



National Association of Federal Retirees
North Island – John Finn Branch (BC06)
Executive Meeting
4 June 2019 – Comox Legion

NORTH ISLAND - JOHN FINN

Bill called the meeting to order at 1300 hours.

Present: Bill Turnbull - President

Cecile Turnbull – Health Benefits

Paddy O’Blenis – Programs

Kathi Brown – Director

John Renaud – Director

Norma Dean – Vice President/Telephone Coordinator

Serge Gosselin – Treasurer

Edith Kelly – Secretary

Cherie Kelley – Director

Absent: Kevin Weighill – Newsletter

Deb Yelf – Welfare

Steve Bunyan – Membership

Warren Kelley – Director

AGENDA AND MINUTES:

The agenda was accepted as presented. Cecile moved that the minutes of the 7 May 2019 meeting be approved; seconded by Paddy. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Serge reported that as of 31 May 2019, the branch savings and cash accounts 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. Serge moved that the financial statements be accepted as presented; seconded by Kathi. Carried.

At the meeting in Chilliwack it was pointed out that the branches are accumulating too much money and they should be looking at ways to use it. Some suggestions included subsidizing our meal costs, Christmas gift costs and getting more involved in the election campaign.

Membership: Steve was in Europe at the D-Day anniversary commemorations. Bill reported our numbers remain basically the same.

Newsletter: Kevin was still absent, but is doing well following his surgery. Bill reported mailing 406 hardcopies of the latest newsletter, including one to the U.S. He picked up the newsletters from Speedy, took them to Quest for stuffing and then to the Post Office. Everything went smoothly. Bill reported sending 920 newsletters electronically, of which 58% were opened.

Bill will generate an application form for any members who do not have a computer, but know of someone who wishes to join the Association. It could be included with the newsletter.

Health Benefits: Cecile has not received any calls. She did have a very interesting and informative article on elder care for the latest newsletter.

Programs: Paddy reported that the Prime Chophouse is on line for our luncheon.

Communications: Bill reported the website is up-to-date. He is still having some problems with the mailing application not sending as many copies of the newsletter as it is supposed to.

Welfare: Deb was absent.

Telephone: Norma reported that the phoners did not get the new lists they were supposed to. When she learned of this, she called and advised them to use the lists they had received in April.

BUSINESS:

AMM Resolutions. Bill noted that all of the resolutions were from the National Board of Directors and the only controversial one was the automatic increase of membership fees; however, there seemed to be very little reaction from the delegates at the Conference in Chilliwack. The increase is to be used for the 5-year Strategic Plan that has been developed but has to be approved at the AMM. The executive suggested Norma and Bill decide how they would vote after hearing all the pros and cons at the AMM.

Elections 2019. Advocacy is the main aim of our organization and our 2019 election goals, which are a non-partisan, centre on four main issues: pharmacare, veterans' care, retirement income security and a national seniors' strategy. We are asked to be more engaged, to push for and secure commitments from the candidates, to increase our visibility and credibility in our community, to speak with a cohesive, connected voice, to have healthy conversations and to be consistent in our messaging. We should develop partnerships with other organizations sharing our goals. We would like people to talk with their candidates or send letters to them. As a non-partisan organization, we do not direct anyone to vote for any particular candidate.

National Office has pamphlets, four different buttons and four different single issue sheets available to the branches. If anyone hears of an organization that is planning to hold an 'all candidates' forum, they should get a contact name, let us know, and we can offer to support them and perhaps provide some financial assistance.

Bill will try to meet with the principal candidates from the major parties. Since our Branch area includes the North Island riding and part of the Courtenay/Alberni riding, he will have to coordinate with Nanaimo.

Tri-Regional Conference Report. Serge spent half a morning with Paula and Nikki who stated that the reason that all branches should use CSM was so everyone will be using the same system, rather than many different ones. They provided a series of exercises on use of the system; however, Serge felt that while they did a good job, more time should have been allocated.

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.

Guest Speaker for September Luncheon. Paddy has a Probus Club list of potential speakers. Paddy will have members fill out a short survey on the suitability of the Chophouse venue and she will also have Kathi arrange a meeting with Christine at the Officers Mess to discuss its suitability and availability.

General Meeting Assignments. Norma – Sign in Cherie - Lunch Admission Cherie & Warren – 50/50

Announcements: After checking feedback from the luncheon and a meeting at the Officers' Mess, the executive will decide on the location of the next G.M. This could be via online discussion, a short executive meeting or at Cherie's BBQ on July 9th.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1420 hours.

Next Executive Meeting – Tuesday, 3 September 2019
