



National Association of Federal Retirees
North Island – John Finn Branch
General Meeting
Prime Chophouse & Wine Bar
12 June 2019

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

Margaret Crites led the singing of O Canada.

Agenda and Minutes:

The agenda was approved with the addition of “Letter from the Pension Office requesting updates of contact information”. The minutes of the 13 March 2019 Annual General Meeting were approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Serge reported that as of 31 May 2019, the branch savings/cash accounts and investments totaled \$60,968.20. Income for the period 01 January to 31 May 2019 was \$5,779.83 and expenses were \$1,715.24, resulting in a surplus of \$4,064.59. It was moved by Serge, seconded by John Renaud that the financial statement be accepted as presented. Carried.

Membership: Steve was in Europe at the D-Day commemorations. Bill reported that we currently have 727 double and 655 single memberships for a total of 2109 members. Our membership numbers peaked at around 2,200 several years ago, but that number has been slowly decreasing. Part of the reason is that Treasury Board refuses to mail out recruiting announcements with the pay statements. The Association is hoping to have it reinstated and there is some optimism that this may happen at some future time.

Newsletter: Kevin is at home still recovering from his surgery. Bill reported that 406 copies of the newsletter were mailed and he e-mailed another 920 copies with 58% of them being opened.

Benefits: Cecile wished everyone a lovely summer. She had nothing to report; however, she did have some Estate Documents available for \$3.00. These documents are very helpful when someone passes away.

Programs: Paddy collected and briefly reviewed the surveys that were done today. As the service at the Westerly has not been that great lately, we are going to try several different venues, get the members’ opinions and the executive will then decide on the best place to hold future meetings.

Communications: Bill reminded everyone that we have our own website at nijf.ca. It contains meeting minutes, notices about coming meetings and some history of the branch.

Welfare: Deb reported that since the March AGM we have lost 12 members; eight of them were still active and four were inactive. She reported that Kevin is recovering quite well from his surgery. Another active member who broke her hip is also recovering.

Telephone: Norma thanked the phoners for doing such a great job getting the word out even though they did not receive the new callout lists they expected. She asked all the phoners at the meeting to stand and be recognized.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tri Regional Conference in Chilliwack: Some good financial training for branch Treasurers was provided by National Office staff. A lot of time was spent on advocacy. Pamphlets dealing with election priorities such

as retirement income security, a national pharmacare program, a national seniors' strategy and care of our veterans and their families were distributed.

One conference participant, the President of the BC Retired Teachers Association, noted that his defined pension payout comprises about 10% employee contributions, 10% employer contributions and 80% pension plan investment returns. He drew attention to a BC Government discussion paper which pointed out the positive contributions of major pension plans to the provincial economy. Another guest, a UBC professor and expert on Pharmacare, made a very compelling case on the merits of adopting a national scheme.

There was also a representative from Johnson Insurance present who spoke about changes to MEDOC. The maximum amount of insurance coverage has doubled, from \$5 to \$10 million. There are increases for trip cancellation to \$15,000, flight accident coverage to \$150,000, accidental death to \$50,000 and trip interruption will now cover use of airline lounges and lost document replacement charges.

Federal Election 2019: The Federal Retirees Association would like the branches to become more active in advocating our issues, as outlined earlier. If you have a chance to meet any of the candidates, don't hesitate to ask questions such as where their party stands on our issues.

Cecile noted that the Federal Retirees organization is non-partisan, that it supports no particular party and doesn't care who you vote for; however, it is looking for your help in highlighting issues that do affect our members such as those listed on the pamphlets. We will be getting more information packages in the fall and we would really like every person in the room to talk to at least 5-10 people about the issues that affect seniors in our organization and across Canada. That will go a long way towards helping everyone.

Christmas Luncheon Tickets: Once Paddy has checked out the Officers' Mess venue and reviewed the surveys completed at this meeting, the executive will decide on the location of the Christmas luncheon/meeting and so inform members. Because of time constraints, we may have to resort to a callout this year.

Pension – Letters: A member reported receiving a letter from the Pension Office, asking them to update their contact information. Failure to do so within 60 days would lead to closing of their pension account. During the luncheon, Bill contacted National Office and was asked to forward a copy of the letter which he promised to do, questioning whether the Pension Office had the right to take this Draconian approach.

Guest Speaker: Bill introduced Zubie Vuurens who has worked for the Canada Revenue Agency for 22 years. For the last 10 years, she has been involved in the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program which is part of CRA's outreach program. Her presentation theme was "Seniors and Benefits and Credits". The presentation was very informative and dealt with OAS, CPP, other company pensions, RRSPs, RRIFs and TFSAs, and so on. She also had some pamphlets for anyone wishing further information. Bill thanked her for her presentation.

Draws:

The 50/50 draw winners were Ray Cossette and Norma O'Toole.

The door prize winner of a \$50.00 Prime Chophouse Gift Certificate was Margaret Crites.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1420 hours.

Edith Kelly, Secretary

Bill Turnbull, President