

National Association of Federal Retirees
Vancouver Island North - Branch 06
Executive Meeting
07 April 2015 - Comox Legion

Bill called the meeting to order at 1300 hours.

Present:

Bill Turnbull - President

Kathi Brown - Vice President

Serge Gosselin - Treasurer

Edith Kelly - Secretary

Cecile Turnbull – Programs

Clint Halfkenny – HBO

Steve Bunyan - Membership

Dale Dean - History

Kevin Weighill - Newsletter

Deb Yelf - Welfare

Norma Dean – Telephone Coordinator

Marjorie Arnold - Director

The meeting agenda was accepted. Cecile moved that the minutes of the 3 March 2015 meeting be approved, seconded by Kathi. Carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Serge reported that as of 31 March 2015, the branch savings and cash accounts totalled \$44,404.73. Income for the period 01 January to 31 March 2015 was \$7,692.66 and expenses were \$6,135.28, resulting in a surplus of \$1,557.38. Serge moved that the financial statement be accepted as presented; seconded by Kevin. Carried.

Membership: Steve reported that there are 682 Single and 751 Double Memberships for a total of 2,184 members, down 12 from last report.

Newsletter: Kevin sent a message to Sayward Montague regarding our information not being published in the latest SAGE magazine. She apologized and said that it will be in the June magazine. Cut off date for inputs for our next newsletter is May 9th.

Benefits: Clint reported receiving a call from a widow who was having a hard time with her pension and whose medical had been cut off. She was told that she had to re-apply for the coverage and he gave her the phone number of the pension office. This normally should be done within 60 days of the spouse's death so there is no break in the coverage.

Programs: There is a new person in charge of catering at the Westerly. Cecile will get in touch re the June luncheon and obtain a cost for the Christmas meal. Christmas tickets will go on sale in June and, depending on the cost, may be subsidized. Cecile will check into costs for other venues.

Communications: Bill sent out the latest bulletin through our website. Bill believed we were double billed by Victoria for the BC website and had Serge confirmed that was the case.

Welfare: Deb reported that we have lost 6 members since our last meeting.

Telephone: Norma picked up a new telephone volunteer at the last General meeting.

History: Nil report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Family Program. The following information has been received from Peter Atkinson at National Office. Family members are not members of the FSNA, but can take advantage of some benefits and discounts. The on-line store has been redesigned and recoded to ensure that the family program can only be purchased by members. They have a website called familyprogram.ca. MEDOC is available to them, but at a higher rate as they are not covered by the PSHCP. They receive SAGE, but do not have access to our health and pension experts, are not eligible to run for office and cannot vote in our branches.

Vulnerable Sector Checks. Bill and Clint have submitted their criminal record check forms to the RCMP. Steve will do his as soon as he gets a haircut. Once all have been approved, Bill will forward copies to Ottawa.

Chilliwack Conference. Bill, Steve and Norma will attend the conference in Chilliwack from 18-21 May.

National Office Mailing List. Bill has requested Kathi's name be added to the President's mailing list.

BC Website Cost Sharing. The BC Umbrella website costs \$400/year; our share is about \$25/year.

Webcast Report. Gary Oberg, President, and Sylvia Ceacero, CEO, and/or both have met with Justin Trudeau, Elizabeth May, Thomas Mulcair and Erin O'Toole, the Veterans Affairs Minister. They got some support from the NDP and Liberals with respect to protection of pension benefits for people who are already retired or close to retirement. The NDP have submitted a private member's bill which would do that. The legal action taken on the health care plan is intended to draw a line in the sand as the big fear is that the current government will go after our pensions. The cost estimates provided by National Office staff for this action are considerable. The Defense Fund currently sits at \$735,000 with \$500,000 earmarked for the public service health care plan defence.

Donations to National Office. Some contributions have been received from the branches; however, the next appeal for donations will be to the members themselves. It is also proposed increasing the annual membership fees from \$44 to \$48 for Singles and from \$55 to \$60 for Doubles.

2015 AMM Proposals. There will be a chance to talk over the Strategic Plan with the other BC Presidents at the conference in Chilliwack. There will also be a chance to question Gary and Sylvia as they will be there. The new RSO will be there and would like to meet with the BC members who are present.

2016-18 Strategic Plan. Prior to the meeting, Bill sent out the Strategic Plan package to all the executive members for their information.

Announcements:

Next Executive Meeting – 5 May 2015

Adjournment. Moved by Deb, seconded by Serge to adjourn the meeting adjourned at 1400 hours. Carried.

Edith Kelly, Secretary

Bill Turnbull, President