



National Association of Federal Retirees  
Vancouver Island North - Branch 06  
Executive Meeting  
04 November 2014 - Comox Legion

Bill called the meeting to order at 1305 hours.

**Present:**

Bill Turnbull - President	Steve Bunyan - Membership
Kathi Brown - Vice President	Dale Dean - History
Serge Gosselin - Treasurer	Kevin Weighill - Newsletter
Edith Kelly - Secretary	Deb Yelf - Welfare
Cecile Turnbull - Past President & RSO	Norma Dean – Telephone Coordinator
Marjorie Arnold - Director	

**Absent:**

Clint Halfkenny – HBO	Mary Kamann - Director
-----------------------	------------------------

The meeting agenda was accepted. Serge moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved; seconded by Steve. Carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer:** Serge reported that as of 31 October 2014, the branch savings and cash accounts totalled \$44,338.62. Income for the period 01 January to 31 October 2014 was \$23,425.20 and expenses were \$17,702.07, resulting in a surplus of \$5,723.13. Serge moved that the financial statements be accepted as presented; seconded by Kevin. Carried.

**Membership:** Steve reported that there are 681 Single Memberships and 752 Double Memberships for a total of 2,185 members, up 10 from the last meeting.

**Newsletter:** Kevin reported the newsletter is ready to go. It will include a notice for members that pay by cash reminding them that, if they pay on a calendar year basis, their membership fees are due by 1 January 2015.

**Benefits:** Clint was absent and did not leave a report.

**Programs:** To date 115 Christmas tickets have been sold. Cecile contacted Maria Gustafsson at the Westerly and went over the menu with her. Anyone wishing a vegetarian option should call Cecile so it can be ordered. It will be a plated meal served directly to the individual. Members must purchase their tickets by 30 November so the total number can be passed to Maria by 1 December.

**Communications:** Bill has passed the information on the Christmas luncheon to Kevin for inclusion in the newsletter. He intends to send it to those on the e-mail list as well. Kevin reported he has talked to Sayward Montague at National Office regarding his inputs to Sage, but has heard nothing further. There are no major changes to the Branch website and the new National site is still a ways off. It is expected to roll out sometime in the new year along with the new logo colours and other changes. It was discussed and decided that the executive minutes, except for any issues that are dealt with 'in camera', will be posted on our website.

**Welfare:** Deb reported there was only one member who passed away since the last meeting.

**Telephone:** Some of the confusion over projected attendance at the last general meeting was due to the telephoners themselves not being canvassed. The hotel scrambled to set up more tables and have enough food available. Maria is insisting that we provide the hotel with our count of the number attending a full week in advance of the event. This means the call outs will have to be moved up in time. Cecile has the names of several new telephoners which she will pass to Norma. Bill noted that Nanaimo Branch, which is approximately the same size as our branch, has 71 telephoners and 10 captains. He suggested that maybe we could get together with them and find out how they operate.

**History:** Bill has the post-AGM reports from 2013 and 2014 which he will pass to Dale.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Signing Authority.** Bill will call the bank and arrange to get the signing authorities changed. In Bulletin 2014-10 the amount of our branch signing authority is established at \$5,000.

**Membership Cards.** New cards will now be issued every three years; however, membership dues are still payable every year. The executive agreed that, for this year at least, we allow National Office to mail the cards to our members and monitor the result. Steve will continue to mail receipts to the members that pay cash.

**Bulletin to Branches Distribution.** Bill will contact Alex Charette at National Office and have our branch removed from the mailing list. In future, he will download the bulletins and forward them to the executive members via e-mail. Cecile noted that the RSO website site is also an excellent source of information; however, it is not available to everyone. HBO Ottawa puts out a daily bulletin on new items concerning pensions and health care which Clint passes to Kevin. Kevin said it might be better if Clint selected material for inclusion in the newsletter.

**Remembrance Day Wreaths.** Wreaths for Comox, Courtenay, Cumberland and Campbell River have been ordered.

### **Christmas Luncheon Preparations.**

- Cecile and Norma will purchase the prizes; Cecile, Norma and Deb will wrap them.
- Bill will pick up a number of totes from the Food Bank
- Marjorie – 50/50
- Norma and Deb will check tickets at the door
- Gifts – Steve will hand out
- Food Bank donations – Serge will oversee

Bill noted that the budget did not adequately identify the various gift and prize costs for general meetings. Moved by Cecile that the programs budget be increased from \$500 to \$1,000 to cover all expenses for programs during the course of the year; seconded by Kevin. Carried. In January we will start preparing a 2015 budget and will include increases for social gathering expenses.

**Mary Kamann Recognition.** Dale will check past minutes to determine how long Mary has been an executive member.

**BC Regional Meeting in Chilliwack.** A very good meeting. The President of COSCO and the new Seniors Advocate were in attendance. Bill forwarded the B.C. Senior Advocate's report to the 620 members whose e-mail addresses he has. Steve and Bill would also like to use this means to send out the newsletter. One day was spent on the new IT system which is still very much a work in progress. It uses three commercial products: a Microsoft data base (Client Relationship Manager or CRM), a help system and a front end program that lets users access the data base. The hope is that, once up and running, members will be able to amend their own profiles and become more engaged.

**Federal Election 2015.** There is a possibility the Federal election will be called earlier than October 2015. Rosemary Pitfield, National Director of Communications and Advocacy, gave a talk on Town Hall meetings. We might be called on to host or help organize All-Candidate Town Hall meetings. Our branch spans two ridings in the new set-up, North Island and Courtenay-Alberni. Rosemary handed out an Advocacy package or tool kit for setting up Town Hall meetings so we will have some guidance on how to proceed. Some financial assistance may be available from National Office.

### **Announcements:**

The next BC conference will probably be in May 2015 after the AMM packages come out. If there is anything the executive members would like to get trained on or learn more about, such as the new IT system or the financial module in the CRM, let Cecile know. We will have to find out how many members we will be allowed to send to the next conference.

### **Next Executive Meeting – 2 December 2014**

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.

*Edith Kelly, Secretary*

*Bill Turnbull, President*