



National Association of Federal Retirees
Vancouver Island North - Branch 06
General Meeting
Best Western Westerly Hotel, Courtenay
10 December 2014

The meeting was called to order at 13:00 hours by Bill Turnbull, President.

Margaret Crites led in the singing of O Canada to open the meeting. Bill welcomed four new members: Wayne, Melissa, Tony and Sam to the Association and meeting.

Bill asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Receiving none, he moved on to the minutes of the General Meeting of 10 September 2014. Cecile Turnbull moved that the minutes be accepted; seconded by Tony Edwards. Carried.

Committee Reports:

- Serge Gosselin, Treasurer, reported that as of 30 November 2014, the branch savings and cash accounts totalled \$47,013.31. Income for the period 01 January to 30 November 2014 was \$26,803.81 and expenses were \$18,684.42, resulting in a surplus of \$8,119.39. Serge moved that the financial statements be accepted as presented; seconded by John Davis. Carried.
- Steve Bunyan, Membership Director, reported that there are 680 single members and 748 double memberships for a total of 2,176 members. We are holding our own, losing a few and gaining a few. Anyone paying cash to renew their membership will receive a receipt and all the new cards will be sent from the National Office sometime in the new year.
- Bill Turnbull, standing in for the Communications Director, reported that the website fsnavin.ca now works. The minutes, both General and Executive, will be posted on it in the future.
- Kevin Weighill, Newsletter Editor, reported that the December newsletter had been published. He asked those present if they found the newsletter interesting and as they agreed it will continue as is. Steve noted that 870 hard copies had been mailed and another 800 sent electronically off the website; however, 130 of those could not be delivered. He asked that members keep him informed if their e-mail address has changed. For those members or new members wishing to receive the newsletter electronically, he can be contacted at sgbunyan@shaw.ca. Current membership rates are \$49.68 for a double membership and \$39.28 for a single.
- Clint Halfkenny, Health Benefits Officer, reported there have been at least 4 deaths in the past month. He said that the Estate Documents do provide step by step instructions for executors. They are available for \$3.00.
- Cecile Turnbull, standing in as Programs Director, thanked the Westerly Hotel staff for an excellent meal.
- Deb Yelf, Welfare Director, reported that 12 members had passed away since the September meeting.
- Norma Dean, Telephone Coordinator, said that she will be in touch with the telephone callers sometime in the next month in order to get set up for telephone calling in 2015.

- Dale Dean, Historian, would like to write a history of the branch. It was organized in 1982, but there are no records prior to 1993. He asked that anyone who was involved in the early days get in touch with him.

Each Board member wished those present a Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

Business:

- Mary Kamann was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her many years of invaluable service to the Association. She originally joined in 1996.
- Bill recognized James Frances 'Stocky' Edwards who has received several awards over the year, the most recent being the French Legion of Honour with the rank of Knight.
- A Notice of Motion was tabled that the Vancouver Island North Branch adopts the revised by-laws which conform to the national model. A draft of the new by-laws will be circulated to all members prior to the March Annual Members' Meeting where it will be voted on.
- Bill reported that the pension indexing for 2015 will be 1.7%.
- Bill advised that the National Board of Directors has authorized the Association's lawyers to consider legal action against the Federal government over health plan changes but that we should not expect to hear too much about the approach to be taken.
- Rumours in Ottawa are that the next Federal election could possibly be called as early as March. Remembering that we have to be apolitical, we can still do certain things. One of the things the Executive has considered is forming a small advocacy committee to guide our efforts at the local level. If anyone is interested, please call or e-mail Bill Turnbull at 250-338-1857 or info@fsnavin.ca.
- We are looking for members to volunteer as telephone callers, as drivers to help get some of our members who can't drive to meetings and for positions on the executive. If you would like to attend as an observer, the Executive Committee meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month upstairs in the Comox Legion at 1:00 p.m.

Santa Claus made a guest appearance and distributed presents.

Winner of the Food Bank draw was Marie Maurice who won a \$50 gift certificate to the White Spot.

The 50/50 draws were won by: Lillian Warke, Mary Reed, Rick Shaw and Grant Nichols.

Announcements:

- Len Paisley will be the guest speaker at the March meeting. He will be reviewing some of the new rules recently introduced concerning estates.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1420 hours.

Edith Kelly, Secretary

Bill Turnbull, President