

Hot Sands

The Official Newsletter of



50 years of service to the mentally challenged

Our website: www.algarva168.org

Our email: algarva168@execulink.com

Volume 57 No. 4

April 2021

Our Grand Commander Speaks:

At this writing, I'm enjoying a beautiful, sunny, warm spring day. But I'm not fooled. It's April, the month T. S. Eliot called "the cruellest month". We could still get snow. According to the weather forecast, there is up to a 69% chance that we will. But at least we can breathe a sigh of relief; this is Old Man Winter's last hurrah (I hope).

Our caravan has been quiet, but there are plans brewing for our next event, our annual golf tournament on Saturday, July 10 at Sand Hills (alternate date of August 28 in case of Covid restrictions). By then a lot of us will have had our vaccinations and we should be in a better position province-wide. I'm sure by now you've read Jerry Bonger's email with the golf tourney details you need. Let's all do our part to sell tickets and get sponsors. Last year went extremely well, even with Covid, so I'm expecting this tourney to be a great success also. Thanks to Jerry and his committee for all their hard work.

In other caravan news, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Sien Smits, mother of SN John Smits and mother-in-law of Sultana Rita Smits, and wife of the late SN Tom Smits. May she rest in peace. Please keep Sien and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

In closing, I know we are all weary of the current lockdown situation and we can't do much but wait it out. I keep beating the same old drum when I say, this will pass. At least the weather will be nicer and we can get outdoors. It will be great when I can see all your smiling faces in person!

Until then, stay well, stay safe. I miss you all!

Al Salaam,
Lisa Finch
Grand Commander

Next meeting: Thursday, March 29th at 8:00pm.

APRIL-2021-NEWSLETTER

FROM: DENISE BLAKELY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

59 BIENNIAL CONVENTION, BALTIMORE, MD

THERE ARE STILL ROOMS AVAILABLE PLEASE BOOK NOW!

EVERY MEMBER WILL BE MAILED CONVENTION INFORMATION NEXT WEEK. PLEASE OPEN IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT.

PLEASE START MAKING YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE 2021 CONVENTION IN BALTIMORE, MD. PLEASE RESPOND A.S.A.P. TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM. THIS HOTEL FILLS UP FAST AND WE HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ROOM BLOCKS. 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 ON-LINE: <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/B/BWIBADT-OOA-20210723/index.jhtml> OR CALL THEM AT 410-859-8400 AND TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE ORDER OF ALHAMBRA CONVENTION. DATES ARE: JULY 25, 2021 - JULY 27, 2021. YOU MAY WANT TO ARRIVE ON SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2021 AND CHECK OUT JULY 28, 2021. IF YOU NEED ACCOMMODATIONS, PLEASE LET THE HOTEL KNOW. ANY ROOMS NOT CANCELED BY JULY 5, 2021, BECOMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEMBER TO PAY FOR THESE ROOMS IF THE ORDER IS CHARGED. PACKAGE REGISTRATIONS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE IF YOU CANNOT FIND A REPLACEMENT. ALL FUNDS ARE IN U.S. CURRENCY. THE HOTEL HAS OPENED THE DATES TO STAY TO 2 DAYS BEFORE AND AFTER IF ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE. (PLEASE LET THE HOTEL KNOW IF YOU ARE EXTENDING YOUR STAY AND ONCE AGAIN, PLEASE LET THE HOTEL KNOW IF SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE NEEDED). PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES OR DIETARY NEED TO BE ADDRESSED WITH THE HOTEL A.S.A.P. (410-242-0660). ALL STATE/COUNTY MANDATES WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE HOTEL AS WELL AS THE ORDER. ****THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER, IF YOU ARE FEELING SICK IN ANY WAY, I.E., COUGH, HEADACHE, FEVER, ETC., OR HAVE BEEN AROUND ANYONE WITH COVID OR ILLNESS, YOU SHOULD ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION.***

BOOSTER ADS-CONVENTION

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE BOOSTER BOOK. Please consider purchasing an ad, memorial and/or booster in the 2021 Convention Booklet. We need everyone's participation. I am asking each caravan to show your support and gratitude to your Supreme Director by purchasing a full-page ad supporting your Supreme Director! I am personally asking for your help. We need all participation, and we have boosters/memorials starting at \$10 each. Let us remember our loved ones. If you own a business, please consider sponsoring the Order with an ad and in addition, I will list all names of the businesses that purchase an ad in our "Alhambra Quarterly".

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH HOSPITALITY ROOM DONATIONS. If you or your caravan is interested in donating items or funds, send to: Order of Alhambra, 4200 Leeds avenue, Baltimore, MD 21229. Thank you for your assistance!

