

# Hot Sands

*The Official Newsletter of*



**50 years of service to the mentally challenged  
Home of the Supreme Director for Region X - SD Gerald Forster**

Our website: [www.algarva168.com](http://www.algarva168.com)

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**Our Grand Commander Speaks:**

I would like to thank Vice Grand Commander Doug Willsie for chairing our January meeting. From all the reports I've heard so far he did a great job.

I would also like to welcome our new member Bernice Cadman to our Caravan. She was sponsored by Casey Bax and initiated by our Supreme Regional Director, Gerry Forster. I am sure she will be a very valuable member.

Our thanks go out to Rick Vanos and Frank Backx for running a very successful Card Social on Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>. They did a great job and had lots of help. Our next Card Social will be on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Our next event will be our annual Hay Ride on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Let's give chairman Jack Van Haastert all the help he needs to make this one, another success.

Our Founder's Day Mass has been rescheduled from Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> to Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Our next meeting will be on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. I will again be unable to attend, as I will be gone to Costa Rica. Since Doug is also away, Gerry Forster has generously offered to chair the February meeting.



Thanks for your support. Try to keep warm, I am.

**Al Salaam  
Grand Commander**

Louis Hendrikk

**Calendar of Events:**

**February:**

**February 23** Regular meeting, Alcazar,  
**8 p.m.**

**March:**

**March 15** Hay Ride, Alcazar **10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**March 30** Regular meeting, Alcazar  
**8 p.m.**

**March 31** Card Social, Alcazar, t.b.a.

**April:**

**April 2** Founders' Day Mass, St.  
Christopher's, Forest, **11 a.m.,**  
Meal to follow **12:30 p.m.**

**April 27** Regular meeting, Alcazar  
**8 p.m.**

**May:**

**May 25** Regular meeting, Alcazar  
**8 p.m.**

**June:**

**June 3** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
(More info to come)

**June 15** Canada 150<sup>th</sup> Day Fun Day  
Thedford Legacy Centre,  
**10 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**June 29** Regular meeting, Alcazar  
**8 p.m.**

**Dates and times are subject to change, so please  
check each month.**

**For the Good of the Order:**

Scotty Anderson's name was drawn, but since he was not at the meeting, he did not collect \$9. You could be next, but you need to be in attendance to win.

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**From the Chaplaincy:**



February marks the half way point of the school year, and in sense we're in between events in the Church calendar also, which we call ordinary time. This maybe a good opportunity to mention the blessings and grace that derive from

Christian Meditation prayer, which many of our students practise daily. There are many forms of meditation prayer: individual or group quiet time, nature walk, breathing exercise, etc. We can recognize God's will for us, when we open our hearts for a few minutes, to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts and actions.

Each one

Reach one

Brother in Christ,

Deacon John Lammers

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**Free Membership Draw:**

**Congratulations to Bill Vandenberg who won the draw!**

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**Next meeting: Thursday, February 23 at 8 p.m.**



# The Last Word

*By Lisa Finch*



Thanks to our SD Gerry Forster who submitted the following article regarding our Algarva's Charity Committee assisting another intellectually disabled person in need.

The youth in need is Abbey Leblanc , a 16 year old young lady who attends Alexander Mackenzie High School in Sarnia. Abby was born premature, has cerebral palsy and cannot get around without a walker or wheelchair. She's had a lot of struggles, Mary Leblanc said of her daughter who just wrapped up her first year at AMSS.

The last few years have been hell, motivating Abby to attend school. She was teased a lot in elementary school.

Happily, her first year at high school has been a positive experience. One day at school a teacher, Mr. Walker, must have seen something in Abbey. He asked her if she would like to try out for the 200 meter wheelchair race.

The rest is history. Abbey was set up in a special racing chair and began practicing. At the SWOOSAA Track and field meet in Chatham, in her first ever official race, she broke the record for Women's wheelchair 200m dash, at 2:12.82 .

The family's request was for a laptop computer, to be set up by her teacher, so Abbey could keep up with the homework. Also since she cannot get up and about like other teens , she can now keep in touch with her new friends and students via message or Facebook, with her mothers help.

Below is a picture of Abbey, Casey Bax and her mom, Mary.

It is a wonderful feeling to be able to help in some small way. Thanks goes out to the Divan of Algarva for their insight and wisdom.

-Region X, SD Gerry Forster



**Next meeting: Thursday, February 23 at 8 p.m.**

