

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES
Vancouver Island North Branch 06
General Meeting September 15, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Ian Sibbald, Vice President. He welcomed especially those who were with us for the first time and our guest speaker, Tim Cowan. Margaret Crites lead us in the singing of O Canada.

It was moved by Mary Kamann and seconded by Barbara Schneider that the minutes of the last general meeting be accepted as presented. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Tom reported that we had a surplus this year to date of \$1,586.89 but that we were due to receive approximately \$2,800.00 in payment from National Office for DDS payments. As there were no questions, Tom moved the acceptance of his report, seconded by John Davis. The motion carried.

Membership: Steve said our membership stands at 2062 members, spouses and associates. He mailed out 1068 copies of the Newsletter and 228 were sent by e-mail. He also said he hoped everyone had a great summer.

Benefits: In the absence of the President, Bill Turnbull gave a report on the 2010 Congress which met in Halifax. He said that a lot of ground was covered.

BC Coastal Islands region submitted three resolutions:

Be it resolved that the FSNA give primacy to the payment of dues by DDS, which passed.

Be it resolved that ...the 2010 FSNA By-Laws be amended to ensure that the Annual General Meeting, as the supreme decision making body of the FSNA, be the only forum that can approve priorities and future annual budgets of the Association. This went to a count but was narrowly defeated.

Be it resolved that a fundamental review be carried out on all aspects of voting within the FSNA subsequent to passage of Bill C-4. This was soundly defeated. *However, a Calgary branch resolution was passed that calls for a review of the by-laws in conjunction with the implementation of Bill C-4, governing not-for-profit organizations. C-4 may include voting protocols.

A Montreal resolution – Be it resolved that the National Office make it possible for all members to change their address on-line, including other essential information such as telephone number or e-mail address – was also passed.

A resolution was passed requiring FSNA to co-operate with the Veteran's ombudsman on the issue of lump sum payments vs monthly pension compensation to disabled veterans. This work is underway.

A new slate of officers was elected. BC will be well represented with the previous election of John Finn as National Director and now Julie Spencer as 3rd Vice President.

PSHCP positive enrolment: Bill asked if everyone had been contacted by Sun Life. If not, they were given phone

numbers to call.

Pensioners Dental Service Plan changes: Cost sharing is changing and premiums are returning to pre-2006 rates at the end of this month. The FSNA President requested cost and usage data. That was promised but arrived late and was incomplete. Additional data have been requested. *One word of caution – If you are thinking of leaving the Plan, remember there is no going back. Once you leave, you cannot rejoin.

Bill also reported on his one-hour meeting with MP John Duncan as a follow-up to our Branch letter dealing with the Pensioners Dental Service Plan changes. John expressed understanding and stated that he would call the office of Stockwell Day, President of the Treasury Board, as soon as the meeting was over.

The discussion then turned to the New Veterans Charter. John voiced a special concern for the combat-disabled veterans of recent conflicts, many of whom have settled in the Comox Valley. He indicated that his office has helped and stands ready to help in, among other things, overcoming bureaucratic inertia. Bill pointed out that the FSNA has committed itself to working with the Veterans' Ombudsman and other parties in seeking the best compensation formula for today's disabled veterans.

Death of a Pensioner: Survivors attempting to handle the loss of a pensioner can get terribly confused by all the paperwork that has to be done and quickly lose track. He recommends making copies of all forms and correspondence to help eliminate the problem. He also reminded the membership that we have an Estate Document package offered at our cost of \$3.00.

Programs:

Barb got a round of applause when she mentioned the meal was very tasty. She said there were 140 members present. She also thanked the members of the phone committee for getting their reports in early this time.

Media: John had nothing to report.

Welfare: Halle said she had sent out 3 cards but added 7 more as a result of the phone committee feedback.

Telephone:

Paddy gave thanks to all and reminded the members that they were finished until next March 2011.

History: Frank had nothing to report.

New Business:

Ian told us that Bill McSeveney is now out of the Hospital but has been confined to his home for the next while.

The Name the Newsletter contest has been decided and the winner is Eleanor Bond who suggested the new name be "Staying in Touch". Many entries had been received so the committee had a hard decision to make.

Ian is the Director who is looking into the possibility of providing transportation for those members who cannot attend meetings because of not driving. He asked for a show of hands by those who may be willing to help and asked them to meet him after the meeting. He will report his progress at a later date.

Our guest speaker, Tom Cowan, a pharmacist, spoke about the do's and don'ts of medications. He particularly stressed safety and having a routine so that one does not forget to take necessary medicines or takes

them more than they should be taking. It was a very interesting and informative talk, much appreciated by the audience.

The Pot of Gold was won by three members who each received \$40.00. The winner of the lunch ticket draw received a coupon for Jo Klassen's Grill for two people.

The meeting adjourned.

Secretary: Dorothy Lind

President: Cecile Turnbull