

**National Association of Federal Retirees  
North Island – John Finn Branch (BC06)  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon  
Minutes – Filberg Centre  
Tuesday, June 7, 2022**

**12:00 p.m. - Welcome:** President, Norma Dean, welcomed everyone, then introduced the following special guests:

- Jean-Guy Soulière – NAFR President,
- Brian Strongman – Regional Director,
- Rick Devlieger, Branch Services Coordinator (unable to attend),
- Rick Roberts, Nanaimo Branch President and wife,
- Michael Jolicoeur, Victoria Branch President and his wife, and
- Monique Bois and Nina Sherwood representing Rachel Blaney.
- She also recognized three past presidents in attendance – Ian Sibbald, Cecile Turnbull and Bill Turnbull

***Luncheon***

**1:00 p.m. - Call to Order – Norma Dean** – Attendees rose for the playing of O Canada. Norma said, “After two years it is nice to be back. We will have a brief meeting to bring you all up to date as to our activities.”

**Approval of the Agenda:** with no changes requested, acceptance of the agenda was moved by Lorene Hill and seconded by Bill Turnbull. All approved.

**AGM Minutes of March 2022:** Norma stated, “You will note that the minutes of our March 2022 AGM are on the table for you to review, as we have made some changes to our by-laws and reassigned our financial reserve allocations to conform with National directives. These minutes will be approved at our next AGM in 2023.”

**Committee Reports:**

- **Financial Reports** – Bill Turnbull noted that the GIC no longer shows on the Account Balances as the money has been moved to our chequing account with the intention of spending some of it. This stems from long standing National Board concerns that too much money is held at the branch level. We are no longer allowed to categorize those funds as a Defence of Benefits reserve and must reallocate them to other special purpose activities. He did note learning recently that this policy may change.
- **Membership** – Steve Bunyan reported that we have 586 Single memberships, 701 Double memberships for a total of 1287 Households or 1988 individual members.
- **Newsletter** – Cherie Kelley welcomed everyone and mentioned that the newsletter is sent out four times a year either by mail or e-mail to all members. The Christmas print edition will be in colour. August 1 is the deadline for articles for the next newsletter.
- **Health Benefits** – Gordon Richardson had no report at this time.

- **Communications** – Bill Turnbull encouraged all members to visit our local website, nijf.ca, and especially our recently added history page. We will display all of our old photo albums at the next few meetings for members to retrieve photos of themselves or friends.
- **Advocacy** – Warren Kelley had no recent activity to report but invited anyone with issues they would like brought forward to let him know.
- **Welfare** – Steve Bunyan (for Lena Jenkins) reported we had lost five members in March, six in April and four in May. Stocky Edwards, our local war hero, passed away on May 14th.
- **Programs** – Lorene Hill welcomed everyone and thanked her helpers for all their hard work getting the event ready. The next meeting will be in September but the location is still to be determined, so stay tuned for an update in the newsletter. Christmas meeting tickets may be available at that meeting.

### **1:30 p.m. - Anniversary Event**

**Messages from Guests who could not attend** – Norma Dean read messages from guests who were unable to attend:

- **Message from Leslie Gaudette, BC Advocacy Director** – *“Please give my very best wishes and warm regards to your members. And I wish you and the Branch every success in your celebration of your 40th Anniversary.”*
- **Message from Gord Johns, MP for Courtenay-Alberni** – *“Greetings to all those gathered to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the John Finn Branch of the National Association of Federal Retirees. I regret that my parliamentary schedule does not allow me to attend but I am with you in spirit. As the largest national advocacy organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, your vigilance in protection of your members’ earned pensions and benefits and your support of good policy to improve the lives of all Canadians in retirement is invaluable. Best wishes for a wonderful celebration.”*

### **Speakers:**

**Monique Bois** – read a message from Rachel Blaney and presented Norma with a certificate recognizing our 40th Anniversary.

**Brian Strongman** - Regional Director, thanked us for the invitation and spoke briefly about the annual Regional Meeting held in Abbotsford. He also went on to note that he replaced John Finn on the National Board when John became ill and has been a director for the past nine years. He concluded by wishing the branch all the best and presenting Norma with a certificate of recognition. He then introduced our National President, Jean- Guy Soulière, providing a brief background of Jean-Guy’s 30 years with the Association.

**Jean-Guy Soulière** – Gave a lovely speech going over his 30 years plus a lot of history of the Association’s work over the years. He mentioned that our Branch is one of but three that have named their branch after now-departed members.

Jean-Guy spoke about how Fred Whitehouse and his wife started the Association in the basement office of their Victoria home. He noted that, at the same time, a like-minded group was forming in the Maritimes. And so, it was the efforts of groups on the two coasts that led to the creation of a national organization.

The focus in the early years was pension indexation, firstly achieving full indexation but always fighting government attempts to limit indexation. He mentioned defeating threats to do away with OAS and the

most discriminatory policies whereby female survivors lost their survivor pension if they remarried but male survivors did not or that women did not receive OAS.

Jean-Guy noted that the early leaders like Fred Whitehouse and Claude Edwards had union backgrounds and so the Association had a somewhat union flavour with very independent branches and an Ottawa office that was purely administrative. In the early years, the National Office would have to borrow money from the branches to fund legal challenges.

Jean-Guy ended by congratulating the branch on its 40th Anniversary and by presenting Norma with a framed certificate

**Norma Dean** – presented gifts to all special guests in attendance.

**Prize Draws:**

- Anniversary draw give-aways – Lorene and Cecile – 40 gifts were won by members attending.
- Pot of Gold – Took in \$500.00 with \$250.00 won by Lynn Lutter.
- Door Prize – was a \$250.00 Gift Card for the Chemainus Theatre.

**Adjournment** – Norma Dean

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, September 14th – Location to be determined.

---

**Secretary** – Cecile Turnbull

**President** – Norm Dean