

Hot Sands



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

Our website: www.algarva168.org Our email: algarva168@execulink.com

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Winter seems to come and go, but is back for the foreseeable future. Last meeting had a low attendance, (14), but tis the season for snowbirds and vacations! Hopefully we have a good attendance for our next meeting, on Feb. 22, at 8pm.

Our card social was a success. Thanks to Rick Vanos for organizing this event, and all our members who helped with the bar, meal, and running drinks. Our next card social will be, Fri. April 6th. Tell your friends, so we have a full house. Our Valentine's Euchre Social will be held on Sun. Feb. 18th, starting at 5pm. Pizza will be supplied by Connie Burns. Everyone can bring their favourite dessert to share. Feel free to invite potential members to see what we are all about. Be sure to RSVP to Casey Bax, by Feb. 10th, in order that he can have some idea of numbers expected. [519-294-6346](tel:519-294-6346).

Our hayride is fast approaching on Wed. March 7th. This will be organized by Jack Van Haastert. Mark it on your calendar and come help out to make it a success.

We recently arranged to replace an e-bike, for a fellow who had his stolen. We also donated money to London Down Syndrome Association to help two children go to camp this summer. Paul Backx missed out on the 'good of the order' draw at our last meeting. The pot is growing, so be sure to plan on attending our next meeting.

Lisa Finch is sending out a e-mail concerning Every Canadian Counts, with a letter to send on to your members of parliament. Please show your support .

A Salaam
GC Doug Willsie



Look for our **LOGO** – Order of the Alhambra- You will find it on the sign coming into Grand Bend from the north. You will see us on there with other Service Clubs from the Grand Bend area.

Next meeting: Thursday February 22nd at 8 n m

From the Chaplaincy:

Calendar of Events:

February:

Feb. 18 **Euchre Social**

5:00pm

Feb. 22 **Regular Meeting, Alcazar**

8:00pm

March:

March 7: **Annual Hay Ride**

March 29 **Regular Meeting, Alcazar**

8:00pm

April:

April 6 **Card Social, Alhambra Hall**

Register – 6:30pm

Start 7:00pm

April 26 **Regular Meeting, Alcazar**

8:00pm

May:

May 31 **Regular Meeting, Alcazar**

8:00pm

February ushers in the Lenten season. This can be a time to recognize the distractions that affect (or infect) our relationships... with God and the people we share our lives with. By following Jesus example of prayer and fasting as He traveled "through the desert" for 40 days, we can (re)sync ourselves with our God and Creator. The inside out approach of improving our patience, empathy, understanding and ultimately communication, will build strong cohesive interdependent relationships. Then we can truly share in the joy of Christ resurrection.

Brother in Christ
John Lammers
Deacon

[519 490 3832](tel:5194903832)

"Speak Lord... your Servant is Listening"



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

Important Note

The hay ride this year is not taking place
during March Break.

It is being held one week earlier. Thank you
to Jack VanHaastert for organizing this
great event.



For the Good of the Order:

Paul Backx's name was drawn but since he was not in attendance, he did not win the \$38 prize. You could be the next luck winner but you must be at the meeting to collect. GOOD LUCK!

Next meeting: Thursday February 22nd at 8 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2018-NEWSLETTER
FROM: DENISE BLAKELY, denise@orderofalhambra.org

KILLING 2 BIRDS WITH ONE STONE

I receive a lot of comments regarding membership and caravans not having money to donate.

There “IS” a way of killing 2 birds with one stone.

1. **MORE NEW MEMBERS EQUAL MORE CHARITABLE MONEY.** We have caravans who do not utilize our “New Membership Program.” For every new member brought into your caravan there are funds waiting to be given. A caravan could receive a lot of money to donate to a charity of its choice. The amount is up to your caravan. I have attached the new membership program form and requirements. Please read it. If you have any questions, feel free to call me.
2. **With the “Matching Grant Program”, we will also match dollar for dollar up to \$500.** I have also attached the form and requirements for this program. Please read it. If you have any questions, feel free to call me.

