



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)  
Executive Meeting  
4 December 2018 – Comox Legion

Bill called the meeting to order at 1300 hours.

**Present:** Bill Turnbull - President  
Cecile Turnbull – Health Benefits  
Steve Bunyan – Membership  
Deb Yelf – Welfare  
Edith Kelly – Secretary

Norma Dean – A/Vice President/Telephone Coord  
Serge Gosselin – Treasurer  
Paddy O’Blenis – Programs  
Kevin Weighill - Newsletter  
Kathi Brown – Director

**Absent:** Cherie Kelley – Director  
Nancy Bennett – Director

Warren Kelley - Director

**Agenda and Minutes:**

The meeting agenda and minutes of the 2 October 2018 meeting were approved as presented. Kathi will check to see if Nancy wishes to remain as a director. Clint Halfkenny will be notified of future meetings. Deb Yelf has moved and her new address is 2173 Tull Avenue, Courtenay, V9N 7S1; her phone number remains the same.

In future, when a volunteer appreciation lunch precedes an executive meeting, the meeting will be held following the lunch with only the executive members present.

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer:** Serge reported that as of 30 November 2018, the branch savings and cash accounts totaled \$59,584.30. 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. The total income does not include the Christmas ticket sales. Serge moved that the financial statement be accepted as presented; seconded by Deb. Carried.

Bill reported that our total cash holdings are slowly increasing and we should look at increasing the size of our Defense of Benefit reserve. This will be taken to the General Meeting on 12 December 2018 for approval and inclusion in CRM.

**Membership:** Steve reported that membership number of 2140 remains about the same as in September (2152 less several non-renewals). He warned that when we go into the new renewal time in December for members who pay by cash, the numbers could change.

**Newsletter:** Kevin reminded everyone that the next issue of Sage will include information on the March GM. He needs to know which positions are up for election and Paddy will send him the luncheon menus. Bill reported that he has been having some problems with the count when e-mailing the newsletters but the price is right.

Cecile thanked those responsible for getting the newsletter out early. The number of Christmas luncheon ticket sales went from 80 to 148. Steve said that if Kevin can get the newsletter to the printer by Monday, he should receive it by Wednesday, can pass it to the stuffers and deliver the approximately 450 copies to the post office on Friday.

**Health Benefits:** Cecile advised that the next article in the newsletter will be for spouses and what needs to be done about dental and health care when the pensioner passes. She will have estate documents available at the December general meeting for \$3.00. Cecile is pleased that a number of her articles have been read at other branches and passed to their members.

**Programs:** Paddy reported that contracts have been signed for all the 2019 luncheons. The prices will remain the same except for the December luncheon as they cannot predict what the turkeys will cost. Paddy also reported that some of the meals have been changed:

13 March – Italian  
11 September – apple stuffed roast pork

12 June – Burger Barn  
11 December – turkey

Paddy has bought and wrapped all of the gifts for Santa to hand out. She also has some special chocolates for the tables.

**Communications:** Bill earlier mentioned the problems he has been having when e-mailing the newsletters; however, he reported that the website is up-to-date and he will be posting pictures taken at the Christmas luncheon.

**Welfare:** Deb reported we have lost thirteen members since October, including nine who were still active. She has passed the names to Kevin for inclusion in the Sage magazine.

**Telephone:** Norma did not have much to report other than one of her telephoners, Edith Albright, had passed away.

#### **BUSINESS:**

**General Meeting Responsibilities:** Greeter at the door: Norma  
Totes, Food Bank – Serge  
Set-up: Paddy and her crew  
50/50 tickets – Edith

Members making a donation to the food bank will receive a ticket for a Tea Basket draw.

The door prize will be a large Costco basket and a \$150 gift certificate to Prime Chop House.

Everyone will receive a ticket for the regular draws. Paddy will call out the winning numbers and Norma will help Santa hand out the gifts.

**Increase Defence of Benefit Fund Increase:** Bill suggested increasing the small GIC from \$10,000 to \$15,000 when it matures. This will be voted on at the December General meeting.

**Cancelling January 2019 Executive Meeting.** As the first Tuesday in January is the 1<sup>st</sup>, it was decided to cancel the meeting.

**Financial Review Team:** Dave Shewchuk is experiencing some health issues and might not be able to assist John Renaud with the audit, so it was felt we should find someone to act as his back up. This will be brought up at the General Meeting.

**How to Handle 2019 Federal Elections.** Town Hall meetings are not usually well attended and are a lot of work to arrange. It was suggested we could make sure we have members at any candidacy meetings. At the meeting in Duncan, it was suggested each branch should have an Advocacy Officer who would report to the Provincial Advocacy Officer. Cecile suggested asking Cherie Kelley if she would be interested. Some of the main election issues will be: fixing the Phoenix pay system, a National senior's strategy and increased retirement security related to defined benefit pensions.

**Discussed Topics at Duncan Branch Workshop.** Serge said he found getting to know some of the other branch Treasurers interesting and informative. The annual AMM in Ottawa costs almost \$500,000 to arrange and there is very little business to discuss. The meetings are a requirement, but possibly could be done by some other means, such as teleconferencing; however, we are committed to the current format for the next 2-3 years because of a long-term hotel contract. Cecile noted that the meetings are also a way to say 'Thank You' to the Presidents and others for their hard work over the year.

**How to get Volunteers – Recruitment.** It was suggested having representatives at any local senior's conferences. Our branch also takes part in SCAN and DND civilian retirement seminars. Members at the AMM felt that a volunteer recognition dinner was not a requirement.

**What Happens if a Branch Folds.** When a branch can't continue due to a lack of volunteers, they can amalgamate with another branch or the members can be reassigned to other branches.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1410 hours.

**Next Executive Meeting – Tuesday, 5 February 2019.**

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*Edith Kelly, Secretary*

*Bill Turnbull, President*