



**National Association of Federal Retirees
North Island – John Finn Branch
Executive Minutes – Comox Legion
Tuesday, 6 February 2024**

1:00 p.m. – Call to Order: President - Norma Dean

Attendees: Norma Dean, Scott Hodge, Steve Bunyan, Lena Jenkins, Gordon Richardson, Bill Turnbull

Agenda: Moved by Steve, seconded by Scott that the agenda be approved with the addition of telephoners and the 2024 budget. Carried.

Approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, 28 November 2023 – Acceptance moved by Gordon, seconded by Steve. Carried.

Committee Reports:

Financial Report – Scott Hodge reported, for FY 2023:

- Total Assets of \$28,470.51
- Liabilities (future year) of \$1,548.14
- Revenue of \$15,268.28
- Operating Expenses of \$20,530.44
- Non-Operating Expenses of \$2,631.57
- Overall Loss of -\$7,893.73

Scott noted that the overall loss was due mainly to planned drawdowns of our reserves which would otherwise be forfeited.

Membership – Steve reported that our current membership count is 565 singles, 715 doubles which equates to 1280 households or 1995 members. Norma noted that while, in terms of voting at the AMM, the 2000-member threshold has lost meaning, it's nevertheless disappointing to fall below it.

Newsletter – Bill noted that he had circulated a rough draft of the March newsletter to the executive and that he needed submissions by about Valentine's Day in order to put the printed version in members' hands two weeks before the AGM.

Health Benefits – Gordon reported the case of a widow who had requested help after the passing of her husband. Gordon responded but had heard nothing further. It turned out that she had also approached Norma who was able to offer support. Another member expressed frustration over an out of country claim submitted to Allianz prior to July 2023 that had not been finalized before the handover to MSH. This one seems to have fallen through the cracks. Bill said that he

had forwarded the case to a mailbox established by National Office, PSHCP@federalretirees.ca, but received only an automated response suggesting that National was overwhelmed.

Gordon noted that the handover of PDSP administration from Sun Life to Canada Life has been pushed back from 1 July to 1 November 2024. Norma opined that perhaps it should be delayed to 2025.

Communications – Bill thought that the website was largely up to date but that it was time to revisit the *Links* page to ensure that all were current.

Advocacy – Norma spoke of temporarily assuming responsibility for advocacy and that dealing with our two MPs, Rachel Blaney and Gord Johns, is rather like preaching to the choir. However, should an election be called, then the game changes somewhat. Bill recalled that during a previous election campaign, Gord Johns and the Liberal candidate were anxious to deal with us but nothing much was heard from the others.

Programs – Cecile Turnbull submitted a written report expressing a note of frustration over trying to nail down contracts with the Westerly Hotel. She does have one for the March AGM and she has confirmed dates for the rest of the year: 12 June, 18 September (one week later than usual) and 11 December. Prices are going up. The AGM luncheon will Cost \$35 per person. She and Scott agreed a price at the door of \$25 to members.

Cecile purchased a \$200 gift certificate to the Kingfisher Inn as an inducement to boost attendance at the AGM. She is trying get Barbara Ashmead of *Freedom Paws* to return as a guest speaker.

Norma raised the complaint of one member that the food ran out at the Christmas meeting. It seems that enough food was prepared but delivery from the kitchen to the ballroom was slow because of insufficient staff. In the end, additional food was delivered but the organizers were not informed of neither the shortage nor the resupply. This suggests the need to more closely monitor the food line.

Steve noted that he would be enroute to Ireland at the time of the AGM. Bill said he would call the tables but needed Steve's bucket of table numbers.

Welfare – Lena said we had lost five members to which Steve added three more that he had discovered. Their names will appear in the newsletter.

New Business:

- **BC/Yukon District Meeting** will take place in Abbotsford 6 – 8 May 2024. Norma asked who might like to go as names are to be submitted by 31 March. No one expressed interest. Scott will attend in his role as District Director.
- **Bylaw Changes** will appear in the Notice of Meeting within the March newsletter.

- **Elections:** Norma asked who is staying on as board members. All present indicated they were. Cecile, in her written report, expressed a willingness to run for Vice President. Scott noted that, should he be forced by the National Board to relinquish his position of branch treasurer, former treasurer, Serge Gosselin, has told him he would be willing to step in.
- **Gifts for Warren and Cherie Kelley:** It was agreed that Norma could acquire gifts for these departing members up to a value of \$50 each.
- **CFB Comox Air Show contact:** Norma said she thought we should have a booth at the 18 May 2024 air show but did not know who to contact. Scott suggested calling the BComd office for a referral to the organizing committee.
- **Campbell River Meeting:** Norma put the question to the group as to whether we should try to hold a general meeting in Campbell River. Bill thought the number of members in that city was too small to warrant a meeting. Lena remembered that our previous attempt only drew a possible five attendees. Norma noted that had been a rather short notice effort and that she would like an opinion from Terry Hluska. For the moment, we have no plans for such a meeting.
- **Newsletter Deadline:** Bill indicated that he needed submissions by 14 February.
- **Telephone Committee:** Steve wondered whether it was time to abandon telephoning select members in advance of general meetings. Lena noted that her telephoners often expressed frustration with the number of negative responses or lack of any response. It was agreed that we would continue to mail out copies of the newsletter to those who can't or won't use email so that every household will receive notification of meetings. That notification will tell them how to make a reservation either by telephone or email. It was further agreed that we would call for this year's AGM and that a notice would appear in the March newsletter warning everyone that there would be no more calls going forward.
- **2024 Budget:** Scott ran through his draft budget which showed a deficit of some \$11,200. Bill questioned the sustainability of such spending. Scott stated that it was not sustainable. The group then went line by line reducing or eliminating a number of expenditures. Some \$3,000 were carved out. Scott thought he could trim some more and promised to send a revised plan to the executive.

Norma thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Adjournment.

Next General meeting: Wednesday, 13 March 2024

Next Executive meeting: Tuesday, 5 March 2024