



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES
Vancouver Island North - Branch BC 06
Executive Meeting
1 October 2013 - Comox Legion

The meeting was called to order at 1300 hrs by Bill.

Those in attendance:

Bill Turnbull	President	Cecile Turnbull	Past President/RSO
Kathi Brown	Vice President	Norma Dean	Telephone
Steve Bunyan	Membership	Marjorie Arnold	Director
John Challender	Communications	Mary Kamann	Director
Kevin Weighill	Newsletter	Deb Yelf	Welfare

Serge Gosselin (Treasurer), Karen Finn (Secretary), Clint Halfkenny (HBO) and Dale Dean (Historian) were unable to attend. The Programs position remains vacant.

Bill asked for additions to the agenda. There being none, he declared it accepted.

Kevin moved and Deb seconded that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted. Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Bill, on behalf of Serge, presented current financial reports showing account balances of: Chequing - \$10,477.67, Cash - \$480.01, Investments - \$27,849.21 for an overall total of \$38,806.89. Included was an income and expense statement showing a positive balance of \$3654.89. Bill moved that the financial reports be accepted, seconded by Kevin. Carried

Newsletter: Kevin suggested that the Honour Your Promise printing expenses should perhaps have been paid from the Defence of Benefits account rather than Operating Expenses. Bill said he would talk to the bank about the availability of GIC funds noting that the largest GIC has a five-year term. Kevin's thought was to set up a separate reserve of, say, \$1000 for contingencies. Kevin said that in order to advertise Xmas ticket sales, the submission deadline for the next newsletter would be advanced to 7 November. Kevin added that member Aji Fliss had approached him about running a two-page advertisement and wondered about what to charge. Bill asked about the additional production cost. That information was not available and so the matter was not resolved.

Communications: John mentioned that it would benefit the branch if we could encourage members to make greater use of electronic communications. All agreed that would be ideal but Deb noted that many older members are not computer owners. John said that we need the kind of a website that would encourage those members who are able to view communications posted there. Steve and John noted that we could conceivably build our own site using Wordpress which is free. Cecile suggested that a meeting be arranged with Islandnet and the other Island branches about having Islandnet set up branch sites using the Victoria model.

Membership: Steve reported that we have 757 Double Memberships, 682 Single Memberships for a total of 2196. As of 2014 there will be no associate or honorary memberships per se.

Programs: Bill discussed our dissatisfaction with the food and service at the last luncheon. He said he had spoken to the Sales & Catering Manager at the Westerly Hotel who indicated they would provide "something extra" at the Xmas luncheon by way of compensation.

Welfare: Deb happily reported that we have lost no members over the past month.

Telephone: Bill requested that Kathi, Norma, Steve and Cecile meet after this meeting to transfer the various telephone lists and discuss the way ahead.

BUSINESS

New Members: Bill introduced Norma Dean. She provided a brief sketch of her background which encompasses many years of working for what is today called Service Canada. She noted that her husband also has many years of working for, in his case, various federal departments and that he was attending a course in Parksville which precluded his presence.

Focus Group Chilliwack: Bill and Karen represented our branch at the focus group sessions. Cecile attended representing the Region. She commented that the sessions went quite smoothly as all parties are now much more knowledgeable of the Act and its consequences.

Honour Your Promise: Bill outlined his communications with MP John Duncan's office, including their apparently having misplaced his letter to them. His last action was to repeat the message via e-mail. He has asked for a meeting but is now not optimistic about getting one. He wondered whether we should go ahead and write to the local newspapers. There was general agreement that we should. He said he would do that.

Luncheon Venues & Catering: Bill said his hopes that we had resolved this issue were dashed by the Westerly's performance at our last general meeting. Some members have suggested that we investigate the RC church in Courtenay which has a large meeting room. Others stated that Carmi's Catering is very good and worth consideration. Marjorie put in a plug for the Comox Legion, saying that its upstairs room can accommodate 130 in luncheon configuration.

Remembrance Day: Kevin said he would look into a wreath for Campbell River. Serge had previously indicated he would arrange for one in Courtenay. Marjorie said she had made arrangements with the Comox Legion and that they would invoice us for 2012 and 2013. John asked about Cumberland and all agreed that Cumberland should be included. John was asked to make arrangements.

Charitable Donations: National Office has proposed a new, restrictive regulation that would curtail any donations paid for with membership dues. Bill took the interpretation that this was a draft regulation and that we would continue to follow the Branch Administrative Guidelines for the time being. He noted that the BC Gaming Branch had OK'd 50/50 proceeds going to food banks and suggested that we contribute this year's earnings to that cause. Mary asked about totes for transporting food donations and Bill said he would ask Frank Elvins how many we need.

Xmas Gifts: It was moved by Kevin and seconded by Mary that we approve a budget of \$800.00 for Xmas Luncheon gifts. Carried. Cecile suggested that we forgo having winners sit on Santa's knee and instead have Santa give out the presents. There was no disagreement from the others.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Kevin at 1450 that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Deb.

Next meeting: Tuesday 5 November 2013.

Kathi Brown

Bill Turnbull