



National Association
of Federal Retirees
Association nationale
des retraités fédéraux

VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH

National Association of Federal Retirees
Vancouver Island North - Branch 06
General Meeting
Westerly Hotel – 10 June 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1300 hours by the President, Bill Turnbull.

Margaret Crites led the singing of O Canada.

Bill welcomed Ken Kimber, Elda Ward and Hilda Weisner, all first time meeting attendees.

Agenda and Minutes

As there were no additions to the agenda, it was deemed to be accepted. It was moved by John Davis, seconded by Laurie Aucoin that the minutes of the March 2015 Annual General Meeting be approved. Carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Serge reported that as of 31 May 2015, the branch savings and cash accounts totalled \$47,763.06. Income for the period 01 January to 31 May 2015 was \$11,662.96 and expenses were \$6,747.25, resulting in a surplus of \$4,915.71. Serge moved that the financial statement be accepted as presented; seconded by Dale Dean. Carried.

Membership: Steve Bunyan reported that we have a total of 2,179 members which is down slightly from the last meeting.

Newsletter: Kevin Weighill reported that when our information did not appear in the spring Sage magazine, he wrote a strong letter to National Office. Our information was included in the summer issue. The June 2015 issue of our Newsletter displayed the FSNA logo for the last time. The next issue will feature the new Federal Retirees' logo and, hopefully, the new branch name.

Benefits: Clint Halfkenny reported that things have been quiet lately. Those wanting a copy of the Estate Document, available at a cost of \$3.00, should contact him.

Welfare: Deb Yelf reported that we have lost 10 members since the March meeting. Fortunately, we are also getting some new members.

Programs: Cecile Turnbull announced there would be two 50/50 draws of \$45.00 each and a \$50 gift certificate from Avenue Bistro as the door prize. She thanked the hotel staff for a great job, felt that the food was good and hoped that everyone enjoyed it. Cecile announced that Christmas luncheon tickets are now on sale. They will be on sale again at the September meeting or members can phone Bill or Cecile and arrange to pick them up.

Telephone: Norma Dean thanked the telephoners for getting the word out. Several of last year's callers have retired so she is still looking for a few more volunteers. A Volunteer BBQ for the Executive and telephoners will be held at Bill and Cecile's on August 8th. She has sent an e-mail to the volunteers with all the information.

History: Dale Dean has reviewed all the material he has. In the Fall he will be looking for more good stories on the history of the branch since 1982.

Each committee member wished everyone a good summer and looked forward to seeing them again in September.

NEW BUSINESS:

PSHCP Lawsuit & Threat to Pensions. The National Office thinks the threat to our pensions is real and, left unchecked, the Federal Government could seek to eliminate defined benefit pensions. This thought underlies the legal challenge to Public Service Health Care Plan changes. It could prove quite expensive, perhaps \$500,000 or more; however, it is felt there is a need to “draw a line in the sand”. Currently the case is in its preliminary stages and nothing will probably be decided until early next year. The intent is to get a judicial review of the legality of what Treasury Board did when it arbitrarily changed the cost share ratio of the health insurance premiums. Part of the argument revolves around the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It is argued that the Treasury Board action breached our contractually vested rights (Section 2 of the Charter), was not reasonable or justified (Section 1 of the Charter), violated the Financial Administration Act because any bargaining was not in good faith and it ran counter to National Joint Council agreements. The unknown cost is a concern. There will be more to follow.

National President Sage Article. The above may explain the President’s report in the recent Sage magazine where he talked about contributions from members which he didn’t explain very well. During the earlier ‘Honour Your Promise’ campaign, National Office got calls from some members offering to contribute money to help support it. So they are now asking members to contribute in support of the legal challenge. There is an option available through the website Store to contribute using a credit card or members can phone the National Office.

Membership Cards. Members who haven’t received their new membership card should contact Steve Bunyan or Bill Turnbull who will in turn contact National Office.

By-Laws and Branch Name Change. The by-laws have been approved by the National Board of Directors. To change the Branch name to North Island – John Finn Branch, we first had to get approval from Karen Finn, which we now have. We expect National Board will approve the new name at their June meeting.

About Meetings and Volunteering. The number of members attending our luncheons has dropped off and getting volunteers isn’t as easy as it once was. This seems to be a problem in many organizations, not just ours.

Annual Members Meeting (AMM) 2015. Bill passed out a copy of the proposals that will be voted on at the AMM in Ottawa later this month. Three of the proposals are: (1) to increase the dues to \$4.00 a month for single memberships and \$5.00 for doubles; (2) to use all of the \$735,000 in the defence fund in 2015; and (3) to have branches contribute money to a Class Vote Reserve.

Guest Speaker. Bill introduced Linda Rutherford, our guest speaker. She is a Certified Professional Consultant on Aging and has been working with seniors at Berwick Place since 2006. Through her job working with seniors, she has come to understand that there is not a lot of information available in our community to help seniors make good choices for themselves. Most seniors want to live independently, so if we are going to live longer and healthier lives, we really have to look at what being independent means. Among the most negative impacts on the health and emotional well being of a senior are loneliness and isolation which is one of the reasons seniors move to a retirement residence. She also brought copies of the book ‘To Move or Not to Move’, produced by Senior Living magazine.

Bill thanked Linda for her very interesting and informative talk.

The 50/50 draw winners were Margaret Crites and Toady Elvins.

The winner of the \$50 Avenue gift certificate was Gary Flath.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1420 hours.

Edith Kelly, Secretary

Bill Turnbull, President