GENERAL FUND RAFFLE

Every member should have received two books of ten raffle tickets. **If you have not received them or need more books, please contact me and I will send you some.** The cost is still \$5 per ticket. Every ticket sold will be reimbursed 5% back to their caravan. There are also cash prizes for the top three sellers. Please participate in selling your tickets to benefit the Order. For additional tickets, please contact me. It really benefits everyone if each member sold their tickets.

MY SPUR OF THE MOMENT MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

I am holding my "Spur of the Moment Membership Drive" again this year. For every new member recruited in February through May 1, 2021 and the application received by me by **May 11, 2021**, I am giving one free raffle ticket to the sponsor for a raffle drawing. **This year, I will put all sponsor raffle tickets in its own drawing for a chance to win \$200.** (The more you initiate, the better the chance of winning). The draw will be the same day after the General Fund Drawing. Even if you cannot hold the qualifying membership initiation for a while, bring them in as a brown tassel and they are considered a new member. **This also goes to all members sponsoring a**

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Member-at-Large #298. Initiations can be done virtually, over the phone, etc. 😊

MEMBERSHIP Satan's lies say the church and God's work is done in this pandemic, but God never takes a break. Let our thoughts be God's thoughts. Don't miss God in our work. Meet God in our work. People need God! Recruit today and let Catholics see there is an organization who serves God and his special children! Ask them to join today. We may be the best kept secret, but we are not finished. Make a promise to yourself and God today, to get the word out about Alhambra.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Committee will be announcing the recipient names soon. All Supreme Directors will be notified.

REGION III EVENT-OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND FROM PSC ED FIORELLA

Reservations for Ocean City, MD will be Oct. 8, 9, 10, 2021. Call for reservations now as rooms go fast, 1-888-465-3451. Any other questions call PSC Ed Fiorella 1-757-362-9225 Thank you, God bless!

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 Jerry Bongers, Frank Devet, Louis Hendrixx, Mike Charrette, Bill Vandenberg, and Pete Van Riel. You gentlemen continue to work miracles and are some of the backbone to make our organization the success it is. I'm certain that the 2021 golf tournament will be another success.

Also I would like to thank Deacon John for quietly leading us in our faith journey.

Chaplaincy News

As we go through these interesting times, there tend to be a lot of questions without clear answers. Some of the questions pertain to the merits of the response we have to the covid virus which is creating havoc for those that are struggling with mental health and also leaving us with an economy that may have trouble recovering. Alongside this covid-19 season is also the Easter Season, and I do believe God has a purpose in all this. Even the disciples had many questions for the resurrected Christ, so Jesus continued to Journey with them for the 40 days after his resurrection. We too have a risen Christ that wants to Journey with us through these challenging times, in which we are invited through prayer to embrace the peace, love, and wisdom of Christ.

Deacon John Lammers
519 490 3832
Lake Huron Catholic Family of Parishes
President of Lambton Right to Life



I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'

— Mother Teresa —

AZ QUOTES

Next meeting: Thursday, March 29th at 8:00pm.

Calendar of Events

April 29th Virtual Meeting

8:00pm

May 27th TBA

8:00pm

June 24th 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.

*****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

Golf Tournament

This year's 32 Annual golf Tournament will be at Sand Hills Golf Course on July 10, 2021.

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

As I am sitting here putting together what is likely my 25th newsletter, I'm struggling with what to share. Probably as you are reading this you might be in a slump also.

We would never have guessed a year ago that we would still be under many restrictions. I, like everyone else, am getting tired. How do we continue being vigilant, why should we continue to be vigilant? I have said this over and over again, I do not want to be the cause of someone getting Covid 19 and taking up hospital space that is critical for others. I definitely have made mistakes over the last year, and it has been hard. I have been still seeing my children occasionally, and my sisters, when most restrictions are lifted. But a lot of my extended family and friends, I have not seen many since last Christmas. We are all in this challenge together, but we must continue to be vigilant, to protect everyone, even the people that we feel are our enemies.

We must continue to make the best of our days. I do this by face timing daily with my new grandson, but continue to pray for a time I can hug him freely. This week-end I am supposed to do a virtual 21k run with 6 other people. They are part of my tribe of positive support. This week-end, I will still run it, but I will run it solo, looking forward to the time they can be part of my running tribe again.

Also, I am very fortunate to be going back to work this week. We are opening up our classroom to six out of the twenty one students that fall under the governments criteria. This makes me incredibly sad knowing some of our families will struggle with their children, through this lockdown. So once again, us, being vigilant, will hopefully get the people we support back into some kind of "normal" routine as quick as possible.

We must all do our part, as difficult as it may be, finding different ways to enjoy this time, so that when we come to the other side of this craziness, we can come out surrounded still, by all our, family, friends, and neighbours.

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

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