



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES
Vancouver Island North
Executive Meeting - 4 June 2013
Comox Legion

The meeting was called to order at 1310 hrs by Bill.

Those in attendance:

Bill Turnbull	President	Kathi Brown	A/Vice Pres
Serge Gosselin	Treasurer	Deborah Yelf	Welfare
John Challender	A/Communications	Kevin Weighill	Newsletter
Marjorie Arnold	Director	Cecile Turnbull	Past President
Barb Schneider	A/Programs		
History	Vacant		

Agenda: There being no additions, the proposed agenda was adopted.

Approval of Minutes: Bill noted that the minutes for the previous meeting should have said that the RSO will install new executives at the June "General Meeting" vice "AGM". Kevin moved, seconded by Cecile, that the minutes be approved as amended. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Serge reported that, to May 31, total income was \$13,867.55, total expenses \$10,390.90 and total assets \$38,609.65. Serge requested that his report be accepted; seconded by Kevin. Carried.

Membership: On behalf of Steve Bunyan who was away, Bill reported Steve's tally of 2,195 members.

Newsletter: Kevin reported that the newsletter had been produced and mailed.

Benefits: Clint being away, Bill reported that residents who have an "adjusted income" of \$22,000 or less are not required to pay BC Medicare premiums. Moreover, they can apply for a retroactive refund going back up to six years. For those 65 and older adjusted income means net income less a \$3,000 age credit.

Programs: Barb reported that everything is set for the June Luncheon. There will be a 50th birthday cake which she will cut and members of the executive will deliver to the tables.

Communications: John reported that he has examined the FSNACoastal website and finds it somewhat unexciting and unlikely to attract future members. He said we could build our own site using WordPress which would better reflect what our branch is about. Bill mentioned that the developer of the Victoria Branch website, IslandNet, is offering to replicate that site for others at a cost of \$360 each. John's press release about the June meeting led to an interview with Jet FM. He noted that the CV Record now only publishes a Community Calendar online.

Welfare: Good news: no get well or condolence cards were required this past month.

Telephone: Barb reported, on behalf of Paddy, that a very satisfactory deal has been struck with the Butcher's Block to provide 6oz steaks at \$3 - \$3.50 each for the Volunteer Appreciation BBQ and that Prime Chop House will bake potatoes for us at no charge. Either Paddy or Barb will pay the \$50 damage deposit, and Cecile will speak with Paddy about sourcing additional tables.

History: Bill noted that Kyle Jones had expressed a possible interest in taking on this task and had been expected to appear at the meeting. For the moment, the Branch history records are stored in sealed plastic boxes at Bill's home.

OLD BUSINESS

Letters to MLAs: Bill has sent letters to the two local MLAs (Don McRae and Claire Trevena) offering our congratulations on their recent election and outlining the mission and goals of the FSNA, advising them of the number of members in our local organization, and expressing his willingness to meet with each of them to provide a more comprehensive overview of our vision and advocacy as it relates to issues of provincial jurisdiction.

Guest Speaker: LCol Todd Sharp, CO 442 SAR Sqn, will be the guest speaker at our June luncheon as Col Benninger has been called to Ottawa at that time.

Nametags & Pins: New nametags were distributed to executive members as were 50th Anniversary pins. Additional 50th anniversary pins are on hand to be presented to the telephoners at the July BBQ.

Gaming Licence: We have obtained a Class D gaming licence for 2013 50/50 draws. To avoid the need for separate rolls of tickets for each price category, there will now be a single price for draw tickets - \$1 each. This class of licence requires that all proceeds go to charity. A copy of the gaming licence must be shown or available; the three administrators (Bill, Kathi and Serge) cannot buy tickets; a record of tickets must be kept for one year; all proceeds must be put in the bank and the winner paid by cheque. John mentioned that a separate bank account is not required.

Tri-Regional Conference: In May, Bill, Cecile (as RSO), Steve, Clint and Kathi attended a tri-regional conference in Chilliwack. Bill asked whether there were any questions arising from the report which he had circulated by e-mail. None were expressed. Bill then clarified that, as well as offering to build branch websites, IslandNet will probably develop the fsna-bc.org website under the ND's auspices. It would then serve as the umbrella linking all BC branch websites. He mentioned that Victoria uses their site to send and receive mail and as a documents archive. It runs on Jumela and those with administrator rights can upload news articles and so on.

Bill noted the feeling in Ottawa that attacks on public sector pensions driven by "pension envy" may embolden the federal government to attack pensions and benefits. The expectation is that the PSHCP cost sharing ratio will be changed from 25/75 to 50/50 much as happened with the PDSP. Ottawa is suggesting we should not be complacent about pension security either.

FSNA's evolving Advocacy Strategy is to help lead the way in securing healthcare and income security for all Canadians, noting that 2/3 have no pension and the country's savings rate is only 3% of earnings. The message will be that, even in retirement, federal pensioners continue to serve in trying to secure these goals for all.

RSO View: Cecile reported that the Tri-Regional meeting in Chilliwack was well received by all attendees. Good venue, great food and accommodation. Most sessions were well done including BC Regional Website, WMS Training, and the Presidents Forum. Some areas of concern were the Executive Training and the HBO training where it could have been more one on one as to specific jobs and issues. Branches and NO are looking at a more uniform method of financial reporting across Canada. There will be a BLRC session in September in Chilliwack.

Xmas Tickets: Xmas luncheon tickets have been printed but may never be used for reasons of price or venue changes. At this point the discussion moved to the first item of new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Luncheon Costs: There was a very lengthy discussion about the future of General Meeting / Luncheon venues and costs. Westerly is raising the price of meals and has stopped waiving the \$315 meeting room charge. Meal costs to the Branch will hold at \$17 for Jun and Sep but will be \$20 for Dec and could rise in 2014. The menus will be less extensive. Comox Recreation Centre and Courtenay Legion were discussed as alternative sites. We will have to decide whether to incur a loss to the Branch, considerably increase charges to members or change the location and/or menus offered. Kevin moved, seconded by Kathi, that further discussion of luncheon/meeting sites and prices be taken up at the June General Meeting to ascertain the opinion of the members attending. Bill said he would prepare an options briefing.

AGM 2013: Bill discussed the 2013 NO budget increases which project a \$600,000 shortfall, mostly attributable to increases in staff wages and travel. The FSNA 2nd VP had invited questions and Bill asked whether there were any objections to the draft message he had circulated. There being none, he said he would send it.

On the question of proposed dues increases, there was general agreement that we could support a modest increase but should oppose the dramatic jump proposed by the dues committee and NBOD.

Tri-Regional Meeting: As things stand, John Challender and Bill will attend the next Tri-Regional meeting.

Archive Requirements: Discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

It was moved by John and seconded by everyone that the meeting be adjourned at 1500 hrs.

Meeting adjourned.

Kathi Brown
A/Vice President

Bill Turnbull
President