



National Association  
of Federal Retirees  
Association nationale  
des retraités fédéraux

NORTH ISLAND - JOHN FINN

National Association of Federal Retirees  
North Island – John Finn Branch (BC06)  
General Meeting  
Westerly Hotel – 13 June 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1300 hours by the President, Bill Turnbull.

The meeting opened with the singing of O Canada.

Bill welcomed everyone including two members attending their first meeting.

### Agenda and Minutes

Bill noted the agenda was incorrect as Cecile Turnbull now looks after Health Benefits, Paddy O'Blenis is in charge of Programs and Norma Dean is our Acting Vice President in addition to being Telephone Coordinator. There was also an error in the March 2018 AGM minutes as the cost of the Christmas tickets remains at \$20.00 for this year. Technically these minutes must be approved at the Annual General Meeting in March 2019.

### Committee Reports:

**Treasurer:** Serge Gosselin presented the financial statement for the period 01 January to 31 May 2018. The income was \$5,820.45 and expenses were \$2,369.51, resulting in a surplus of \$3,450.94. The cash balance is \$58,262.91. Moved by Serge, seconded by Dave Brown, that the financial statement be accepted as presented. Carried.

**Membership:** Steve Bunyan reported that we have 690 Single and 736 Double Memberships for a total of 2,162 members. He stated that our membership continues to stay fairly stable. Steve reported that members who do not pay through DDS will get a notice three months prior to expiry of their membership and are usually given up to a month following expiry to pay their dues. Anybody who uses MEDOC must be very careful about keeping their membership active as they will not be able to take advantage of the special rates if they are no longer a member.

**Newsletter:** Kevin Weighill was absent. Steve reported that 454 hard copies were mailed and that the cost, because there was less than the contracted 500 copies, has gone from 48¢ a copy to 60¢. The number of mailed copies has remained much the same for the last three mailings; however, it will probably get to a point where it will be cheaper to just buy the stamps. Bill reported he e-mails 900 copies and approximately 60% now get opened.

**Benefits:** Cecile Turnbull reported she will have some Estate Documents available at the September meeting at a cost of \$3.00. This is a very comprehensive document regarding your assets and the information should be kept up to date.

This week is Public Service week and Cecile passed her and National Office's congratulations to everybody who has served Canada.

Cecile also reported attending a public discussion, put on by MP Gordon Johns, with MP John Davies making the case for comprehensive medicare. While the medical services we presently have in Canada are better than those available in many countries, our health care is still not totally free, universal or comprehensive. She felt it was a very good in-depth discussion. Bill noted that the Association is lobbying for a proper seniors strategy for Canada and part of that would include pharmacare.

**Programs:** Paddy O'Blenis hoped everyone enjoyed their meal. She asked members who wish to attend future luncheons to let us know several days in advance, not to leave it until the day of the event. We must let the hotel know our attendance numbers several days in advance. The meal planned for September will include pork.

**Communications:** Bill Turnbull reported that our website (nijf.ca) is up-to-date. The executive and general meeting minutes, bylaws, pictures and other information about the Association can be found on the website.

**Welfare:** Deb Yelf reported that we have lost seven members since the March meeting; four of the members were active three were inactive. She continues to send cards to the families.

**Telephone:** Norma Dean thanked Paddy for standing in for her while she was away. She will be in town in September so members should phone or e-mail her if they plan to attend the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Scams.**

Bill warned members about scam phone calls and e-mails. Kathi received a call supposedly from her grandson in Mexico and several other executive members received e-mails supposedly from Bill requesting e-mail money transfers.

**Tri-Regional Conference in Chilliwack.**

Several members attended a BC Regional meeting in Chilliwack in May. It was a good meeting and some training was provided by the contingent from the National Office which included CEO Simon Coakeley and the new Chief Financial Officer, Nikki Dignard. The current concern is the controversial Bill C-27 which would allow Crown Corporations and Federally regulated companies to get out from under their defined benefit pension plans. Nothing is currently happening, but the Bill has not been withdrawn either.

Following the Veterans outreach town hall meetings, the results were presented at a summit meeting in Ottawa to the heads of various departments. The Association is pleased with the way it turned out and how it helped other organizations get their message across.

The Federal Retirees Association currently has 79 branches; however, the number of branches is slowly declining primarily the result of a declining number of volunteers. If a branch does fold, the members are reassigned to other branches and whatever money left in the branch accounts is reassigned along with those members.

A membership program cleanup found many members were no longer active, resulting in a drop in the total membership numbers from 185,000 to 176,000. Recruiting new members has become more difficult since Treasury Board no longer allows the Association to send out membership applications with pay statements. One member at the luncheon suggested approaching the Public Service unions to see if they can help getting the word out. Bill will pass this along to National Office. The Association currently operates with an annual budget of \$7,500,000. National Office is concerned about the high cost of the SAGE magazine and they will be shopping around for a less expensive alternative when the current contract expires.

**Christmas Luncheon Tickets.** Christmas luncheon tickets were available at today's meeting and will be available at the September meeting or members can call Bill or Cecile at 250-338-1857.

**Guest Speaker.** Kit Browning, one of the Project Managers of the Riverside Senior Living Development, gave an interesting and informative briefing on the new independent living facility. Phase 1 units, which should be ready for occupancy on 1 September, will consist of 40 units of which 30% have already been rented. Phases 2 and 3 should be available in 10-11 months. The cost includes 3 meals/day, heat, hydro, weekly housekeeping, social/physical activities, shuttle service, etc. and the residence will be pet friendly. The basic cost ranges from \$2,995 to \$5,095, based on the size and location of the unit. Some services will have an additional cost. Unfortunately the tour, planned for after the meeting, had to be cancelled due to some ongoing construction. Members should be able to call or e-mail the hotel and arrange for a tour in a couple of weeks. Bill thanked Kit for his presentation.

**Draws:**

The door prize winner of a \$50 Prime restaurant gift certificate was Charles McMurdo.

The 50/50 draw winners were Aji Fliss and Kathy Murphy.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 1352 hours.

*Edith Kelly, Secretary*

*Bill Turnbull, President*