



NORTH ISLAND - JOHN FINN

National Association of Federal Retirees  
North Island – John Finn Branch (BC06)  
General Meeting  
Westerly Hotel – 12 December 2018

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 lunch and thanked them for their donations to the Food Bank.

**AGENDA AND MINUTES:**

The meeting agenda was approved and the minutes of the 19 September 2018 General Meeting were adopted as presented.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Treasurer:** Serge Gosselin reported that as of 30 November 2018, the branch savings and cash accounts totaled \$59,584.30. This includes a chequing account in the amount of \$13,597.06, floats of \$375.00 and two GICs in the amount of \$45,612.24. Income for the period 01 January to 30 November 2018 was \$13,131.29 and expenses were \$8,358.96, resulting in a surplus of \$4,772.33. Serge moved that the financial statement be accepted as presented; seconded by Dave Bell. Carried.

**Membership:** Steve Bunyan reported that we have 727 double and 680 single memberships for a total of 2134 members. We are down approximately 20 members from this time last year, due partly to a number of people who pay by cash not renewing; however, we tend to get new members to offset the ones we lose.

Steve asked members who move to let him or Bill know or update their profile on the national website. This is very important for those members who get their newsletter by mail as approximately 15 newsletters are returned every quarter. If you update through National Office, there is no mechanism within their system to advise the Branch that you have moved unless you leave the Branch area of responsibility. The only way Steve will find out by doing a manual cross check.

Steve was asked today to accept a number of payments from members who pay by cash. While we can accept cash payments, renewals are now processed by National Office. Direct payments and those mailed to our branch address are forwarded to National Office and, given the inevitable delays, it may take up to a month for renewals to be actioned. In the meantime, members might receive one or two more payment reminder notices; however, there is a 90-day grace period. Members can also pay online via credit card

**Newsletter:** Kevin Weighill said we are now sending more newsletters electronically than by mail which is good as it saves us a few dollars. The latest newsletter was out in lots of time to make the members aware of this meeting. Kevin is currently working on our input for the Spring 2019 issue of the Sage magazine.

**Benefits:** Cecile Turnbull had some Estate Documents available for \$3.00. She suggested that if you have not already done so, it would be a good time to get one and fill it out so your loved ones will know what your assets are and where they are. The document is made in B.C. so it has all the correct telephone numbers and contacts. If you download the "You and Your Survivors" workbook from the national website, it is quite thick. The one she has available is simpler and works equally well.

Cecile hopes that the information she is sending out in the newsletter is of some value. The last one was primarily for spouses and what they have to do should something happen to the pensioner. It is important to get the paperwork in on time to avoid any lapse in medical insurance coverage. When sending in documents, please make sure that you keep copies and dates so that you know when you sent them in. Secondly, if you go online to the Public Service Health Care Plan website and check under articles and bulletins, you will find some interesting and valuable information that comes out periodically.

**Programs:** Paddy O’Blenis hoped that everyone enjoyed their meal and felt the staff had done an awesome job. She has arranged for the 2019 meal menus. In March 2019 the meal will be several types of lasagne with garlic bread, etc. In June a burger luncheon is scheduled as it had the biggest turnout this past year. The cost will stay the same except for the Christmas luncheon which won’t be known until the hotel knows what the turkeys will cost.

**Communications:** Bill Turnbull said that our electronic mailing list is now over 900 people. We might eventually have a bit of a fight with National Officer over using our own website and mailing system versus being obliged to use theirs. Some of the people at National Office think we are not in compliance with the Canada anti-spam legislation, but we are. We have an unsubscribe link on all of our messages. If someone hits that link, it immediately transfers them to an unsubscribe page which is in compliance with the law.

**Welfare:** Deb Yelf reported we have lost 19 members since the last meeting. Fifteen of them were still active members.

**Telephone:** Next month Norma Dean will be contacting people on the current list of phoners to see who will stay on for the coming year. She would also welcome new volunteers.

#### **BUSINESS:**

**Nominations for 2019 Board of Director Elections.** Bill is looking for nominations to fill the following Board of Director positions: President, Secretary, Health Benefits, Program Director, Communications, Welfare and one director position. Norma Dean has agreed to let her name stand for the position of Vice President.

**Increase Defense of Benefits Reserve.** It was suggested that when the smaller GIC matures in February 2019, it should be increased by \$5,000, from \$10,000 to \$15,000. A motion to increase the smaller Defense of Benefits GIC by \$5,000 to \$15,000 was made by Bill; seconded by Dave Blamire. Carried.

**Change of General Meeting dates.** The meeting dates in 2019 will revert to the second Wednesday of March, June, September and December.

Paddy thanked the hotel staff for the excellent service and they received a round of applause from the members.

#### **Prizes:**

The door prize, a large Gift Basket plus \$150 Gift Certificate to Prime Chop House, was won by Darlene Bernard.

The Food Bank donation Tea Basket was won by Hilda Mackie.

Santa then handed out presents to 60 lucky members and Santa wasn’t forgotten.

The three 50/50 winners of \$62.00 were Shirley Steil, Toni Edwards and Paul Gill.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 2015 hours.

*Edith Kelly, Secretary*

*Bill Turnbull, President*