

National Association of Federal Retirees  
North Island – John Finn Branch  
General Meeting  
Westerly Hotel – 9 September 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1301 hours by the President, Bill Turnbull.

Margaret Crites led the singing of O Canada.

### AGENDA AND MINUTES

As no additions were requested, the agenda was deemed accepted. It was moved by John Davis, seconded by Serge Gosselin that the minutes of the June 2015 Annual General Meeting be approved. Carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Treasurer:** Serge reported that as of 31 August 2015, the branch savings and cash accounts totalled \$48,300.93. Income for the period 01 January to 31 August 2015 was \$17,345.62 and expenses were \$11,892.04, resulting in a surplus of \$5,453.58. Serge moved that the financial statement be accepted as presented; seconded by Mary Anne Stagg. Carried.

**Membership:** Steve reported that our membership count stands at 686 single and 745 double memberships for a total of 2176. The membership numbers remain steady.

**Newsletter:** Steve reported that 886 hard copies were mailed and 685 were e-mailed. It is suspected that some members are receiving both. If you would prefer to have your newsletter e-mailed, please let Steve know. An investigation by Steve revealed that the cost to have the hard copies printed in colour would be almost double, so that idea is on hold for now.

**Communications:** Our e-mails have been blocked by Shaw's SPAM filter. It is possible that some of our members, rather than asking to be 'Unsubscribed', have flagged the e-mails as SPAM, resulting in our site being blacklisted. We are changing our website from [www.fsnavin.ca](http://www.fsnavin.ca) to [www.nijf.ca](http://www.nijf.ca) which might help with this problem. National Office has a new website being built and we will have a presence there at no cost to us. Bill has put up three basic pages – a welcome, a list of our meeting dates and a contact list of the executive. We can add to that; however, it is not known if we can bulk mail through that site. If we can, we might drop our own site and use the National one.

**Benefits:** Clint Halfkenny reported that things have been quiet all summer. He still has copies of the Estate Documents, available at a cost of \$3.00, for anyone who wants one.

**Welfare:** Deb was not at the meeting due to the recent passing of her father.

**Programs:** Cecile Turnbull thanked the hotel staff for a job well done considering there were only two of them working. The Christmas luncheon tickets can still be purchased from Cecile for \$20.00. They will not be available at the door. The dinner will be turkey and all the trimmings and there will be lots and lots of door prizes.

**Telephone:** Norma Dean thanked the telephoners for getting the word out. She is always looking for more volunteers for the 2016 year, if you are interested and have a little time.

**History:** Dale Dean is still in the process of updating the branch history. He has the new Charter and is curious as to why it was back dated to December 31, 1982.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**New Volunteer Service Pins:** There are now Volunteer Service Pins, denoting the number of years, in five year increments, that a member has volunteered with the Federal Retirees. They are intended for those currently serving on the executive or telephone committee. Bill presented the following pins:

- 15 years – Steve Bunyan.
- 10 years – Kevin Weighill, Marjorie Arnold, Norma Dean and Cecile Turnbull.
- 5 years – Kathi Brown, Bill Turnbull. Deb Yelf will also receive a 5 year pin.
- Less than 5 years – Serge Gosselin, Clint Halfkenny, Dale Dean and Edith Kelly.
- Terri, Pat, Laurie, Joan, Edith and Shirley, telephoners who were at the meeting, received their pins.

**New Branch Charter:** Has been received and passed to the History Director for safekeeping.

**Board Chairman's Statement:** At National Office, Konrad von Finckenstein has been appointed Chairman of the Board, with the powers of President, until a new President and Vice President are elected at the June 2016 AMM. Bill read a message he had received from Konrad, outlining his priorities and approaches for the coming year.

**All Candidates Meeting:** The National Office would like all branches to organize 'All Candidates' meetings in their area. In the Courtenay-Alberni riding, the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce has already organized a meeting at the Sid Williams Theatre on 5 October from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bill encouraged members who are interested in election issues to attend and perhaps be prepared to pose the odd question to the candidates. The Campbell River Chamber of Commerce is supposed to be organizing a similar meeting in the Comox riding at a date TBA.

**HonourYourPromise.ca:** The website is still in existence. The main concern of National Office right now is the possibility that the government could move away from defined benefit pension plans. There are other issues of course. One of the ones that matters most to Canadians of all ages is health care and it hasn't even come up in the campaign – 'why not' might be a good question to pose to candidates.

**Special Guest:** Bill introduced Kevin Holte, Director of Community Outreach for Canada Purple Shield. He has been a licensed life insurance rep with Assured Life Canada for over 20 years and has given workshops and seminars on executorship to over 10,000 people throughout B.C. He spoke on the steps that need to be taken by an executor, the importance of having copies of everything (your will, bank accounts, investments and financial advisor, insurance policies, birth certificate, drivers license, care card, SIN #, magazine subscriptions, memberships, credit cards, deeds, etc.) all in a centralized location, and the importance of making sure your executor knows where everything is. He also spoke on the reason for probating a will, joint ownership pitfalls, trusts, an Enduring Power of Attorney, pre-arranging your funeral/cremation, and the use of local experts.

Bill thanked Kevin for travelling all the way from Mission to present his seminar.

The 50/50 draw winners of \$35.00 each were Cecile Turnbull and Marie Israel.

The winner of the \$50 Bisque restaurant gift certificate was Jim Lucas.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 1415 hours.

*Edith Kelly, Secretary*

*Bill Turnbull, President*