



RAVENS ROOST 50

JANUARY 2006



NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 25, 2005, 6:30 p.m., CARNEY ROD AND GUN CLUB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Roost 50 President
Robert Kidwell*

Hi! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. As we start the New Year, it is time for a little reflection. This year did not start off as I had hoped it would. In my first month as president, we lost the company who printed our newsletter. Along with that, we lost our parking lot at Vallis Printing, leaving a whole new perspective of where our roost was heading. Our newly-elected COB was sidelined with triple-bypass surgery, and our newly-elected VP was down in Key West, all of this before our first meeting as the new group. Needless to say, we were not off to a good start. I was nervous as a cat on a hot tin roof. It seemed as though the whole roost was unraveling right before my eyes. As always, this roost rebounded and has become bigger and better than ever. This is a testament to what the people in this roost do. We have acquired a bigger and better parking lot which generates more money for our roost charities. We have switched our newsletter to an electronic mode, e-mailing it every month to our members and saving the roost costs in postage which we are able to redirect to our membership. And last but not least, we have streamlined the business portion of our general meetings down to an hour or less, which I know pleases everyone!

Now we enter another chapter in our short history. For the first time in a few years we have several openings for officers and board members. Elections are near, and we need people to step up to the plate and run for office. There are many challenges this roost will face in the coming years, and we have the people to take our roost to the next level. I encourage all members to consider running for a position within the roost. It has been very rewarding for me, and I am sure if you decide to take the challenge you will find it as rewarding. If you have any questions regarding an office or board position, please feel free to ask any of the standing board members or officers or any past officers. The newer members should feel free to run for office, as there is always the need for talent. Keep in mind, your obligation will have a huge effect on the future of our roost. I trust you will make the right decision for all involved.

CHRISTMAS MEETING FILLED WITH CHARITY AND FELLOWSHIP

This year was no different than years past in many ways. Roost 50's annual Christmas meeting and party has traditionally been the time of year when Roost 50 recognizes the contributions of its members and also distributes gifts to both core and non-core charities. And we did that just like always. But this year, the amount of money that Roost 50 was able to distribute to both core and non-core charities far exceeded anything we have ever done in the past..



The meeting opened with President Bob Kidwell proclaiming that this would be a short meeting so that we could enjoy celebrating the season and socializing. Co-Chairmen Patti Champ and Carolyn Lacher

Ron Hopkins (LEFT) of the Paralyzed Veterans of America and Kerri Wojciechowski (RIGHT) of the House of Ruth, accept their checks from Roost 50 President Bob Kidwell



send out a big RR50 thank you to Aurelia Dillon, who, despite being down with the "winter bug" made all the beautiful centerpieces which were given out as prizes to members. Also thanks goes out to roost member- Rikk Morris our DeeJay for the evening and the Rod and Gun Club for catering the event, Great job,

As promised, the meeting lasted less than an hour, but what a "power hour" it was as Roost 50 distributed over \$22,000 dollars to charities and named our annual Volunteer of the Year.

Our first guest of the evening was Ron Hopkins, President of the Colonial Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. President Bob Kidwell presented him with a check for \$2000.00. The Paralyzed Veterans of America are not one of Roost 50's core charities, but are one of the sponsored charities of the Carney Rod and Gun Club, our host for all of our meetings. As a thank you to the Carney Rod and Gun Club for all of their support, the board of directors, acting on a vote from the membership, made this gift.



Ellen Torres and Tim Richardson of the St. Vincent's Courage House and Ed Block Foundation receive their check from President Bob Kidwell

Next up was Mr. J.D. Carpanzano, who represented Body Guard Elite, an organization based in Georgia who collects funds and provides additional body armor to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Roost 50 had made a contribution to their efforts during the past year, and he traveled to Baltimore specifically to attend our meeting and thank our organization for our contribution. Saying that his

organization meant no disrespect to the Paralyzed Veterans, his organization's goal was to keep soldiers and Marines out of wheelchairs by providing much-needed body

armor which was not being supplied in the quantities necessary by the various military services.

Kerri Wojciechowski was then introduced. Kerrie represented the House of Ruth, which everyone knows is an organization which provides shelter, counseling and legal assistance to battered woman. President Bob Kidwell presented to the House of Ruth, one of Ravens Roost 50's core charities, a \$3000.00 check.



Calling Roost 50 "The Greatest Roost there is", Tim Richardson presents a "Proclamation of Courage to members of Roost 50

Finally, roost member Ellen Torres, director of the Saint Vincent's Courage House, and Tim Richardson of the Ed Block Courage Foundation, were brought to the podium. The Ed Block Courage Foundation and the Saint Vincent's Courage House are two of our main core charities. President Bob Kidwell presented them with a check for \$17,000.00. By far, this was the single largest cash contribution Roost 50 has ever given.

When thanking the roost, Ellen Torres said that our commitment to the kids and unselfish devotion to helping them was what inspired her to become a member of this organization.

Tim Richardson, speaking for the Ed Block Foundation, lauded Roost 50 for its commitment to the community and presented Roost 50 with an Ed Block Foundation "Proclamation of Courage" which, in part, recognized Roost 50's "impact on changing the lives of abused and neglected children and preventing abuse from impacting future generations" Tim concluded by saying that Roost 50 was the "greatest roost there is".

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR HONORED



An emotional Eric Watts was named Volunteer of the Year for his commitment and dedication to Ravens Roost 50. Eric symbolizes what this Roost is all about as evidenced by the fact that you can't attend

LEFT: Eric Watts is honored as Volunteer of the Year. **RIGHT:** Maria Schenning, Alan Whatley and Patti Champ accept certificates for their children from President Bob Kidwell and Charity Committee member, Diane Nigrin



too many functions where he is not contributing in some way or another.

