

# Hot Sands

*The Official Newsletter of*



50 years of service to the mentally challenged

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

Our email: [algarva168@execulink.com](mailto:algarva168@execulink.com)

Volume 51 No. 12

December 2018

The wet weather continues. Most crops have been harvested. Time keeps marching on. We had 20 members at our last meeting. I arrived late so Lisa Finch started the meeting for me. Thanks Lisa for covering for me.

The cash draw went well. Everyone seemed to like the new band. Thanks to Joe Donkers for all the hard work and to all the volunteers that made this night a success.

Our next event is the NEW YEARS CHEER Draw. The draw will take place at our next meeting on Thurs. Dec 27. Please get your tickets back to Mike Charrette before the draw. Rick Vanos and Frank Backx are planning a Card Social for Fri. Jan, 11<sup>th</sup>. Please let your friends know so we have a full house.

Jack Van Haastert is planning to have the Hay Ride on Wed., March 6<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. The good of the order draw was won by Joe Donkers. Who will be next? Here's wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our next meeting will be held on Thurs., Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, at 8pm. Hope to see you all there.

A Saalam  
GC Doug Willsie.



## **CHRISTMAS CHEER TICKETS**

If you are still looking for Christmas Cheer tickets, please contact Mike Charrette.

The tickets will be drawn at our Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Good luck to everyone who purchased some.

**Next meeting: Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm.**



## Cash Draw Winners

\$40 winners

- #222- Sandra Ford
- #197- Andrew & Joanne Clark
- #113- Paul VanBree
- #284- Bill & Joanne Vandenberg
- #202- Ross & Sharon Cameron
- #301- Lyle & Marjan Pickering
- #354- Kevin & Mary Elliot
- #292- Frank & Angie VanGeffen
- #388- Hank Hendricks
- #305- Pete & Harriet VanEngelen
- #006- Frank & Sharon Bax
- #331- Don & Ann Vanos
- #354- Kevin & Mary Elliot
- #149- Jeremy O'Callaghan
- #166- Jim & Ella Meadows

- 1<sup>st</sup> - \$40 - E. Karry
- 25<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Tom & Joanne Droog
- 50<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Eric Bastiaansen
- 75<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Brenda DeJong
- 100<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Deb Hawkins
- 125<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Kelsey Cadman
- 150<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Tony & Linda Charrette
- 175<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Bouw & Marg Willemse
- 200<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Leo & Minnie Bongers
- 225<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Marily Priest
- 250<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Mark & Teresa VanBree
- 275<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Eric & Tanya Viera
- 300<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Pete DeVet
- 325<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Dan & Carrie Hendrikx
- 350<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Wendy Lenders
- 375<sup>th</sup> - \$40 - Mike Huybers
- 395<sup>th</sup> - \$50 - Steve & Brenda Bannister
- 396<sup>th</sup> - \$75 - Dave Guyett
- 397<sup>th</sup> - \$100-Anna Marie Minten
- 398<sup>th</sup> - \$300-Dave & Barb Maxfield
- 399<sup>th</sup> - \$500-John & Michelle Thompson
- 400<sup>th</sup> - \$2000-Bruce & Amanda Dinel

Congratulations to all our winners. Thank you to Joe Donkers and Team for all your hardwork. Without your time and dedication this dance could not be the success it is.

Order of the Alhambra has a  
Facebook page.

Visit us at

[@alhambragrandbend](#)

As with any event, we need time to prepare, the grander the event, the more important is the preparation. Advent is that time we have to prepare for the glorious coming of Christ. We need to be careful that it does not become all about the physical aspects and traditions that need to be arranged and organized, but that through these preparations, perhaps we can increase emphasis to the spiritual component of this season, by embracing what Jesus has truly accomplished through his incarnation-becoming fully human. When we keep the focus on Christ humbly coming into our world to establish a relationship with us, we can respond by extending that love and grace to all those we encounter this Advent season.

Brother in Christ

John Lammers

Deacon

510-400-0000

---

### For the Good of the Order:

**Joe Donker's name was drawn. He was in attendance so he took home the pot of \$10.00. You could be the next luck winner but you must be at the meeting to collect. GOOD LUCK!**

---

A Special thank you to **Rose**. Once again she has worked tirelessly with her team of "Elves" to put on such a great Christmas party. The students from my school enjoyed everything from the games, to the music, food, singing and of course Santa with the gift bags. Rose, the day really puts some magic into their lives.

I love that you are already looking ahead to next year to try and figure out how to allow more people to come.

We are so blessed .

Next meeting: Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm.

## DECEMBER-2018-NEWSLETTER

FROM: DENISE BLAKELY, [denise@orderofalhambra.org](mailto:denise@orderofalhambra.org)

[Like us on Facebook. www.facebook.com/orderofalhambra](https://www.facebook.com/orderofalhambra) and follow us on: [Twitter@orderofalhambra](https://twitter.com/orderofalhambra)

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the 2019 Grand Divan. I look forward to working with you. Feel free to contact me for any reason.

