



National Association of Federal Retirees  
North Island – John Finn Branch  
General Meeting  
Westerly Hotel – 19 September 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1250 hours by the President, Bill Turnbull.

Margaret Crites led the singing of O Canada.

### **Agenda and Minutes**

The agenda and the minutes of the 13 June 2018 General Meeting were approved as presented.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer:** Serge reported that as of 31 August 2018, the branch savings/cash accounts and investments totaled \$57,641.01. Income for the period 01 January to 31 August 2018 was \$9,382.48 and expenses were \$6,553.44, resulting in a surplus of \$2,829.04. It was moved by Serge, seconded by Cecile Turnbull that the financial statement be accepted as presented. Carried.

**Membership:** Steve was unable to attend, but left his report with Bill. We have a total of 2156 members comprised of 736 double and 684 singles memberships. Our membership total continues to stay fairly static. About a dozen memberships will soon be deleted because of unpaid dues.

**Newsletter:** Kevin reported he had notified the Sage magazine of the change to our meeting date, but somehow it was missed. He hopes everyone continues to enjoy the newsletter and would welcome any suggestion/changes from the members.

**Communications:** Bill reported that he had attempted to send out 911 electronic newsletters, but for some reason only 893 actually went out, of which 62% were opened which is typical of our membership.

Bill advised that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will be hosting a webinar on Monday, 1 October 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific time (2:00 p.m. EST). It will deal with benefits and credits for seniors. Bill will send the information to everyone whose e-mail address he has. You will have to register for the webinar.

**Benefits:** Cecile welcomed everyone to the meeting. She has included an article on MEDOC on pages 6-7 of the September newsletter, listing some of their new benefits and comparing their coverage with the current PSHCP coverage.

Also, there are some new PSHCP initiatives which Cecile will post on our website and she will also include them in the next newsletter. One of the changes is allowing claims to be submitted online and if they are not contentious, any remittance can be deposited in your account within 24 hours.

**Programs:** Paddy said she spoke with a number of members who said they enjoyed today's meal. Paddy also reminded everyone that there will be no tickets sold at the door for the Christmas luncheon. If you

haven't bought yours, please contact Cecile at 250-338-1857 by the first week in December to arrange for pick up. The cost for the turkey dinner has once again been subsidized and remains at \$20.00. Paddy is in the process of purchasing over 50 gifts for Santa to hand out. There will also be a door prize and the some 50/50 draws.

**Welfare:** Deb reported that since the June General Meeting, we have lost 13 members, seven of them were still active and six were inactive. We need to recruit new members so, if you find yourself among retired federal employees who are not members, let them know what is available to them. The main method previously used to get the word out is no longer available to us.

**Telephone:** Norma said it was nice to see everyone and she thanked the phoners for getting the word out. The number of members receiving phone calls has been greatly reduced as Bill sends an e-mail reminder to anyone with an e-mail address. If you plan to attend a meeting, you must phone or e-mail Norma or Bill to let them know. The number of members attending the luncheons has also declined, so you are also encouraged to keep your Association friends informed of meeting dates.

It was also suggested that if we approach service clubs such as Probus, and have them get the word out for us, it could possibly result in the recruitment of new members.

The Sage magazine reports that the Federal Retirees Association is ecstatic about the appointment of a new Seniors Advocate, Filomena Tassi. She will be a voice for seniors at the cabinet table and developing a National Seniors Strategy should be her first priority.

For those who do not know, there is a free pneumonia shot available, paid for by BC MSP. Anyone 65 years and older should get one.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no business to discuss at this meeting.

**Guest Speakers.** Bill introduced Carollyne Haynes and Janet Dunnett, the guest speakers. They were both directors of the Parksville/Qualicum Community Foundation when they met and they are also members of the Association. They met more than a decade ago and joined forces to explore issues of significance to the seniors of today. Their theme is 'Adventures in Elder Land' and will cover the journey of caring for aging parents, the charms and challenges of a 'sunset romance' and the various reactions of family members. Their presentation was informative, interesting and humorous.

**Draws:**

The 50/50 draw winners were Stocky Edwards and Juanita Benedictson.

The door prize winner was Georgina Dalton.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 1400 hours.

*Edith Kelly, Secretary*

*Bill Turnbull, President*