

Ladies Auxiliary President's Report



Since my last report the Ladies Auxiliary has been very busy catering many events such as birthdays, anniversaries and unfortunately funerals. And oh yes, let's not forget the Seniors luncheons. The ladies always do an outstanding job whether it be planning what we will serve, shopping, calling volunteers to help and preparing the food. Each event was a huge success.

We were happy to donate and cater food for the past Poppy dance and after the Remembrance Day service. We also donated the hot dogs and drinks for the Children's Christmas party.

We are now preparing food for the Branch Special Events. That is going very well and we are hearing comments when participants arrive such as ("So ladies what's on the menu today?")

Thank you to everyone that gives so freely of their time. Everyone has a very important role to play in the success of the Ladies Auxiliary and we are very successful. It takes many hands to prepare for each event and we do it so well. A very special thank you to Dave Wylie, Rick Davidson and Robert Kitchener. You gentlemen help us so much and you are truly appreciated.

Our Sports events have been going well, we had two team's go on to District Singles/Doubles Darts; they were Betty, Claire, Jennifer & Rita. We now have a four person team waiting to move to District Team Darts, they are Betty, Carol Shelings, Dorothy and Leila. Good job ladies.

Thanks to Leila for her usual great work with the Christmas Basket. This year's basket raised just short of \$2,700.00. Thank you also to all the ladies and our Bar staff who sold the tickets. Our Easter Basket is now on display so please be sure and get your tickets. That draw will take place on April 11th.

Keep up the good work ladies.

Yours in Comradeship
Emma Smith

1st Vice Report



Friends...

Well everyone has been asking me for quite some time now to try and bring some new entertainment into the branch. In the last 8 months we were very lucky to book 12 new bands and 3 new performers.

Every Friday night will now be known as "Band Night" and will feature great musicians from 8pm till midnight. Each band has their own style from classic rock, rock & roll, country, country rock, rhythm & blues, easy listening, etc. Sundays our single acts will be performing from 3pm until 7pm. All of them are great.

All of these band members and entertainers are terrific people. Some of them are members of our branch or other branches. They understand how important Legions are, and what Legions are trying to accomplish. They understand that the Royal Canadian Legion is the largest charitable organization in Canada. They understand, and are well aware that we first of all look after our veterans, we care for our seniors, we support various charities, and that we are a mainstay in our community.

Legions are closing their doors every day right across Canada. The number one reason being: the lack of volunteers, and a membership that does not support their respective branches. That's a shame because everyone loses.

Our branch is now approaching 1300 members. We boast that we have the largest membership in our Zone and that we are still growing. But what does that mean? I'm not really sure. Nothing, if most of those members do not support our branch.

We only receive approximately \$19.00 of your annual membership fees; the rest goes to Dominion Command. We have to somehow reach out to probably 1100 of our members and try to get them interested in visiting the branch more often.

We have to support our Saturday afternoon meat-draws, our raffles, dances, numerous sporting events, competitions, and a fundraiser that we have scheduled. We need desperately to increase our revenue in order to renovate our office and build a new entrance to a proposed patio. This will enable everyone to enjoy ourselves outdoors, especially during the hot summer months. We will be scheduling events out there as well, but, we need everyone's

support to make this happen.

So all that said and done, I do not want to see our doors close because of lack of support and I'm sure neither do you. I think we all have an obligation to support the branch just a little bit more by coming to our organized events. Please forward this message to all of the Legion members that we know, as well as to our family members and friends. We owe that much to all of our brave veterans who built this great organization years ago for us to enjoy today.

Thanks everyone. Keep our doors open. Pass this message on.

Bruce Sharpe
1st Vice President

Youth Education



Comrades, The fall has been a busy time for Youth Education. In September, 2008, all the Ajax Schools received information regarding the Remembrance Day Poster and Literary Contest. As well, for the first time, all the information was posted on the website for the Branch. Thank you to Comrade Bruce South for making this happen and access to the information being very convenient and easy to use. When I received telephone calls, it was very easy to direct the caller to the website.

This year, there were 166 entries with 14 schools represented by the submissions. On Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008 the judging took place. I would like to thank the judges, Sheila Boyer, Mary Bradley, Janet Kaminsky, Angela Burke, Sue Crandles and Gary Crandles, for their 3 hours of volunteer time and concentrated work. You could hear a pin drop in the large hall during the judging time. All judges were very impressed with the caliber of the entries. The first place winners have now gone on to the next level of competition.

The Public Speaking Contest took place on February 22. I would like to thank the judges and timekeepers Shelia Boyer, Patti Boyer, Mary Bradley, Angela Burke and Dorothy Buchanan for their help.

Yours in Comradeship
Jeanette Clarke-Boutillier

Bingo - Nevada Report



Our Bingo program has been very successful since our move to Delta Bingo. We have raised \$41,393.85 in proceeds over the last 9 months.

A lot of credit should go to the 3 Branch members, Dawne, Anna & Joanne, who faithfully run our session no matter what day or night they fall on.

These funds have been used to

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| • Pay the bank loan / interest | \$14,163.96 |
| • Run our monthly Seniors Luncheons | \$2,676.85 |
| • Cover some building expenses | \$1,586.87 |
| • Made donations to our community | \$2,545.00 |

We will soon be making a further \$10,000.00 donation to The Friends of the Ajax Library. This will bring our total contribution to \$90,000.00 of our total \$100,000.00 commitment.

Our Break Open Ticket program known as Nevada is doing far better this year compared to last year. We have raised \$45,011.41 in proceeds over the last 9 months. After deducting our License fees, ticket costs and payouts, we have netted \$10,128.88.

We have made donations of \$3,328.00 to our community from these proceeds.

In addition, as a result of donating our halls, we were allowed to direct \$3,536.49 to our Building account under the Community Concepts plan and \$1,981.19 to the General account to cover administration costs.

Thank you to all the Branch members who buy the Nevada tickets to help support our Branch and to Rita Cooke who does Nevada during our Saturday Meat Draw,

Yours in Comradeship
Emma Smith