



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES

Vancouver Island North Branch 06

General Meeting - December 14, 2011

Cecile called the meeting to order and then she asked Margaret Crites to come forward and lead us in the singing of 'O Canada'.

She welcomed all those in attendance with a special welcome to John Finn, who is the former British Columbia and Yukon National Director. He is now chairing the By-Law Committee. That committee will review the organizational structure and By-Laws to ensure they meet the new Canada Not For Profit, giving organizations two years until 2014 to bring everything up to those standards.

It was moved by Bill McSeveney and seconded by Bob O'Blenis that the minutes of the last general meeting be accepted as presented. The Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

Treasurer: A copy of the report was on each table for the membership to read. There being no questions arising from the report, it was moved by Tom Dandeno and seconded by John Davis that the report be accepted. The motion carried.

Membership: Steve said that the membership stands at 2060. If a member has not paid dues by the end of March, that membership is cancelled. The web is presently up to date and the result of the election today will be posted. He wished one and all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Newsletter: Kevin said the newsletter was available early for the benefit of the members. He is always looking for input and if anyone has something which they would like to have included, please contact him. He also told us that 300 letters are sent by e-mail and has asked other to subscribe to that mailing method in order to cut down on postage costs. A message to that effect is on each of the tables. He assured everyone that those e-mail addresses are held confidential and will only be used to send out the letter or if some information must be relayed. He wished all a Joyeux Noel.

Benefits: Bill Turnbull showed a newspaper article citing a report released by the C D Howe Institute. In the author's opinion, taxpayers may eventually have to "bail out" federal pension plans which they say are underfunded. He informed us that the Pension Research position at National Office has now been filled and that the Health Benefits position will be filled by January. He noted that BC has established a bulk purchase arrangement to reduce the cost of the intraocular lenses used in cataract surgery. These will be available through the local health authority. He wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Programs: Barbara said she was very pleased with the efforts of the staff to provide a wonderful meal, which received a round of applause. She thanked them for their good work and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Media: John had nothing to report and wished all present a Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

Welfare: Halle said to date this year she has sent out 31 sympathy cards and 8 get well cards. She thanked those who have been giving her cards to use. She also said that the Branch share of the Pot of Gold is being donated to the food bank.

Telephone: Paddy wished one and all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

History: Frank said all was well in the history department.

### **Old Business:**

Cecile again mentioned the need for more e-mail addresses and assured all that they were confidential.

Our annual donations have usually been \$2,000.00 so in order to maintain that goal, it was moved by Bill McSeveney that \$500.00 be donated to the Poppy Funds of the Comox and Campbell River Legions, seconded by Halle. The Comox Legion lets us use the Legion for our monthly executive meetings at no charge. The motion carried.

Cecile thanked everyone for their donations to the Food Bank.

The Financial Review Committee will have their annual report ready for the March general meeting.

**New Business:**

The Pension indexing has been announced as 2.8%, which drew a round of applause.

The guest speaker for the March meeting will be Tom MacLean from Collette Travel. The June guest speaker will be from Access BC and will be speaking about seniors driving licenses.

The election of Officers was carried out by Paddy O'Blenis. As there were no nominations from the floor, all the slate was acclaimed so there are no changes to the Board of Directors for 2012.

Winners of the Pot Of Gold were Dorothy Lind, Lorna Kirker, Willy Wenninger and Margaret Wreggitt. The Food Bank donation winner was Bill Gladders, the door prize was won by Ken Armit and the Appleby donation was won by Bill McSeveney.

The meeting was adjourned and Santa Clause arrived so the festivities began.

Dorothy Lind – Secretary

Cecile Turnbull - President