**IF YOU ARE NOT RAISING FUNDS TO USE FOR CHARITY, YOU HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT YOURSELF!
WE ARE OFFERING FREE MONEY AND HAVE BEEN FOR YEARS....TAKE ADVANTAGE!!!**

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarship Program applications must be received at the Secretariat not later than March 1, 2018.

MEMBERSHIP-From VSC J. R. Black

VSC J. R. Black's membership drive will be held **March, April and May 2018. (MAM=More Alhambra Members)** There will be prizes awarded to each region to the member recruiting the most new members. It is critical and imperative that membership remains a priority for each Caravan. Imagine how great it would be if each Caravan brought in 10 new members. The energy all Caravans would receive in accomplishing this would be significant. We can make this one of the largest membership drives ever.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Order will be putting out something on Social Media to its members. Please be on the lookout.

FEBRUARY-2018 MONTH OF PRAYER FOR THE ORDER

I am asking when your caravan meets this February, please take time and pray for VSC Black's membership drive. Pray that the Lord allows membership to more than double. I know without a doubt that members pray for the Order and all of our special friends. I would just love to make this membership drive like none other. Prayer works! Help us keep the Order around for another 100 plus years.

AL/SUNNA-RULES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Supreme Advocate, Ed Fiorella has been working to update these books and will be ready for distribution soon.

CARAVAN D & O INSURANCE FOR UNITED STATES ONLY

Just a reminder to the new Grand Divan: Effective 2-1-18, the Caravan D&O insurance will take effect. If you haven't paid it is okay. For caravans who wish to pay and participate. **The cost will be \$385 this year.** Discuss with your caravan to see if you would like to take advantage of this offer. If you are interested in an application, please call me a.s.a.p. I will need the application and the check submitted together a.s.a.p. This has saved many caravans a lot of money from what they were paying on their own.

MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS BEGINS WITH THE NEXT NEW MEMBER

Next meeting: Thursday February 22nd at 8 n m

The Last Word

By Bernice Cadman

New Year's Cheer Draw

This year's cash draw netted a total of \$2178.35. Thank you to Mike Charette for all your hard work.



Order of the Alhambra has a Facebook page.

Visit us at

[@alhambragrandbend](https://www.facebook.com/alhambragrandbend)

EUCHRE SOCIAL

FEB. 18TH -5:00PM

Alhambra members and significant others.

Come for some homemade pizza graciously prepared by the Burns family. Bring a dessert and your best card face. Let's enjoy some time socializing.



R.S.V.P. Casey Bax by Feb. 10th at 519-294-6346.

Daffodile Pins

We are looking for volunteers to sell pins for The Canadian Cancer Society.

Date: April 13th

Location: LCBO

Time: 10-4 – 2hr time slots

Please contact Doug if you can help.



Canadian
Cancer
Society

In the early sixties, Dr Frank Hayden, through testing, revealed that people with intellectual disabilities were only half as physically fit as their non-disabled peers.

Dr. Hayden discovered that given the opportunity, people with intellectual disabilities could become fit and acquire the skills necessary to participate in sports. Due to his hard work, the first Canadian Special Olympics began.

I had the great pleasure of spending Sunday, Jan. 28th at the Aquatic Centre. The London area hosted the Special Olympics. What a great way to spend my Sunday. I met swimmers with many different skill levels. Some could swim like fish, while others just crawled along slowly. One thing that was similar in all, was their love for being there and competing. The athletes competed for different reasons, some were to beat their time, some were to beat their neighbour and some were there to visit with friends. One athlete in my lane told me he would swim his race in "57 seconds and change". He ended with a 106.32, and when I told him his time he looked at me, grinned, and said, "That's close." I heard this very proud athlete say this each time he began a race.

From the modest beginning, in 1968, the Special Olympics' movement quickly spread across Canada and grew into the national sports organization it is today.

How fortunate for all, that someone respected the needs of people with intellectual disabilities, to see their abilities.

Bernice Cadman,

Master of Communications



"The most important thing in the life of every man and every woman is not that they should never fall along the way. The important thing is always to get back up, not to stay on the ground licking your wounds."

— Pope Francis, **The Name of God is Mercy**

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