



September 2021

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND COMMANDER

I can hardly believe it, but this is my last column as your Grand Commander. As my term comes to an end, I want to thank you all. You have been so kind and gracious, so hard working, and so incredibly helpful. Every time I needed you, you were there. I could not have done it, any of it, without all of you.

I have to admit, when I was first asked to be VGC, I wasn't sure if I was the right person. What if I didn't do a good job when I became GC? What if I messed up? These things swirled in my head and it really gave me pause. In the end—because I admit it did scare me a little—I decided it was something I needed to do.

Things were going along pretty well and then...Covid 19. Who could have foreseen that? Our caravan's response to these absolutely unprecedented times reminds me of that old saying, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Did we have challenges? Yes, we sure did, but we always found a way to do what we do best: serve our people, those with intellectual disabilities. What amazing things we can accomplish when we stick together.

Thank you to the best caravan this girl could have ever hoped for. You have all been wonderful! I know you will all be as supportive of Tony Willemse as he steps into his new position as GC in October. Thank you, Tony. You will do a great job. Thanks also to PGC Casey Bax who brings a lot of experience as he takes on the role of VGC.

I will still be an active member, still at the table, just not at the front. I look forward to the future of our caravan, watching it grow and continue to thrive. I hope you are all proud of yourselves. I am.

God Bless you all! Al Salaam,

Lisa Finch

Grand Commander

CHAPLAINCY NEWS

I can't help but speak about what's going on in our society today, the division is getting rather severe. There is two sides to every coin. We have, and always have had a lot of choices in a Free Nation; the foods we eat; organic, free range, or conventional. Church; many different denominations, with lots of options of how and when we pray and worship. And when it comes to medicine; homeopathy, meditation, relying on God given natural immunities, this list goes on.

We need to be careful that we don't get entrenched in our opinions and ideas of what is best for everyone else... it's not always as clear-cut as it may appear to us and as with many things there is still a lot of unknowns that need time to flush out. So let's be patient with each other and continue to seek God's guidance to help with Jesus first command... 🤍 Love our neighbour.

THANK YOU's

The Deceased Members Plaque has been finished. Bills attention to detail when having the plaque made shows in the craftsmanship. Thank you Bill for taking such care in this very important piece to commemorate our members that have passed.

Thank you to Frank DeVet for organizing the bartenders at the Steam Thrashers. This event went very well.

Ball caps are delivered, and the zoom party is organized. Rose, your dedication to organizing these events for these people with abilities that are different than ours, is incredible. We are so fortunate to have you as part of our Order. Thank you, I know my class is looking forward to it. And we are continuing the tradition of having pizza ordered in with my class that day.

MEMBERSHIPS

Jim Karry has reported that we have 49 members in good standing. This year just dues are \$65 and they can be sent directly to Connie Burns. Thank you Jim for all of your hard work as our Scribe of the Exchequer over the last many years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fun day Zoom Party

Cash Draw – Tony Willemse is once again busy organizing this fantastic event.

New Years Cheer – Let Mike Charrette know if you're still looking for some tickets.

NEW DIVAN OFFICERS

Vice Chair – Casey Bax will step in for 1 year. Thank you Casey.

Master of Communications – Mike VanKessel will be taking on this role. Thank you Mike.

Scribe of the Exchequer- Rose VandenBerg has graciously taken this role. Thank you Rose.

GRAND SCRIBE – Vacant – please consider taking on this very important role.

SEPTEMBER-2021-NEWSLETTER
FROM: DENISE BLAKELY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Roster and per-capita

Please remember to send your roster to me a.s.a.p. as it was due August 15th. The per-capita will be based on your roster by August 31st. All Grand Commanders received an e-mail regarding the per-capita and the one-time charity request. Your caravan will be invoiced September 1st and cannot be altered.

CONVENTION 2021

Thank you for making our convention a great success. We had an awesome time and could not have done this without all your support. Thank you again for all you do for the Order and for me. God bless you all.

MEMBERSHIP

As Christians, it is so important to keep God first in everything we do. We cannot do the work of God without God. He is not after our goodness he is after our transformation. He crucified our old sin nature so that we can serve him by serving others and sharing his word through our words and actions. So, the next time we think that it is hard to recruit new members, remember there is nothing too great for God. Don't limit God. Recruitment is a challenge, but if God made everything easy for us, we would never seek him to get us through those tough times in our life.

VSC Cliff Dake is a good Christian man who is excited to lead the Order with membership and is willing to speak with any member to discuss recruitment. He has created a guide for membership recruitment. please click the following link and discuss it in your caravan. Remember, recruiting is the lifeblood of the Order!

THE LAST WORD

Wow!!! I have been Master of Communications for 4 years and a member for almost 5. Casey Bax invited me to join our group, probably about 6 times over a span of about a year. He never pressured me, but continued to let me know of all the good things the order has done for many people.

Shortly after I began, Louis and Lucy, stopped me at church to tell me they had the perfect position just for me. Little did I know the first time they approached me, that I would take it and hold onto it for four years. If not for all of my computer trials and tribulations and the fact that I don't like computer work, it is a job that I quite enjoyed. Being Master of Communications has helped me to feel part of the team. Thank you for all supporting me and encouraging me in what I have written. Lisa was always a great help to me in the beginning, and when she knew I was ready she left me to do things on my own. I am very fortunate to have had her as my "go to" person, when I had a lot of questions. I am very grateful to my successor, Mike, for taking on this role. It is occasionally a challenge, but I feel a good challenge. I look forward to seeing how Mike makes our newsletter his. Just so everyone is aware our newsletters will only be coming out quarterly for the next term, or until we decide we want them more often again.

I hope to continue to be member that partakes in activities and ideas, but for the next 6 months I have accepted a volunteer opportunity that I am also passionate about, and will take a lot of my time.

Master of Communications,
Bernice Cadman