Eric earned a plaque in recognition of his contribution and a ticket to the Ed Block Courage Awards Banquet to be held in March.

In addition to Eric, nine more roost members were recognized as the top volunteers for the year., They will also receive a ticket to the Ed Block courage awards. They are: Carolyn Lacher, whose dedication and enthusiasm epitomizes our spirit of volunteerism; Terry Boram, who was instrumental in helping Roost 50 secure a grant from the Wal-Mart Corporation as well as items for the Thanksgiving drive; Bud Lacher, Jeff Champ, Rodney Fischer, Ami Rentko, Mary Foehrkholtb , Emily Watts and Robin Whatley, who all gave freely of their time and perseverance.

Roost 50 also for the first time recognized some of the children of our members who make contributions to the success of our roost. Recognized for their contributions were: Platinum winner, Casey Champ, daughter of Patti and Jeff Champ, who also is known as Sparkles to everyone working the annual Christmas party;. Gold winner, AJ Whatley, son of Alan and Robin Whatley; and Silver winner, Zack Schenning, son of Maria and Ted Schenning. Each child was awarded a certificate recognizing their contributions along with a gift certificate.

BY-LAW CHANGE PROPOSED

A by-law change has been proposed to allow the minutes of the general meeting to be published in the newsletter in lieu of being read at each meeting. Article XI, governing meetings, currently reads "The reading of the Minutes and the Treasurers report may not be dispensed with for more than two (2) consecutive meetings." The Proposed change will read as "The reading of the Minutes and the Treasurers report may not be dispensed with for more than two (2) consecutive meetings unless it is published in the monthly newsletter." The reason for this change is to legalize the minutes being published instead of read in the interest of saving time at meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATLANTIC CITY BECKONS

Ravens Roost 50's Sixth Annual "Luck O' the Irish" Atlantic City Bus Trip is scheduled for Saturday, April 8th, 2006, departing from the Carney Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m. and returning that evening at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$25.00 per person.

The trip includes luxury bus transportation to and from Atlantic City and coin voucher to casino of origin. You must be at least 21 years of age to attend. This is a Roost 50 sanctioned event.

Tickets will be available at the January meeting; see members of the Travel Committee. You must purchase your tickets when you sign up.

APPAREL MONEY DUE AT JANUARY MEETING

Roost 50 merchandise orders and money are due at this month's membership meeting. If you need additional information or have any questions, feel free to contact Don Miller at iceman_689@hotmail.com.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF DECEMBER 28th, 2005

The meeting opened at 6:45 pm with Bob Kidwell presiding.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – The November Minutes were in the Newsletter. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept them.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dana gave her report. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept it.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Bob

- A \$2,000 check was presented to Ron Hopkins, Presidents of the Colonial Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, to thank CRGC for all their help.

- A \$3,000 check was presented to Kerri Wojciechowski of the House of Ruth.

- A \$17,000 check was presented to Tim Richardson and Ellen Torres for Ed Block and Saint Vincent's combined.

COUNCIL REPORT – **Nothing**

Bob announced the winners of the Volunteers Awards Dinner tickets and the Volunteer of the Year. They are:

Terry Boram, Bud Lacher, Jeff Champ, Carolyn Lacher, Rodney Fischerm, Ami Rentko, Mary Foehrkolb, Emily Watts, Robin Whatley

Volunteer of the Year – Eric Watts

COMMITTEE REPORTS – **Hank**

Apparel – Donny showed the Roost gear that he has available now and a catalog of other items. Orders will be taken in January.

- We have been challenged to sell more Council Raffle Tickets than Roost 18. You will be able to keep 25 cents of each ticket you sell. The money will be due in February.

Charity – Diane thanked all that helped with the kids' Christmas events. Gift cards and Certificates were given to the following young people for their help:

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| Silver | Zack Schenning |
| Gold | AJ Whatley |
| Platinum | Casey Champ |

NEW BUSINESS

- Jimmy B attended his first meeting since his accident. He thanked everyone at the Roost for their support.

- JD Carpanzano of Body Guard Elite of Georgia was at the meeting and thanked us for all we do. They make body armor for soldiers.

- Marge Cimino was given a Raven's purple and white scarf to honor her for all she has gone thru. It was made by Terry Boram.

- Stephanie Lee was voted in as a new member.

- Chuck Shettle, who was present at the meeting, was thanked for the gas coupons we used during the Thanksgiving food delivery trips.

- Linda Smith told us her son Ray is home from Iraq.

- Hank read a By-Laws change that will permit the Minutes to be in the Newsletter instead of needing to be read at the meeting. A vote will be in February, after a second reading of the By-Law change and a notice in the Newsletter.

- Larry Kearney was thanked for all his hard work on our tailgating lot.

OLD BUSINESS

- Glen talked about the Polar Bear Plunge on January 28th. You can register on line. We will have a heated tent.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Keep Wendy, Marge, and our Troops in your prayers.

Joyce Burk won \$187 in our 50/50 drawing.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Pat Rebbert
Recording Secretary

ROOST 50 CALENDAR

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| JANUARY 28, 2006 | Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics. Sandy Point State Park |
| MARCH 7, 2006 | Ed Block Courage Award Banquet Martins West |
| MARCH 19, 2006 | Council of Ravens Roosts Annual Bull and Oyster Roast. Towson Center, \$38.00 per person. |
| APRIL 8, 2006 | Atlantic City "Luck O the Irish" Bus Trip |
| MAY 13, 2006 | 2nd Annual Casino Night at the Carney Rod and Gun Club |
| JUNE 1-4, 2006 | Annual Council of Ravens Roosts convention, Ocean City Maryland. |