



The District A Spirit

Spring 2010

Volume 1, Number 1

Upcoming Events

Seminars:

Sunday April 25 9 a.m.
Branch 525 Rodney
Branch Leadership Roles
Casual Dress

Sunday May 2 or 30th
8:30 a.m.

Branch Basic Finance
May 2 Branch 143
Ambassador - Windsor

May 30 Branch 263
Duchess of Kent -
London
Dress Casual

Sunday May 16

8:30 a.m.
Branch 243 - Ridgetown
New Version -
Branch Leadership
Legion dress

Contact Us

Email At :
districtaspirit@gmail.com

Hi Comrades,

As you know, we have been stressing communication as one of the main themes for us to address. As part of that focus, Comrade Deb and I approached Comrade Ruth Ann with the idea of a newsletter that could be delivered electronically.

Unlike most newsletters you have seen from command and others, the idea here is not just for us to communicate to you what we are doing, but more importantly to trumpet the achievements that are happening every day in our branches and zones.

Too often, you are doing great things that we never hear about. We would like to share your achievements with your comrades. We also believe you should get the recognition your branch or zone deserves for your accomplishments.

We are so often forced to focus on the negatives of those that are struggling, and not focusing on those many things that we do well and the many things we do quietly.

Please share your achievements with us.

Bill Misener
District A Commander

Comrades

Comrade Bill talks about communication in his article. You have been hearing about the importance of two way communication since last April.

We have also been hearing about the need for training. This started with the Legion School last August in Strathroy. We learned as a result of that day, you are willing to and want to learn. We are going back to the basics. Listed in the left column are confirmed seminars. On August 29 (location TBA) Legion School – How Sports can help your Branch be successful and the New Branch Regulations. A third topic will be announced shortly. These seminars are open to your Ladies Auxiliary as well.

I hope you take advantage of what is being offered.

Debbie Crown
District A Deputy Commander
District Training and Organizational Development

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Zone A3 – Zone Commander John Grosvenor

Comrades, our zone chairmen are busy working on several events to take place over the next few months –

- May 20 - Zone Lottery Draw - to be drawn at Branch 335 Highgate – proceeds to help fund our Youth Education and Seniors committees, Veterans welfare and hospitals.
- June 12 - Zone A3 Track & Field Meet – at the Chatham Athletic Complex (behind Chatham Kent Secondary School)
- Aug. 15 - Annual Zone BBQ hosted at Branch 243 Ridgetown
- TBS - Zone Lob Ball Tournament to be hosted by Branch 252 Bothwell

Zone A4 – Ron Crown, Branch 498 Grand Bend

Recently, each branch in our District received a letter regarding the Bluewater Veterans Highway extension from Goderich – Highway 21 to Highway 402.

We are seeking support from branches on or near the route to accomplish our quest to have our portion the highway included in the new name. We are hoping you will forward your letter of support to Branch 167 Exeter.

If you have any questions please contact me - rscrown@ezlink.ca

Zone A5 – Dennis Dixon, Branch 251 Mt. Brydges

The branch has been very busy over the past several weeks with many special events including – Christmas Turkey Bingo, New Year's Eve Party, St. Patrick's Day events and two NASCAR events. We continue to have our weekly Dart League tournaments as well as weekly bingos. The branch has held fairly successful meat draws and 50/50 draws every Saturday. Plans are underway for the spring and early summer events.

Track and Field – Chris Vachon

District A Track and Field Meet

Friday June 25 and Saturday June 26

Chatham Athletic Complex

Time: Saturday 8:30 a.m.

Youth Education – Craig Chartier

We held a successful Public Speaking contest on March 27 hosted by Branch 219 Glencoe. The students presented many interesting topics for the judges' consideration. The following are the results of the day:

Grades 1 – 3 First Place – Faith Kameka	Zone A1 – Branch 261
Second Place – Katherine Gray	Zone A5 – Branch 422
Grades 4 – 6 First Place – Marissa Mueller	Zone A4 – Branch 216
Second Place – Kristina Wilker	Zone A5 – Branch 251
Grades 7 – 9 First Place – Christopher Gray	Zone A5 – Branch 422
Second Place – Greg Johnston	Zone A1 – Branch 261
Grades 10 – 12 First Place – Leena Bourne	Zone A4 – Branch 216

All the first place winners were invited to take part in the Area A and B Speakoff on Saturday, April 24 in Niagara Falls at Branch 479. I would also like to thank Ladies Auxiliary Past Provincial President Maxine Goudy for assisting with the awards presentation.

Public Relations – Ruth Ann Dodman

Just a few little reminders: (DC = Dominion Command; OPC = Ontario Provincial Command)

- The Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) has joined Member Benefits Package – new members can receive a 12 to 25 per cent on a basic primary membership (DC Jan 15/10)
- Legion Magazine – online version: LEGIONMAGAZINE.com – press enter, select language to enjoy your favourite magazine.
- March 25 – OPC – Carolyn McCaul – received some complaints regarding negativity – reminding PRO about articles in the newspaper stating an individual(s) negative personal view of what is taking place in their Branch or the Legion as a whole and Posting of photos of our members/guests drinking in our lounges or clubroom on the internet (it has taken decades to build a positive image that we have in our communities throughout Canada; it seems like only moments to start tearing it down).

RCL Troop Moral Fund – has been very successful due to the hard work of our Branches, Ladies Auxiliary and individuals there may be enough funds on hand to continue supporting our troops in Afghanistan with a coffee and donut until their departure from there hopefully in 2011. Watch for announcements of a new project.

Public Relations

OPC – still looking for information on prominent individuals within our communities or Athletes that have gone onto participation in the Olympics that have participated in our youth programs in the past and have now benefited from these or in turn have contributed to their careers – have individual write a short biography (including how he/she has benefited; need permission – have information sent to Carolyn McCaul

REMINDER – please do not send your entry for the Bulletin and Scrapbook competition to her. All entries must go through your respective District Chairmen first.

- Veterans Affairs Canada has a new publication about Canadians in the Second World War's Burma Campaign and another on the many roles of the Canadian Forces in the post war years. To receive a copy: vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=history/infosheets

Also available is Canadian military who participated in the 2010 Olympics or Paralympic games to receive information: vac-acc.gc.ca/members/sub.cfm?source=features/Olympics

Navy Veterans, Navy Personnel, Legionnaires:

The Chatham and Area Naval Association will be hosting a Battle of Atlantic Parade and Service on Sunday, May 2, 2010. Many of you may be aware that 2010 is the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy. Please bring your own lawn chair. In case of rain please go to Branch 28 Legion – Clubroom (lower level)

After the service they will host a reception, comradeship and displays of Naval history at Branch 28 Legion

In conjunction with the anniversary celebration we are co-sponsoring a Literary and Poster contest much like the Legion's annual Remembrance contest for students in grades one to twelve. We are allowing computer generated posters as part of our competition.

Deadline for next submission: September 1st, 2010

