



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES

Vancouver Island North Branch

General Meeting

Westerly Hotel – 10 September 2014

The meeting was called to order at 1300 hours.

Margaret Crites led the singing of O Canada.

The meeting agenda was accepted.

Bill asked whether the minutes of the June AGM contained any errors or omissions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Moved by Kathi Brown; seconded by Dave Pederson. Carried.

Committee Reports

Treasurer: Serge reported that, as of 31 August 2014, Branch records show a total income of \$19,992.36, total expenses of \$13,734.70, resulting in a surplus of \$6,257.66. The account balances show \$15,931.21 in the chequing account, \$380.01 in the cash accounts and \$28,561.93 in the asset accounts, for a total of \$44,873.15. Moved by Serge; seconded by Rosaire Bernard. Carried.

Membership: Steve reported that we have 684 single and 751 double memberships for a total of 2,186 members. The membership count has remained about the same for the past year or two.

Communications: No report.

Newsletter: Reporting for Kevin, Steve said that 930 hard copies were mailed out and 450 sent by e-mail. Fifteen e-mails were returned due to incorrect addresses. He asked that members let him know if their e-mail address has changed or if they wish to have their newsletter sent electronically. The postal bill is our biggest expense; however, we do receive a favourable rate from Canada Post and we don't have any other effective way to get to all our members. Bill noted that the National data base contains 621 e-mail addresses and that he had sent out a mass mailing for the first time from our fsnavin.ca website. It handled the task quite nicely and even tracked who had opened their messages. To date only 198 of the 621 e-mails had been opened.

Benefits: No report.

Welfare: Deb reported that we have lost 7 members since the June meeting. There is also one member in hospital undergoing cancer tests. She wished all the families peace at this trying time.

Programs: Cecile reported that 87 members had confirmed their attendance at today's luncheon and 105 members had shown up. The count is good; however, it left the hotel staff scurrying around trying to seat them and prepare more food. They did a great job, but members are asked to please make a reservation in the future.

Xmas ticket sales are going fairly well with approximately 100 sold. Members are asked to spread the word if they are in touch with other members. They can phone Cecile or Bill to arrange to pick up tickets which will be on sale until the end of November. The luncheon will include lots of gifts and hopefully a visit from Santa Claus.

Telephone: Clint was standing in for Norma while she is away. He felt something had gone wrong in the reporting or counting process which led to the discrepancy in the expected attendance at this meeting. He will work with Norma to resolve the issue.

History: Dean is away.

Business: Agi Fliss passed out petitions on behalf of Bob Mortimer in his effort to encourage the Provincial Government to commission a proper professional study on what would be an appropriate governance structure for the Comox Valley. Bill invited the members to sign the petition if they supported it. Agi was to collect them after the meeting.

Board of Directors. John Challender, who was in charge of communications, has tendered his resignation for personal reasons. A volunteer to fill this vacancy would be welcome. Edith Kelly will replace Karen Finn as Secretary.

Certificate of Continuance. The Certificate has now been issued by Industry Canada. The organization can continue to exist as a non-profit corporation under the new Not for Profit Act which comes into force next month. The Association will run on the set of Articles and By-laws that were approved at the last AGM.

The Act changes the way members are represented. Instead of one director for each province, there will be six districts; B.C., Ontario, Quebec, Maritime Provinces, Prairie Provinces and Ottawa. The representation from the branches is now based on population. If we have 2186 members, when we go to the AGM to vote, we will have 2186 votes.

The new name is the National Association of Federal Retirees.

It has taken three years to get to this point. It involved a complete review of the Articles and By-laws. Since a large part of the successful outcome was due to the work of the late John Finn, the Board of Directors of this Branch proposed that we rename the branch the “North Island – John Finn Branch”. This was moved by Bill; seconded by Dave Brown. Carried.

Another thing coming down the line from the Nation’s capital is a model set of Branch By-laws. We just did an interim amendment to ours in June, which brought things up-to-date, but they will have to be amended one more time. We might as well wait for the model set. We can then base our new by-laws on the model set and we can also propose the name change at that time. By the time the December meeting rolls around, we will probably have a new set of draft by-laws ready. Our current by-laws state that we must file a Notice of Motion which could be done at that time, allowing us to vote on the proposal at our Annual General Meeting next March.

Meal costs in 2015. The hotel wants to raise the meal cost from \$17.00 to \$17.50 in 2015. Your Board of Directors has voted to subsidize the cost a little and hold the price at \$17.00 except for the Christmas meal for which the cost to us has not yet been determined.

Guest speaker. Bill introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Larry Jangula, the Mayor of Courtenay. Mayor Jangula reviewed some of the issues currently faced at the municipal level. He encouraged everyone to learn as much as they can about candidates in the next election and, above all, to get out and vote. An informative Q&A session followed.

The 50/50 draw winners were Elana Gosselin and Bill Turnbull.

Gift certificates for Avenue Bistro were won by Terry Hluska and Gary Flath.

The meeting was adjourned at 1355 hours.

Edith Kelly
Secretary

Bill Turnbull
President