



National Association of Federal Retirees
North Island – John Finn Branch
General Meeting
Westerly Hotel – 14 December 2016

The meeting was called to order at 1315 hours by President Bill Turnbull.

Margaret Crites led the singing of O Canada.

Bill welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda and Minutes

Bill asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Receiving none, he moved on to the minutes of the General Meeting of 14 September 2016. It was moved by Cecile Turnbull, seconded by John Davis that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Serge Gosselin reported that as of 12 December 2016, the branch savings and cash accounts totaled \$52,086.73. Income for the period 01 January to 12 December 2016 was \$15,481.31 and expenses were \$10,376.87, resulting in a surplus of \$5,464.44. It was moved by Serge, seconded by Dave Bell that the financial statement be accepted as presented. Carried.

Bill explained that the financial statement numbers shown are a little different from those that were presented in the past. They now show net revenue from dues collected as opposed to gross and net expenses for certain expense categories, notably this type of meeting. We are now applying ticket receipts against the catering costs which lowers the apparent cost; however, the bottom line remains the same.

Membership: Steve Bunyan reported that as of today's date we have 719 single and 725 double members in 1444 households, for a total of 2169 members. This number includes 97 members that we have lost contact with. Steve reminded people to let him know when they move.

Newsletter: Kevin Weighill was absent. Steve reported that over 600 copies of the latest newsletter were mailed and another 757 sent electronically. Because the website service once again limited the number of copies that could be sent per hour, Bill had to send the electronic copies twice. While all appeared to have been sent, he was not entirely sure just how many members actually received their e-mail copy.

Communications: Bill had thought the e-mail problem with the service provider was resolved. He has again been in touch with the developer who will contact the owners of the site about the issue. (Note to file: The developer subsequently confirmed that the higher hourly threshold established for our account had been erased during site updates but that it has now been reinstated by a different means, hopefully not subject to unintended changes.)

Programs: Cecile Turnbull thought the luncheon went very well and requested a round of applause for the hotel. She reported there will be three 50/50 prizes of \$67.00, Santa will be handing out approximately 50 gifts and there is a Food Bank draw. She thanked the members who donated to the Food Bank and advised that any who donated \$20.00 or more, if they leave their name and address, will receive a tax receipt. This year we also have a special draw for a \$300.00 Kingfisher package. It can be used at the spa, for a hotel room or in the restaurant.

Benefits: Clint Halfkenny reported it has been quiet over the last couple of months. He still has Estate Documents available. Bill reminded everyone that, should they hear of anyone having benefits issues, to have them get in touch with us. Maybe we can help.

Welfare: On behalf of the executive and membership, Deb Yelf wished happy memories to anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one during this past year.

Telephone: Norma Dean thanked the phoners and said she hoped they would stay on the team again in 2017. She will be contacting them by e-mail or phone to plan for 2017.

History: Bill Turnbull reported that Dale Dean continues with chemo treatments but is looking good with his youthful curly locks.

Each Board member wished those present a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections for Board of Directors 2017.

Cecile reported that the annual elections will take place at the March 2017 AGM. New volunteers are being sought to help on the Executive. Some of the Executive have been doing the same job for a quite a few years and could use some help. It does not take a great deal of time, so if people are looking for something constructive to do, we could use the help.

Receiving E-mails. Members should now be receiving monthly e-mail updates from the National Office in Ottawa. If they are not but do have a valid e-mail address, then it's not in the national database. Members can fix this themselves by logging on to the national website. First time users will have to set up a password but that's all there is to it. Failing that, they can contact Bill or Steve who will update their record for them.

No More Stickers. Members will no longer receive a renewal sticker for their membership cards. It is estimated that this will result in a yearly saving of \$100,000. (For more information, see the article on page 40 of the latest (Winter 2016/17) SAGE magazine.) Preferred Partners have been advised of this change. Johnson Insurance now has a link into our National data base, so they will know if a membership has lapsed. Those individuals will no longer be offered special rates on MEDOC travel insurance.

By-Law Revisions. Bill explained that, for two years, the Branch has been obliged to repatriate money to Ottawa because our unallocated reserves exceed our annual expenses as calculated by National Office. This can be remedied if the members approve increasing or establishing reserves, such as for defence of benefits or equipment replacement. Our by-laws only recognize defence of benefits and say that changes can only be approved at an annual general meeting (AGM). To permit the creation of new reserves or adjustment of existing ones at any general or special meeting, the executive has amended the by-laws. These interim changes, as contained in the document before the members, remain in effect until confirmed or rejected at the next AGM. Changes are subject to approval by National Office.

Reserve Allocations.

- a. Moved by Bill Turnbull; seconded by Serge Gosselin that our Defence of Benefits Reserve be set at \$45,000.00. Carried.
- b. Moved by Bill Turnbull; seconded by John Renaud that an Equipment Replacement Reserve be set at \$1,000.00. Carried.

Financial Corrections. Bill stated that the 2015 financial statement should be revised to include GIC interest of \$678.18 as Branch income. This was formerly shown as income within the Defence of Benefits Reserve. He asked for objections. There were none. He noted that, because of the way the 2015 AGM minutes were drafted, Ottawa asked whether the financial results presented to the members were the same as those seen by the Financial Review Committee. When asked, John Renaud, who is a member of that Committee, said he was confident the numbers presented to both groups were the same.

Santa made his annual guest appearance and handed out some 50 presents.

Toni Edwards, Laurie Hewitt and David Kruger were the 50/50 draw winners.

Winner of the Food Bank draw was Allen Angst

Winner of the \$300.00 Spa Package was Marie Duval.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1410 hours.