

**Military Order of the Devil Dogs
The Villages Pound 335
Florida Pack**



Bacall Recreation Center

Growl Scratchings for 5 December 2011

Opening Ceremony:

Pound Keeper, Drew Loiacono called the Growl to order at 19:00. He instructed the Police Dog, Dennis Faillo to post the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance. Dog Trainer, Ralph Hoffmann, said the opening prayer.

The Pound Keeper, Dan Smyczynski, directed the Mad Dog, Drew Loiacono, to banish the new Pups; James J. Reid, James Steenson, Armando Carl, Clyde Rorabaugh, Don Westlake and Charles Miner from the meeting to prepare these Mutts for initiation.

Roll Call of Officers

Pound Keeper PDD Drew Loiacono	
Sr. Vice Pound Keeper DD Angelo Grotticelli	Absent
Jr. Vice Pound Keeper Pup Carl Engel	
Smart Dog DD Phil Riggins	Absent
Dog Trainer DD Ralph Hoffmann	
Police Dog Pup Dennis Faillo	
Pound Mad Dog PDD Drew Loiacono	
Dog Robber Pup Jim Johnson	
Watch Dog PDD Mario Salvatora	
Barking Dog Pup Jim Kelly	

The officers and members struggled with their self introductions as they attempted to properly identify themselves as members of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs which resulted in fines.

Recognition of Dignitaries:

Pound Keeper PDD Dan Smyczynski recognized Florida Pack, Worthy Pack Leader, Charlie Smith and Colonel Phillip DeLong Commander, Joe Olimpio.

New Pups: The New Pups re-entered the meeting to be sworn in as new members. All six will be initiated at the next Growl, February 6, 2012, at the Bacall Recreation Center at 1900. The Pound Keeper introduced them and they were greeted by the other members. The Pup Kits were given to all six individuals.

Financial Report:

Dog Robber Jim Johnson announced the up to the minute balance in the Pound's checking account. For security reasons financial summaries are not posted in the minutes. However, all members are invited to inspect the financial report at any time.

Officers Report:

Pound Keeper, PDD Dan Smyczynski talked to the members about the Wounded Warriors in the VA Hospital in Tampa. The Commandant of the Marine Corps League, Joe Olimpio, raised his paw to discuss what the needs of the Wounded Warriors are. The needed items are shaving cream, socks and other personal care items that need to be delivered by December 15th. Dan then asked if the Members would like to donate 10 to 20 Bones to buy these treats. Mario Salvatora made a motion that the Devil Dogs donate 200 Bones from the treasury. A vote was taken on this Motion and it was unanimous. The dog food dish was passed around at this meeting for donations from the Members.

Smart Dog, Phil Riggins, reported on the Halloween Party. The report was read by Pound Keeper, Dan, as follows:

Pound 335 had a very good turnout for the Department of Florida Fall Conference in Safety Harbor, Florida thanks to all that attended.

MCL Leadership Course – presented by the Department of Florida's new education officer, Bob Beale, was a new twist in instruction of the Department of Florida. The subjects were presented in a timely manner, and kept the attendees attention. I recommended that everyone take the time and participate in this course when it's offered next year. We need new Dogs to step up and take charge of the Pound with some fresh new ideas for what the dogs are capable of achieving

The Pack Growl was an outstanding time for fun, and camaraderie the Pack Leader, Charly Smith, was at the helm; and our own, Jr. Dog Robber, Bob Beale, was the defendant at the kangaroo court; trying to save his tail wagger from being hung with an improper hangman's noose; the National Commandant was the presiding Judge; There wasn't any decision handed down from the bench on the argument of the improper hangman's rope; so the Jr. Dog Robber, will have to defend his case again at some later time.

The Halloween Ball held in the Villages was a Barn buster; our Foxy Ladies, Saber Grotticelli, Ruth Thacker, and Mary Riggins worked their paws to the bone with long hours and their own Big Bones spent to make this an outstanding event, to make the Devil Dogs proud. The proceeds from the Ball totaled One Thousand Big Bones and were donated to the Lake Hills School for the Mentally Challenged. The School purchased a Special Need Chair for the Children.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Announcements:

An announcement was made by Ralph Hoffmann that 3,000 Bones was raised by the Rose Fund. He also said that on January 27th and 28th he needed volunteers at Publix, Sweet Bay and Walmart for Operation Butterfly. That money will go to the Butter Fingers.

Closing Ceremony:

Pound Keeper directed Police Dog to retire the Colors. Dog Trainer, Hoffmann, said the red cover should be placed over the heart when saying the opening and closing prayers. He then proceeded to say the closing prayer.

Growl adjourned at 20:00.

Dog Food and water was served immediately after the Growl. Our thanks to Pound Keeper, Carl Engel, for making the arrangements for a satisfying treat; The pack of hungry mutts licked the bowls clean.

Our thanks and appreciation to Police Dog Dennis Faillo and Barking Dog Jim Kelly for their excellent attention to detail in the registration and collection of Bones from our Pound Devil Dogs.

Respectfully submitted, Woof-Woof

Jim

Jim Johnson, Dog Robber