



Twelve days before Christmas and all thru O'Kelly's Jerry was shouting out directions on how many of each sandwich we had to make. Not wanting to let him down, I made sure I only made 25 ham & lettuce ones as he instructed. The hall started getting crowded as many members showed up to help with this process of making a good bag lunch for our N.O.A.H project. We had lots of donations and the best sandwiches made from the meat and cheeses that were donated by Boar's Head and Adrienne & Wes who made sure everyone put plenty on the bread.

A big THANK YOU to Kevin Birdson of Boar's Head for the donation of the meat & cheeses and to the Office Manager, Edana Hooda for her donation. A Thank You shout out also to Tom Mylar for the donation of the bags of candy. Another Thank You shout out was to Sue, Jerry's wife for not only having to put up with Jerry for years, but also for the hand-made candy bags that she did herself.

A shout-out Thanks to Captain Reedy for sending a couple of the Army's Recruiters in the Dearborn area. We are very happy to have you as members and to always include you in our events and meetings. Don't forget your Happy Dollars on Wednesday.

We had so much help that we finished way ahead of schedule and that gave more time to head to the bar and have some drinks and try to stay sober before our regularly scheduled meeting. Everyone was enjoying themselves and as I went to put my bag on the chair by the tree, someone how I landed on the floor under the tree and my bruised knee. Thank goodness I didn't take the tree with me. So that's when I figured I should start drinking too – then I would have had an excuse as to how I fell.

Jerry brought a new "prospective member" and introduced him everyone. We learned his name was Evan Terrell and he used to be Jerry's caddy.

As we all were snuggled in our seats, listening to the Salvation Army band, when President Linda rang the bell for us to get started with our meeting. And of course our "fining" Al started the fines by fining Allan because he came in his work scrubs. Kerry fined Adrienne – and I think he might have had one too many candies – because I couldn't understand what the heck he was fining Adrienne about – something about graduation. Al shouted out a fine to Renea, because I fell. Frank turned around and fined Al for fining Renea who was our "writer" for this meeting. Al fined everyone there because he was the only "atheist" that was sitting at the Salvation Army table. It was getting out of control and President Linda starting ringing her bell to gain control again. Lots of fining continued, but President Linda rang her bell till they all stopped.

After a great dinner of turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans and more, we sat back with full tummys and President Linda introduce our guests, She introduced the guys from the Salvation Army - Dan, Russell & Chuck. She introduced "Major Irvine" who was unable to join us do to an emergency, so Dan filled him for him. Dan shared that if Jerry ever got in trouble with his wife - to give Chuck - who is in charge of "disasters" a call and he would take him out for a cup of coffee to remind Jerry - it's "not all about him". LOL

Dan shared that the guys liked coming to our dinners because we fed them really good food. One year they played at the Elks club and they were served very bad cabbage wrapped in fish - not even edible... but Chuck ate the "whole meal".

To get us in the spirit of Christmas, Dan read the bible story that Major Irvine insisted he share and shortly after they started playing Christmas songs.

I guess it's a tradition every year that we sing Christmas carols with the band so Tom being in his happy state started singing and trying to get us all to join in.

Another tradition to help the Salvation Army was that we all donate funds. So this year was a great year, the total we donated was \$5,808. \$2500 from our "ear-marked" funds and \$3,308 from our personal donations! This is such a great family of friends who care about those in the community.

So our Bell Ringing schedule was shared by all - as to who was onto the mall to ring the bells for all.

But before we ring the bell, we were planning on whose sleigh we would fill as we prepared to head out the next morning to feed our friends at the N.O.A.H. project.

Some of what's coming up:

1. 12-21-16 meeting - Frank will gift us with a Christmas in Dearborn video
2. 12-28-16 - No meeting, but there will be a roundtable at 6 pm
3. 1-4-16 - We will have our board & committee meeting after our meeting
4. 1-18-16 - Skip's Steak dinner will be held - after a lot of whining because I had to change the date - as I will be in California until the 13th. THANKS Skip for being so "understanding"

So if I don't get to hug you and wish you a Merry Christmas, please know that I am so proud to be in this family and look forward to many more great things happening as we continue to give back to our community.

Hugs and Love to you all!

"BossyPants"

