the fashion show.

We all know who she is, and we all know how hard she is working to make sure our upcoming fashion show is an overwhelming success. Please join me in congratulating Beth Benham August Lady of Distinction.

# Cyndi Buchanan

# **Yellowfin Realty** 813.391.7231

CyndiBuchanan.YFR@gmail.com

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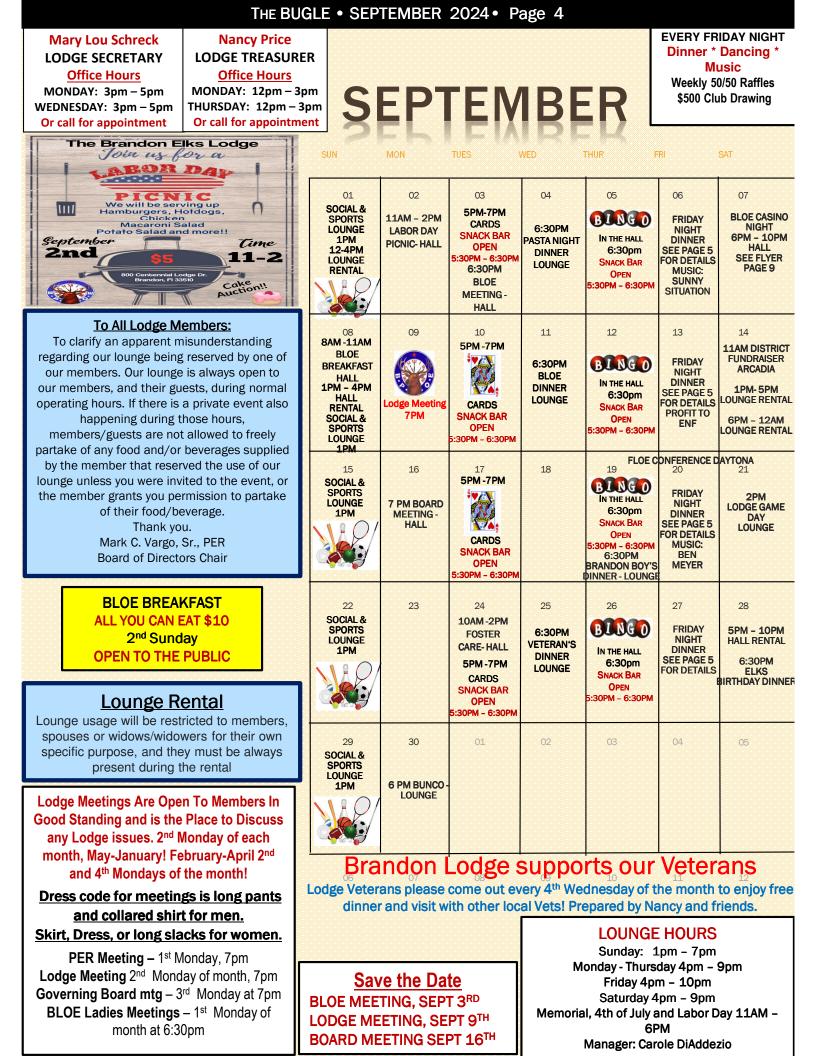
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## TO OUR ELKS RV GUESTS Welcome to our RV Park ELKS MEMBERS ONLY

OUR RATES ARE: \$25 per night; 7<sup>th</sup> night FREE RV Storage is \$60 per month THANKS FOR STAYING IN OUR PARK 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** 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

### BE A BUGLE BOOSTER !!!

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



# ELKS DAY AT THE RAYS









Below is a list of tasks, events, and activities we seek assistance from our members.

- Tuesday snack bar (4:30PM-7PM)
- Thursday Bingo (5PM-8PM)
- Thursday snack bar (4:30PM-7PM)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Breakfast (7AM-11ish)
- Friday dinners (4PM-8PM)
- Saturday hall rentals (days and times TBD)
- Saturday members birthday dinner (4PM-8PM)
- Lodge maintenance (TBD no specific days/times)
- 1st Wednesday pasta dinner (4PM-8PM)
- Scholarship program (TBD no specific days/times)
- 4th Wednesday Vet dinner (4PM-8PM)
- Assistance for school kids (TBD)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Brandon Boys dinner (5PM-8PM)
- September 7<sup>th</sup> Casino Night Cleanup and reset for breakfast( 9PM to ?)
- September 14<sup>th</sup> Lounge rental conversion and cleanup (4:30PM-6PM) (10PM to 12AM)
- September 21<sup>st</sup> Members game day (1PM-5PM)
- September 28<sup>th</sup> Hall rental cleanup (9PM-11PM)

You can communicate your desire to assist this lodge in our activities by emailing Elks2383sharing@yahoo.com. WE ARE ELKS! WHAT DO WE DO? WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE. HOW? WE HELP, WE SHARE, WE ARE SEEN. THE BUGLE • SEPTEMBER 2024 • Page 7

## From the Secretary's Desk

Just a reminder that members and spouses may participate in the 500 Club for the rest of the year by paying \$26 for the members or \$52 for the members and spouse before the first drawing in October. (Oct. 4th ). There were 30 names called so far this year with only 4 winners who were signed up but not present, winning 50% of the pot and 1 winner that was signed up AND present winning 100% of the pot. So, Please join the fund and get SIGNED UP!!

> Fraternally, Mary Lou Schreck, Lodge Secretary

RANDON LADIESOF ELK PRESENTS

october 19, 2024, 7pm

800 Centennial lodge drive, Brandon tickets \$25

# a NIGHTMAREon ELK STREET

SPOOKY COCKTAILS | HORRORS D'OEURRES | 50/50 COSTUME COMPETITION | HAUNTED ENTERTAINMENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | 21 & OVER



Okay you retired PER's you missed some great food in August. If you weren't there, we talked about you lol. So, for this month Thursday September 12th, they are always the second Thursday of the month (MARK YOUR CALENDAR) The PER'S will be going to the Latin Grill located at 3318 John Moore Rd. Lunch is at 11:00. It is just before you get to Bloomingdale. I sure hope you can attend. October teaser ~ we are looking at Chinese food I am always open for suggestions. Thank you, your Restaurant Hunter, Kim Martinez PER



**RV Storage Lot Clean-up Crew** 

Our hard-working volunteers: Patti & Mark Vargo (PER), Donald Harrison (ER), Jim Randall, David, Sam, Nelson <sup>7</sup> Guggino, Clay, Adam, Eddie Ciesla (PER), Jack



(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 \$2,5001111



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#### Brandon Elks Lodge #2383

800 Centennial Lodge Drive Brandon, FL 33510

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**THE FRATER TEAM – VIP PROGRAM** ALL Elks members, Family & Friends Looking to Buy or Sell? Receive a \$750 moving or closing cost credit. PLUS \$250 donation to an Elks charitable cause of your choice. For more information contact Gavin Frater – 908.577.1257

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