



National Association of Federal Retirees
North Island – John Finn Branch (BC06)
Executive Meeting
05 January 2016 - Comox Legion

NORTH ISLAND - JOHN FINN

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

Steve Bunyan - Membership
Kevin Weighill - Newsletter
Dale Dean - History
Norma Dean – Telephone Coordinator
Marjorie Arnold – Director

Absent: Clint Halfkenny - HBO

Deb Yelf - Welfare

M/S the agenda and minutes of the 03 November 2015 meeting be approved. Carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Serge reported that as of 31 December 2015, the branch savings and cash accounts totalled \$45,965.50. Income for the period 01 January to 31 December 2015 was \$24,747.02 and expenses were \$21,607.48, resulting in a surplus of \$3,139.54. Serge moved that the financial statement be accepted as presented; seconded by Cecile. Carried.

Bill reported he has tried three times to contact someone at the Bank of Montreal to get a statement for our two GICs, but without success. The smaller GIC (\$7,268.83) comes due next month and the larger one (\$21,592.92) comes due in June 2016.

Membership: Steve had no report, but felt the numbers hadn't changed much. He has put together a new data base and is currently comparing it to the one from National office. At the moment Steve is unable to produce a hard copy report that is recognized by his software. He will liaise with Kevin on other software. Bill reported that our membership total at the end of December was 2224.

Steve has also been working on producing a membership hard copy. He has several formats for the telephone caller lists which he will discuss with Norma.

Newsletter: Kevin reported he has sent off the information to Sage for the next issue, including the names for the 'In Memoriam' section. This issue won't be out until after April 2016. The information for our March AGM and June GM was in the last issue. Steve reported that some members have complained about not getting the SAGE. He will check into it.

In the last issue of SAGE, some members who had paid their 2016 dues received a sticker with their new expiry date. It is unclear at this time how National office decides who, how and when these stickers are to be sent. It will be looked into.

Benefits: Absent. Bill had an enquiry from an Alberta member asking if there was any merit in having both the BC Blue Cross and also the Public Service Health Care plans. No one at the meeting had an answer.

Programs: Cecile felt the Christmas luncheon went very well and that everyone enjoyed themselves. There was a mix-up with the billing. The first bill she received for the Christmas luncheon was for over \$5,000 (\$31/plate). Cecile immediately contacted the hotel and the bill was adjusted to \$23.18/plate, the price they had quoted, plus the \$300 room charge. Cecile will contact the Westerly requesting a cost quote for 2016 using September 2015 rate of \$15.50/plate plus taxes and room charge. It will probably be more considering the recent increase in food costs. It was decided to keep the cost to members at \$17.00/plate and the branch will subsidize any difference, if there is one.

Communications: Bill reported he hasn't done much work on the website, but will be revamping some of the pages and updating the branch events for 2016. He is currently having problems with the new National website. He was asked to and had produced two trial pages, but he was later denied access to them. He thinks he has now overcome that problem.

Welfare: Absent. Steve advised that we haven't lost many members in the last couple of months.

Telephone: Norma reported she approached the telephone callers at the Christmas luncheon about continuing to help. She has lost five callers, but picked up three new ones, including one in Campbell River. She will meet with Steve to discuss the new lists. Steve reported we have over 400 members don't wish to receive calls.

History: Dale is slowly recovering from his surgery and will be back working on the history as soon as he is able.

NEW BUSINESS:

District Director Vacancy: Guy Bird has apparently taken on the vacant Director's position, at least until June 2016. Elections will be held at the AMM to fill the position. Guy belongs to a mainland branch which means the island will no longer have representation at the Director level.

Recruitment & Branch Elections 2016: Kathi, Serge, Steve, Kevin, Norma and Dale have all indicated they are willing to remain on the Executive, if elected. There are also three vacant positions to be filled. Bill suggested executive members talk to people and invite anyone that might be interested to come to an executive meeting. Kevin will put a notice in the next newsletter.

Budget 2016: Bill reported there has been a shift in the handling of membership fees, possibly due to some members paying by credit card. The National office and branch share the credit card fees. The cost to us was \$52.47 in 2015.

An invoice from National office in the amount of \$259.00, dealing with 2012-2014 excess surplus funds, was discussed at length. It is felt that the calculation method used by the National office is somewhat devious. Bill will remit the \$259.00, but will include a letter stating the reason for our opposition to it.

The proposed 2016 budget was also discussed at length and will be reviewed again at the February executive meeting once any revised luncheon costs, travel and social gathering expenses are received. The Executive approved a suggestion from Bill that we allocate \$3,000 to the smaller GIC (\$7,268.83) which comes due next month.

Regulations: The executive discussed changes to the Regulations, including 1.5 "Volunteer Work", which presumably will be taken to the June AMM for ratification. In the interim they are in effect as per the National By-laws. A copy is available on the Association's website. Bill asked the executive members to conduct a further review of the changes and let him know what they think at the next executive meeting.

Branch Preferred Partner agreements must be approved by the National Board before being finalized by the branch. This is probably to minimize legal risks.

Announcements:

Serge will contact auditors Dave Renaud and John Shewchuk to conduct the audit, prior to his going on holiday. Bill will continue to try to contact the bank to obtain the records needed for the audit. Bill will order more volunteer pins.

Next Executive Meeting – 2 February 2016

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1400 hours.

Edith Kelly, Secretary

Bill Turnbull, President