



NORTH ISLAND - JOHN FINN

**National Association of Federal Retirees**  
North Island – John Finn Branch (BC06)  
Garden Party - Executive Meeting Minutes  
18 August 2020

**Attendees:**

Norma Dean – President,	Brad Bridgeman - Director
Warren Kelley – Vice President,	Cherie Kelley - Telephone
Steve Bunyan – Membership	Leslie Gaudette (Guest)
Deb Yelf - Welfare	Ursula (Spouse)
Gord Richardson – Health Benefits	Bob (Spouse)
Paddy O’Blenis – Programs	

**Absent:** Bill & Cecile Turnbull, Serge Gosselin, Kevin Weighill, John Renaud

Members of the board gathered at the Kelley’s home Tuesday Aug 18th 2020, for a BBQ followed by an Executive Meeting.

Norma called the meeting to order at 13:15 hours.

The president welcomed everyone and guest Leslie Gaudette, the Program Officer, Advocacy Representative for BC/Yukon area.

**Agenda** - The agenda was accepted as presented.

**Minutes** - Approval of the June Executive Meeting. Moved Steve, seconded by Brad

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer:** Serge was not present. The Treasurers report was forwarded to all by the Secretary prior to the meeting. The report was accepted as presented. No questions or comments.

**Membership:** Steve - Total 1361 households, 640 dual, 600+ singles. The membership is slowly going down. No new members.

**Newsletter:** Kevin was absent – no report.

**Dead line for next newsletter is August 21st 2020**

- Steve sends out approximately 400 hard copies of our newsletter. Sending our newsletter via Canada Post the bulk mailing rate is .64 cents.
- Quest is not available right now for stuffing our envelopes because of COVID 19, so Steve will continue to do this until the agency opens again.
- Our branch pays \$100.00 to Quest for stuffing the envelopes (four times a year).
- **Motion by Cherie:** Moved that the \$100.00 be increased to \$150.00 per visit;
- **Seconded by Warren:** All approved - Carried.
- Bill T. forwards the newsletter link to NO to send to the general membership via Click Dimensions for those getting the newsletter by e-mail.

It was also mentioned by Leslie that National Office can possibly print mailing labels for branches for their hard copy mailings.

**Health Benefits:** Gordon – 4 members have contacted him and he spoke with National Office reference answers:

- Member requested information on Personal Response Systems. (Sent info for member to make their own decision)
- Member requesting cash refund from Airline due to cancellation (COVID 19) did not want a voucher with an expiry date. National Office - no Gov't help for the airlines and they have no control over the Airlines decision (note the Federal Gov't condoned the issue of travel vouchers).
- Member requested clarification on travel insurance ref COVID 19. Federal Gov't advises no travel outside of Canada - no travel insurance available at this time.
- Member is experiencing Phoenix problems; outstanding pay, retro pay, unused vacation pay. This was referred to national office.

**Programs:** Paddy – Hotel booking cancelled for December

- Appreciation luncheon for October 13th 2020, deferred, date TBA (presently nothing available for social distancing)
- National has sent a message that all gatherings be suspended till at least 2021, and it may be longer due to COVID 19. - all agreed

**Communications:** Brad - is calling members who had their e-mail bounce back.

- He trying to update info.
- Steve asked that any changes Brad can sort out to be sent to him and he will update his system.

**Welfare:** Deb – Seven deaths since our last meeting, June 8th 2020. All deceased were active members.

- **Note:** Deb is excusing herself from Zoom meetings as she is not comfortable with the computer. She will get her information to us prior to our meetings and will follow the Branch activities through the minutes.
- All the members present had no problem with Deb maintaining the Welfare Role.

**Telephone:** Cherie –

- Nothing to report because of COVID 19 all events for members have been cancelled till at least 2021 and perhaps even longer.

**Advocacy – Warren & Leslie**

- Advocacy is going to become a big file. Leslie spoke about what is planned and what as a Branch we can do.
- Warren spoke about the highlights from National Office
  - Long Term Care
  - National Pharmacare Plan
  - National Seniors Strategy
  - Veterans
- Norma and Warren will work together on getting our positions put forward with the public and government people i.e. - members of Parliament local and federal.
- National Office is putting material together for **Reach 338** with writing campaigns, and to help us get involved in Meet and Greet sessions in our area.

- Our Branch will get in touch with the Nanaimo Branch and develop a working relationship going forward.
- The Branch will also look at the letter sent out by Leslie and email/send letters to our members asking questions about the way forward - leaning towards our concerns and covering national topics.
- It was discussed about having a line in our budget dedicated to Advocacy.
- **Motion by Paddy:** Moved that a \$5,000.00 be set aside in the budget for Advocacy
- **Seconded by Steve:** All approved – Carried

**Leslie Gaudette** - spoke about Advocacy, Reach 338 and the 4 main issues

- Retirement Income Security (worried about the Federal debt due to COVID 19)
- Long Term Care - Campaign coming out from National Office. Want National Standards for facilities getting \$\$\$ from the government.
- National has targeted 18 MPs and we will work with Nanaimo Branch to meet with Gordon Johns (Courtenay-Alberni riding) and our branch will reach out to Rachel Blaney (Vancouver Island North – Comox-Powel River riding).
- Hopefully branches will visit their MPs
  - go in with one issue
  - have a short good example
  - something he/she can take action on
  - 3 people go and one takes notes
  - Provincial election next year - Rhona Rae Leonard is MLA for Courtenay/Comox.

**New Business:** Norma

- AMM Cancelled due to COVID 19
- Branch luncheons cancelled for September and December due to COVID 19

**Guest Speaker** – Bill followed up with the guest speaker and has cancelled the presentation to the attendees at the meeting in September due to Covid cancellations.

**Volunteer appreciation event** -

- All meetings and events are cancelled till at least 2021 - maybe even longer.

**Zoom account** -

- Bill is trying to transfer the ZOOM Account to Brad.

**Next Executive Meeting** -

**Tuesday, October 6, 2020**  
**Location - White Spot Restaurant**  
**Time - 12 noon**  
**Cost - The Branch**

**Adjourned** - 3:05 PM

*Minutes by - Cherie Kelley  
for Cecile Turnbull*

*President – Norma Dean*