



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

Bill called the meeting to order at 1303 hours.

Present:

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

Steve Bunyan - Membership
Kevin Weighill - Newsletter
Clint Halfkenny - Benefits
Norma Dean - Telephone Coordinator
Deb Yelf - Welfare

Absent: Dale Dean - History

Serge moved that the agenda and minutes of the 05 January 2016 meeting be approved; seconded by Cecile. Carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Serge and Bill were able to bring the CRM ledger up-to-date as of 31 December 2015, complying with National Office requirements.

Serge reported that as of 31 January 2016, the branch savings and cash accounts totalled \$47,214.22. Income for the period 01 January to 31 January 2016 was \$758.04 and expenses were \$166.11, resulting in a surplus of \$591.93. Serge moved that the financial statement be accepted as presented; seconded by Kevin. Carried.

Membership: Steve reported we have 1452 active households and 67 that we have lost contact with because we have no current address. There are 749 single and 743 double memberships for a total of 2235. The CRM shows 2230 and Steve is trying to track down the reason for the discrepancy. Within that group are 95 people with a single membership who have a partner with a membership number. Were they to change to a double, the Branch membership would increase by 95.

- The number of mailed hard copy newsletters has been reduced from 921 to 678, realizing a postage saving of \$340. There are still 173 households with e-mail addresses that get hard copies. If they were to change to e-mail after Steve contacts them, it would mean an additional saving of \$242.00.
- As a Branch Lifetime Member, Tom Dandeno's dues were to be paid by the branch; however, we overlooked that and need to pay his dues to reactivate his membership.
- We will no longer mail hard copies of our newsletters to other provincial branches as they can now get them on-line.
- There are 117 members who pay by cash that still haven't renewed. Steve will e-mail the 90 that have an e-mail address and phone the remainder.
- Bill will contact Peter Atkinson at National office to confirm that a current Federal Retiree membership is necessary when signing up for MEDOC Travel Insurance.
- Steve will send out receipts for the dues payments he received and will let the members know that their renewal stickers will be included in an issue of Sage.

Newsletter: Kevin reported that the deadline for the next newsletter is 13 February.

Benefits: Bill reported receiving a call from a 93 year-old woman at Berwick whose husband suffers from Parkinsons. He gave her a phone number for Veterans Affairs to explore VIP benefits and also called VIHA to get a caseworker to assess the situation. Apparently there is only one person handling enquiries for the entire North Island and it was hard to find her phone number. However, the couple now have a caseworker. Clint will provide VIHA contact information and phone numbers in a future newsletter.

Bill asked Clint to check into a recent Bulletin to Branches article that said members may be able to claim PSHCP and PDSP premiums paid over the past ten years as an income tax deduction.

Programs: Cecile has written to the hotel several times requesting meal prices for this year. She does not want to set up a menu until she learns what the new prices will be - hopefully later today. Once she has more information, Cecile will e-mail everyone. Other locations have been checked out and the Westerly provides many conveniences they don't.

Communications: Bill reported that both websites are up-to-date. He will check with National Office to see if they have put through his changes over maintaining our events page. The next meeting is in CRM and it does flash up on our home page. The monthly costs for our Victoria site are \$5.20 for maintenance and \$7.30 for hosting. There is an annual \$25.00 domain registration fee. We will continue with the site as it is not costing us much and it provides a way to send big batches of mail.

Welfare: We lost five more members in January.

Telephone: Norma reported she has potentially gained eight new phoners. She will get together with Steve to go over the call list. Because there are quite a few new phoners, there will be a meeting on Wednesday, 17 February at 2:15 p.m. at the Comox Legion. Norma will hand out the lists at the meeting or mail them to anyone who doesn't attend. Steve would like to know the actual number of phoners both here and in Campbell River.

History: Absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

District Director Vacancy: We think Guy Bird is filling the second BC District Director position. This position will be voted on at the AMM.

Branch "Excess Surplus": Bill will write a letter to the District Director before mid month, requesting an exemption from paying the \$259.00 "excess surplus" charge obtained using National's calculation of our 2012 - 2014 expenses, explaining why we do not perceive a surplus. We are not the only branch that has objected to the surplus calculation.

Budget 2016: Bill reviewed the proposed budget for 2016.

- Moved by Kathi and seconded by Steve that we roll over the \$7,327.08 GIC when it comes due this month and increase its value to \$10,000. Carried.
- Serge and Bill will meet at the bank on 18 Feb at 1:30 p.m. to obtain records for the audit and to arrange with the bank to roll over the smaller GIC.
- The \$22,191.46 GIC is locked in until June. Bill suggested putting the money in a shorter term investment even though the interest rate would probably be smaller.

National Administrative Support: It was felt that we would not gain very much by offloading some of our routine membership admin. Presumably, should we change our mind; we can access the support in the future.

Announcements:

- Bill reported that the annual financial report has been filed with the B.C. Gaming Commission. Once approved, we can then apply to renew our license. Bill will follow up as this has to be done before the next luncheon.
- Cecile will contact the Fire Department to find out the name of the speaker for the March luncheon.
- Cecile advised Serge and Bill of some financial audit requirements received in a bulletin to branches.
- The 9 March 2016 AGM minutes need to include the statement "financial statements for the year ending 31 Dec 2015, showing earnings/Losses of \$xxxxxx were presented."

Next Executive Meeting – 1 March 2016

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1410 hours.

Edith Kelly, Secretary

Bill Turnbull, President