

Hot Sands

The Official Newsletter of



50 years of service to the mentally challenged

Our website: www.algarva168.org

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Our Grand Commander Speaks:

Spring is in the air. Can you feel it? No doubt Old Man Winter will make one last reappearance, but it's still nice to feel that the end of winter is near. We saw a couple of robins recently; it always makes my heart glad.

Meanwhile, unfortunately our region is headed back to grey in terms of Covid-19 restrictions. We've been here before and we got through it; we'll get through it this time, too. Because of this, once again, this month's meeting will be an online one (through Google Meet, probably). At least we are getting better at the tech stuff, so that's something positive.

Another thing to be happy about: our clubhouse recently had some renovations and the results were amazing. It looks like a brand new place. Thanks to all the hard work by Gerry Forster, Bill Vandenberg, and Frank Stokkermans. It's one more reason to look forward to meeting, once again, in person on Klondyke Road.

On a sad note, Theresa Schenning, mother of Sultana Rose DeVet and mother-in-law of PGC Pete DeVet, passed away. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Our caravan has been pretty quiet lately, but we're still meeting and planning and doing our best to continue our work. I know we are all so anxious to return to some kind of normalcy, and that it seems a far way off, but it is coming. Keep the faith.

Take care everyone. I'm looking forward to seeing your smiling faces even if, for now, it is only virtually.

Al Salaam,
Lisa Finch
Grand Commander

Next meeting: Thursday, March 25th at 8:00pm.

AN URGENT REQUEST FOR RECRUITMENT

“WHAT ARE WE DOING WRONG AND WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?”

AS I LOOK OVER THE MANY MAGAZINES I RECEIVE MONTHLY FROM THE MANY ORGANIZATIONS I HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, IT CAME TO MY ATTENTION THAT SOME OF THEM ARE ENJOYING AN INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP. MAYBE NOT AS FAST OR AS MANY AS THEY WOULD LIKE, BUT AN INCREASE JUST THE SAME.

“SO, LET ME ASK AGAIN” WHAT ARE WE DOING WRONG AND WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?”

AS SUPREME COMMANDER OF THIS GREAT ORDER, I AM MAKING A STRONG PLEA TO EACH MEMBER OF THE ORDER PERSONALLY TO RECRUIT NO LESS THAN TWO MEMBERS A.S.A.P. YES, EVEN DURING COVID, RECRUITMENT IS POSSIBLE AND WE CAN DO IT SAFELY. IT HAS BEEN PROVEN. THROUGH EACH MEMBER'S LOVE AND DEDICATION OF THE ORDER, WE HAVE SURVIVED TOUGH TIMES IN OUR 117 YEARS AND NOW WITH THE SAME LOVE, COMPASSION AND DEDICATION OF OUR MEMBERS ONCE AGAIN, THE ORDER WILL SURVIVE COVID! THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP HAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE, THE BACKBONE OF THE ORDER. YES, THROUGH THE YEARS WE HAVE LOST MANY GREAT MEMBERS, BUT WHAT BETTER WAY TO HONOR THEM THAN TO CONTINUE THE ORDER'S GREAT WORK BY RECRUITING. EVERYONE JOINS THE ORDER WITH THE SAME HEART, AND THAT IS TO SERVE THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLE. THERE ARE MANY CATHOLICS OUT THERE THAT ARE LOOKING FOR AN ORGANIZATION LIKE OURS. WE JUST NEED TO SEARCH. IT TAKES HARDWORK, BUT INCREASING RECRUITMENT IS POSSIBLE. THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER HAS DONE EXTRAORDINARY WORK THROUGH THE 117 YEARS IN EXISTENCE, AND TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THE ORDER AND MEMBERSHIP STRONG FOR ANOTHER 117 YEARS AND MORE.

TO HELP WITH RECRUITMENT, THE ORDER HAS PROVIDED 2 POSTERS FOR YOUR CARAVAN TO PLACE IN CHURCHES OR ANY PLACE THAT WILL ALLOW IT TO BE POSTED. YET VERY FEW HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FROM THE HOME OFFICE, **“WHY”?** WE NEED TO GET THE WORD OUT ON WHAT THE ORDER DOES AND OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HOW TO JOIN THE ORDER. GET THE WORD OUT USING NEWSPAPERS, BULLETINS, SOCIAL MEDIA, ETC. PLEASE RECRUIT IN ANYWAY POSSIBLE TO REACH THE CATHOLIC POPULATION. THE ORDER HAS GONE TO GREAT MEASURE TO PREPARE THIS POSTER FOR YOUR CARAVAN USE. YOU CAN PERSONALIZE THE POSTER AT THE BOTTOM, WITH YOUR CARAVAN INFORMATION. PUT YOUR INPUT ON WHAT YOU THINK MIGHT WORK FOR YOUR CARAVAN. WE ARE ALSO WORKING ON ANOTHER POSTER DEPICTING A MORE DIVERSE ORDER. VSC, JOE B. CORTINAZ, WENT TO A LOT OF EXTRA EFFORT TO GET THIS POSTER MADE, SO REQUEST THEM FROM DENISE.

