



National Association of Federal Retirees
North Island – John Finn Branch (BC06)
General Meeting
CFB Comox Officers Mess
11 December 2019

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 as presented. Cecile Turnbull moved that the minutes of the 11 September 2019 General Meeting be adopted as presented; seconded by Deb Yelf. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Serge Gosselin reported that as of 30 November 2019, the branch savings and GIC accounts totaled \$57,847.56. Income for the period 01 January to 30 November 2019 was \$13,299.25 and expenses were \$10,504.43, resulting in a surplus of \$2,794.82. Serge moved that the financial statement be accepted as presented; seconded by John Renaud. Carried.

Bill Turnbull noted that the cost of the luncheon was not included in the financial report and will probably wipe out the noted surplus; however, there are sufficient funds available to cover it. These costs are the result of having to hire staff and rent dishes, etc. because the regular staff and the kitchen were not available to us, due to a military function on the base.

Bill also noted that we now have only one GIC in the amount of \$50,000 which is earning 1.7% interest and automatically rolls over every 100 days.

Membership: Steve Bunyan reported that we have 740 double and 659 single memberships in 1399 households or a total of 2139 members. We will probably lose four members who did not renew their membership November. There are also 95 members who need to renew their memberships in December.

Steve noted that all dues are now being processed by National Office and to speed up the process, members who pay by cheque should mail their payment directly there.

Newsletter: Kevin Weighill reported that the latest newsletter was out early so there was still enough time for members to get their tickets for today's luncheon. Fewer paper copies are being mailed as more members are now using e-mail. Kevin apologized for not getting our branch information to the Sage magazine in time for their last edition. He will pay more attention to deadline dates in the future.

Health Benefits: Cecile Turnbull commented on how good the meal was which was supported by the members. She then noted that the Provincial Health Care premiums will be going away in January and members should check their pension statement to see that it has been removed. The pension indexing for 2020 is 2%. National Office is in the process of editing and fixing up the 'You and Your Survivor' handbook. They will be available both online and in paper form and when that happens, Cecile will let us know with an article in the newsletter. Cecile also has Estate Documents available for \$3.00.

Programs: Paddy O'Blenis also thought the meal was great and hoped that everyone enjoyed it. She also felt that the young ladies that were hired did a terrific job.

Communications: Bill Turnbull reported that our website, nijf.ca, is up-to-date. The minutes of all executive and general meetings are posted on it as some of the photos taken today will be. Bill also noted that we are now sending over 700 copies of the newsletter electronically and paper copies are down to 400. This has resulted in some mailing cost savings.

Welfare: Bill thanked Deb Yelf for the condolence and get well messages she sends out on behalf of all of us. Deb wished everyone a very merry Christmas, all the best in 2020 and hoped all members will enjoy the next 12 months.

Telephone: Norma Dean said she will be in touch with her telephoners by e-mail to see who is available next year.

Each Director wished the members a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the coming year.

BUSINESS:

Nominations for 2020 Board of Director Elections. Bill noted that our meeting in March will be our Annual General Meeting and it will also be our election meeting. He is looking for nominations to fill the following Board of Director positions: President, Treasurer, Membership, Communications, Newsletter Editor, Telephone Coordinator, Programs, Advocacy and two director positions.

At the 2019 elections, Bill said that he would stay on as President until March 2020. Norma has graciously said that she would be willing to step into the position of President, but only for one term. If her name goes forward, it means her position as Vice President will need to be filled. Members are asked to think of individuals who they think would be willing to let their names stand for any of these positions. Bill said he is willing to continue as Communications Director if he is elected as a director or as Past President.

Our 2019 50/50 Donation Recipient. The members were asked to vote on who should receive the \$503.00 proceeds from this year's 50/50 draws, either the Compassion Dog Society or the Food Bank. The members present indicated that the money should be split between the two organizations.

Future Meeting Venues. This year we have tried both the Prime Restaurant and the Officers' Mess. Wherever we go, the meal will have to be catered. Paddy has already checked with several possible venues. The Filbert has several different room sizes to accommodate us. They will do the set up/take down for a cost; however, Paddy was not sure of the hall rental costs. The Courtenay Legion hall has two levels so isn't suitable. d'Estaire House doesn't work because of its circular layout. The Elks' Hall and Crown Isle were also suggested. If anyone knows of any other possible venues, within the Comox Valley, let Paddy know.

At this time Santa arrived and began handing out presents to 60 lucky members. Santa himself wasn't forgotten.

Prizes:

The door prize, a bottle of champagne plus \$100, was won by Bob Muma.

The Food Bank donation prize was won by Pat Belanger.

The three 50/50 draw winners of \$67.00 each were Cheryl Burns, Barbara Messer and Janis Morrison.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 2010 hours.

Edith Kelly, Secretary

Bill Turnbull, President