



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

Bill called the meeting to order at 1305 hours.

Present:

Bill Turnbull - President
Kathi Brown - Vice President
Serge Gosselin - Treasurer
Edith Kelly - Secretary
Cecile Turnbull – Programs
Marjorie Arnold – Director

Steve Bunyan - Membership
Dale Dean - History
Kevin Weighill - Newsletter
Deb Yelf - Welfare
Norma Dean – Telephone Coordinator

Absent: Clint Halfkenny – HBO

The meeting agenda was accepted. Cecile moved that the amended minutes of the 7 April 2015 meeting be approved; seconded by Kathi. 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 Deb. Carried.

Membership: Steve reported that our membership count is 2182. The new system seems to be working well and it is easy to input information. Steve is trying to figure out how to print the envelopes. It might require purchasing a new database program. Steve is able to e-mail the DDS person in Ottawa to change a Member's status from double to single or vice versa.

Newsletter: The newsletter is out, but there were a couple of errors which will be corrected in the next issue. We are awaiting official approval of our new branch name by the National Board which meets later this month, just prior to the AMM. It is they who will issue a new charter. We will also need a new logo from National Office.

Benefits: Absent. Bill noted that Clint receives almost daily news recaps dealing with health care from National Benefits Officer Louise Bergeron. Some of them are quite interesting.

Programs: Cecile met with Laura at the Westerly and confirmed our luncheon menu. The luncheon dates for 2016 are Wednesday, 9 March, Wednesday, 8 June, Wednesday, 14 September and Wednesday, 14 December. The Christmas tickets are now available at \$20.00. Cecile will pick up a door prize for next week's luncheon.

Communications: Sylvia Ceacero has announced that Rosemary Pitfield has resigned as Director of Communications and Advocacy in response to the Association's plans to restructure her portfolio. No replacement has been named at this time.

Welfare: Deb reported that we have lost a member and another member's spouse since our last meeting.

Telephone: So far 39 members have signed up for the luncheon; however, only 1/3 of the telephoners have reported in so far.

History: Dean had an outline on how he plans to collect information and write the history of the branch. He will put an item in the next newsletter seeking any members from the early years of the branch who can possibly fill in some of the gaps in our history which were not recorded at the time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vulnerable Sector Checks. Bill is waiting for Steve's record check before sending copies of his, Kathi's and Clint's to Ottawa.

Christmas Luncheon Cost. An electronic meeting was conducted by the Executive and the majority agreed to a \$20.00 cost for the meal. The ticket price of \$20.00 had previously been approved in the 2015 budget.

Chilliwack Conference Report. Bill and Steve thought this had been one of the better regional meetings. Among the attendees were the National President and CEO, two women advocating for a new Canada Health Accord, Patrick Brady from the National Pensioners Association and Jim Scott, President of Equitas Society, who is pursuing a legal challenge over the way his wounded son has been treated by Veterans Affairs. There was a good presentation on querying the Client Resource Management (CRM) system. The database is now running but more features are to come. There wasn't much discussion on the resolutions going to the AMM other than concern over anticipated legal fees for the PSHCP court challenge. When using social media, messaging must be inclusive – for all Canadians – and not just focussed on Federal Retirees. National Office has purchased a new building in Ottawa, the old Skate Canada Building.

Allocated Funds. Other branches have established reserves for other than defence of benefits. Perhaps we should consider earmarking some of our funds for things like a printer, projector, and PA system.

2015 AMM Proposals. The Executive reviewed the proposed resolutions going to the 2015 AMM. Concerns were voiced over expending all of the contingency reserve in 2015, affordability of the strategic plan and a regulation requiring all volunteers to sign a commitment pledge.

The Gazebos. Bill and John Davis are each storing one. Kevin moved that the old gazebos be donated to a worthwhile organization for however they wish to use them; Kathi seconded. Carried.

Summer Volunteer Appreciation BBQ. The BBQ will be in Bill and Cecile's backyard. It is for members of the executive, the telephoners and their spouses. We will provide the food.

Volunteer Service Report and Pins. A new pin is available which shows years of volunteer service in 5 year increments. Bill will send National Office the years of service and position of each executive member. There is also a more general pin which could be given to the members with fewer years of service.

A New Website. As part of the revamped IT package, Ottawa is building, at no cost to us, branch websites linked to the National website. Bill will advise Ottawa if we plan to participate in loading some advance content. The sites should be up and running by mid July. Until we can see how well they work, there can be no plans to abandon our current site.

BCCI July Meeting. A BC Coastal Islands (BCCI) meeting will be held in Duncan towards the end of July. Anyone interested in attending should let Bill know.

Announcements: Duty roster for the next G.M. Kathi - Cash Norma – Attendance
Marjorie – 50/50 Cecile & Deb - Xmas tickets

Next Executive Meeting – 1 September 2015

Adjournment. Moved by Cecile; seconded by Deb that the meeting adjourn at 1435 hours. Carried.

Edith Kelly, Secretary

Bill Turnbull, President