DENISE HAS ALSO PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES IN HER MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS ABOUT RECRUITMENT, OFFERING SEVERAL INCENTIVES FOR AND WHEN RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS. WE NEED EVERYONE TO GET ON BOARD THE RECRUITING BANDWAGON. LET'S COME UP WITH IDEAS TO GET FOLKS INTERESTED IN THIS ENDEAVOR OR WE WILL LOSE OUT, AND THAT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY FOR ALL THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED PEOPLE WE SERVE.

AND LASTLY, MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL JUST TAKE A BREATH AND LOOK AT OURSELVES IN THE MIRROR AND ASK, **“HAVE I DONE ENOUGH ON MY PART IN HELPING THE ORDER TO GROW?” THEN ASK YOURSELF, WHAT CAN I DO BETTER? THEN ACT ON IT!**

LAUS DEO,
J. R.

“RECRUITMENT, LET'S GET IT DONE!”

Next meeting: Thursday, March 25th at 8:00pm.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your volunteer work. Even though you're not in the spotlight, you are the backbone of each and every event. Please know that we could not do this without your hard work. We are forever thankful for the time you have given our organization. You have made an unforgettable difference.

Very special thank you's this month to Bill Vandenberg, Frank Stokkermans, and Gerry Forster for putting in our floor and other renovations needed to our hall. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated by all. Thank you also to Mike VanKessel for donating a fire safe box for our important documents. Your generosity is always welcome.

Calendar of Events

March 25th Virtual Meeting

8:00pm

April 29th TBA

8:00pm

Dates, times and number of participants are subject to change, so please check each month.

NOTE

Do not attend any meeting or event if you are not feeling well or have been out of country within 14 days of event/meeting.

Memberships

If you have not yet paid your dues, please get them in to Jim Karry ASAP. Thank you to all those who have already paid.

"In the face of the pandemic and its social consequences, many risk losing hope. In this time of uncertainty and anguish, I invite everyone to welcome the gift of *hope* that comes from Christ. It is He who helps us navigate the tumultuous waters of sickness, death and injustice, which do not have the last word over our final destination.
Pope Francis

*****UP COMING EVENTS*****

Bartending

June 5th. Jenna Veens

June 12th Lauren Van Haaren

July 2nd Rachel Geertz

Aug 7th Viki DeVet

Aug 20th Allison Looman

Jerry will keep us informed as we get closer to these dates.

Golf Tournament

3 year contract has been signed with Sand Hills. We set July 10th as the tournament date this year and have August 28th as an alternate.

****Upcoming events. We will continue to be flexible as we follow the government guidelines. Let's pray that things get back to business as usual as soon as possible.****

The Last Word

We have been living one year of many changes. It has been difficult for everyone to live this new lifestyle.

Please continue to adhere to the safety protocols, if not for yourself, for all your loved ones and the strangers that you may come into contact with throughout your daily lives. This year has been difficult in many different ways. I can't imagine losing a loved one through this craziness of life, not being with them in their last days, and hours. It must be incredibly heart wrenching. I have recently become a new grandparent and my visits have been limited with many safety precautions in place. It is no fun visiting grandchildren or other loved ones without giving hugs and kisses. But, the more we stay strict, hopefully, the sooner we can again be freely socializing.

I know, one thing is for sure, with these safety protocols in place, the students in my classroom have been much healthier from previous years. So even if we don't believe, or agree with mask wearing, I believe this should be mandatory in the years to come to keep the harmful germs from our most vulnerable population. Please keep that in mind the next time you go out and think, "I will just run in, I don't need a mask for two minutes", may be the time you come into contact with one of our vulnerable people (who can't wear masks) in society and actually make them sick, whether it's COVID, the common cold or the flu.

We all need to continue to do our best to protect our neighbours. I know I will continue to do the best I can

May God bless us all.
Master Of Communications,
Bernice Cadman

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