



NORTH ISLAND - JOHN FINN

National Association of Federal Retirees
North Island – John Finn Branch (BC06)
Best Western Westerly
Wednesday, September 13th, 2023
Minutes of Meeting from Recording

11:00 a.m. – Check In - Meet & Greet

12:00 p.m. - Luncheon Buffet

1:00 p.m. - O’ Canada – National anthem was played.

1:10 p.m. - Welcome: President - Norma Dean – Norma welcomed everyone to the luncheon.

- As the National Association of Federal Retirees is celebrating its 60th year this year, we have 60 gifts to give away at the end of the business meeting. Our guest speaker – Lara Austin, has added a couple of items to that table, with thanks.
- Norma introduced Scott Hodge as a new National Director on the National Board.
- Norma asked if there was anyone willing to give a ride to someone wanting to attend the luncheons if they had no means to get to the Best Western. Norma asked them to come forward at the end with their information.

Approval of the Agenda – There is a copy of the agenda on each table.

- Today’s agenda – are there any additions to the agenda – (*member asks about something*) Norma includes one possible item under new business. John Renaud and Serge Gosselin moved that the agenda be approved as presented.
- Approval of the Minutes of Wednesday, March 15th, 2023 – Norma asked if there were any errors or omissions of the past March minutes. Approval moved by Elana Gosselin, seconded by Penny Hayworth. All in favor.
- Approval of the Minutes of Wednesday, June 14th, 2023 – Norma asked if there were any errors or omissions of the June minutes. Approval moved by Lin Auerbach, seconder Larry Edwards. All in favor.

Committee Reports:

- **Financial Report – Scott Hodge** – Scott presented the financial reports to the attendees. He explained some of the expenses we are incurring so that NO does not reclaim monies from the branch. Scott did a great job explaining all of the expenses and we are tracking on budget. One unplanned but necessary expense was to upgrade our Web site.
- Last year, we returned \$15,000.00 to the Defense of Benefits Fund.
- Moved by Scott to accept the reports as presented, seconded by Clint Halfkenny. All approved.

- **Membership – Steve Bunyan** – We have at present 572 single memberships, 718 Double memberships, for 1290 households and 2008 total members. Steve mentioned that 228 hard copies of the Newsletter were sent out via regular mail.
- **Newsletter – Cherie Kelley** – No report.
- **Health Benefits – Gordon Richardson** – Gordon spoke about Canada Life and all the difficulties regarding the new system being overwhelmed. NO is working around the clock to get the problems corrected.
- **Communications – Bill Turnbull** – No report
- **Advocacy – Warren Kelley** – No report
- **Programs – Norma Dean for Cecile Turnbull** – The Christmas Luncheon will be on December 13th, with gifts and Santa and the usual Turkey lunch.
- **Welfare – Lena Jenkins** – Lena reported that 7 members had passed away since the last meeting.

New Business:

- **Recruitment Campaign** – Always looking for new members. Looking to build up our total membership across Canada as higher membership numbers benefit us when we are talking to MPs. Scott talked about the Benefits and Recruitment Campaign that is on-going at National Office, with some great gifts available if you refer possible candidates who become members.
- **Health Care Issues - new Provider** – Norma asked if anyone was having problems with the new plan provider. Several members brought up issues they were experiencing with the new provider.

Guest Speaker: Lara Austin – Norma introduced Lara Austin - Successful Snowbirding. Lara gave a thorough presentation on travel to the United States. If you are Canadian and travel to the US you may be considered a tax resident. After 183 days in the US you are required to file income tax returns. She talked about tracking by the US government for the number of days that you have spent in the US. It is worth it to give Lara a call if you do spend a lot of time in the United States.

Draws – Door Prize Draw – won by Don Ferguson - ticket # 85

60 gift Draws – to members attending

Draw - Pot of Gold – won by John Renaud for \$147.00

Adjournment

Next General meeting: Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 – Best Western
Celebrating 60 years for the National Association of Federal Retirees