### CHRISTMAS Isaiah 9:6

I would like to wish each of you a Blessed and Merry Christmas.....

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”.

### MATCHING AND NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please find the most updated forms (8-1-2017) for the Matching and New Membership Grant, attached to this newsletter. The update to these forms state that a copy of your caravan most recent 990's be included with these grant request even if you had already sent it in to me.

### PER CAPITA

See the scale below:

The COV voted on the per-capita at its July meeting. The per-capita is as follows if paid in full by:  
December- \$61.00 if paid by Dec. 31<sup>std</sup>

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

I am still missing a lot of Election Forms. I am asking again that all caravans please make certain you send yours in. I will be putting out the paperwork to update your directory. Don't be left out.

### 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE/CONVENTION MAILING

It is that time of year again. Each member will be receiving 2 books of raffle tickets and information regarding the convention, booster ads, etc., mailed directly to their home. We are asking each member to make the raffle a success again this year and to support the convention. We need you to move the Order forward.

### 58<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION, BALTIMORE, MD

### THERE ARE STILL ROOMS AVAILABLE PLEASE BOOK NOW!

**So I can get an accurate count and in order for me to see if I need to increase the number of rooms for the Convention, I am asking each of you to:**

**PLEASE START MAKING YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE 2019 CONVENTION IN BALTIMORE, MD. PLEASE CALL A.S.A.P. TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM. THIS HOTEL FILLS UP FAST AND WE HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ROOMS. A CREDIT CARD IS TAKEN JUST TO HOLD YOUR ROOM, NOTHING WILL BE CHARGED TO YOUR ACCOUNT UNTIL YOU CHECK-OUT. PLEASE CONTACT THE DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON, 410-859-8400 AND TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE ORDER OF ALHAMBRA CONVENTION. DATES ARE: JULY 28, 2019 - JULY 30, 2019. YOU MAY WANT TO ARRIVE ON SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2019 AND CHECK OUT JULY 31, 2019. IF YOU NEED ACCOMENDATIONS, PLEASE LET THE HOTEL KNOW.**

### FROM SA ED FIORELLA

Region III will be meeting again in 2019 in Ocean City, MD. The dates will be Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Checkout will be on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the hotel 1-888-465-3451 to make your reservation now. Ask for Pat and she will assist you. Any additional questions, please call Ed Fiorella.

## **MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS BEGINS WITH THE NEXT NEW MEMBER**

**Next meeting: Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm.**

## Memberships

Membership dues are once again being collected. This year our membership is \$65. Please get your dues in ASAP. We are currently at 53 members. If you know someone that might be interested please encourage them to sit in at a meeting to see all the great things we do.

## Upcoming events:

January 11<sup>th</sup>

Card Social, Alhambra Hall

7:00 pm – Registration

7:30 pm – Cards

Please contact Rick Vanos or Frank Backx if you have any questions.

## Calendar of Events

### December:

Dec. 27 Regular Meeting, Alcazar  
8:00pm

Dec. 27 Regular Meeting, Alcazar  
8:00pm

### January

Jan. 11 Card Social, Alhambra Hall  
7:00pm

Jan. 31 Regular Meeting, Alcazar

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

## The Last Word

*By Bernice Cadman*

Preparing for Christmas is a real challenge, for us as Catholics. Advent helps us focus on the spiritual preparation for Christmas and on the coming of Our Lord. We should reflect back on Our Lord's first coming when he came to free us from sin. We also need to prepare for when he comes again.

Here are some suggestions we as Catholics could do to prepare :

- 1- Make an Advent wreath. The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end: God is eternal, and His love for us is everlasting. This daily practice will help each member of the family keep focused on the true meaning of Christmas.
- 2- Pray. Hopefully prayer already is part of the daily routine, but if not, this is a good time to make it one.
- 3- Third, read Scripture.
- 4- Take the time for confession. Do a thorough examination of conscience.
- 5- Preach, this can be as easy as saying, "Merry Christmas," not "Happy holidays" or "Seasons greetings".
- 6- Put up your manger, like the Advent wreath, keep it as a focal point throughout the season.
- 7- Give. Give of yourself by doing good works. We as Order of the Alhambra members already give of our time very freely, but there is quite often room to do more.
- 8- Church. Go to mass regularly.

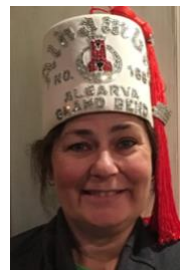
Prepare for this Advent as though Christ were coming for the first time. Make this Christmas a celebration of the birth of Our Savior and the great gift of faith we have received.

Merry Christmas Everyone,

Bernice, Master of Communications

**"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift"**

2 Corinthians 9:15



**Next meeting: Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm.**

Next meeting: Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm.