



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES

Vancouver Island North

General Meeting

Westerly Hotel – 11 December 2013

The meeting was called to order at 13:00 by Bill Turnbull, President.

Margaret Crites led in the singing of *O Canada* to open the meeting. A moment of silence was observed to remember those members who have passed away in 2013 as well as Canadians serving abroad who will not be home for Christmas. Bill then introduced Courtenay Mayor Larry Jangula, who brought greetings from the city, followed by John Finn, Third National Vice President.

Bill asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Receiving none, he moved on to the minutes of the General Meeting of 11 Sep 2013. Deb Yelf moved that the minutes be accepted; seconded by Gary Liddiard. Carried.

Committee Reports:

- Serge Gosselin, Treasurer, provided year-to-date financial statements for each table. These showed income of \$27,864.83 and expenses totalling \$22,261.09. The bank and cash account balances totalled \$40,655.74. He moved to accept the statements, seconded by Gerry Parry. Carried.
- Steve Bunyan, Membership Director, reported that membership now stands at 2,186. He was happy to note that more members are communicating electronically which means savings in printing and mailing costs for the newsletter.
- Kevin Weighill, Newsletter Editor, reported that the newsletter had been published and distributed on time. He noted that he has been editor for many years and invited volunteers to come forward.
- Clint Halfkenny, Health Benefits Officer, observed there is sometimes misunderstanding over promoting travel insurance and selling it. He said that Estate Documents remain available.
- Deborah Yelf, Welfare Director, reported that as many as 40 members have passed away this year.
- Cecile Turnbull, standing in as Programs Director, thanked the Westerly staff for an excellent meal and suggested that the March luncheon might continue in a similar vein if the Branch can subsidize the room rental charge.
- Norma Dean, Telephone Coordinator, mentioned that she is working through the list of callers and will invite them to an orientation session following the next Executive meeting on 4 Feb 2014.
- Dale Dean, Historian, had nothing to report, having just taken over the portfolio.

Each Board member wished those present a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Business:

- Bill reported that pension indexing will be 0.9% for 2014 which compares favourably to the year-to-year CPI increase of 0.7%
- The Honour Your Promise Campaign has been successful to the extent that some 17,500 people have signed the online petition and MPs have been deluged with letters. The parliamentary petition will be presented by the opposition leader, Thomas Mulcair. He noted that the form letter response

from our local MP says only that nothing has been decided but that the Government is reviewing the PSHCP “to ensure that retiree benefits remain fair and sustainable” – which could mean anything.

- John Finn briefed on his meeting with MP John Duncan which took place on 14 Nov 2013. Mr. Duncan was aware of the PSHCP campaign. He was also briefed on veterans’ issues, specifically the New Veterans Charter and the matter of lump sum payments versus annuities. Duncan noted that over 10,000 veterans reside in his Vancouver Island North riding so clearly he is sensitive to this issue. Finally, Finn and Duncan discussed the discrepancy between the Public Service and the CF Supplementary Death Benefit with the Public Service plan being much more generous than that of the CF.
- MP John Duncan has agreed to speak at the Branch luncheon in March as long as he is not constrained by parliamentary duties. Len Paisley, who had been scheduled to talk about protecting your money, has graciously agreed to be the backup speaker. He has been invited to attend the luncheon.
- Bill noted that we must donate any 50/50 draw proceeds to charity. He thought that we had accumulated about \$350 and might want to top that up to \$500. A donation to Care-A-Van in the amount of \$500 was approved.
- Cecile and Bill talked about the project to create a provincial FSNA website to which branch websites would be linked. The new site would allow us to upload our own material and to better keep members informed of important issues. At this point, Bill was reminded that he had overlooked the Communications Director during the Committee Reports segment. John Challender said that his report had just been given.

Santa Claus made a guest appearance and distributed presents to those who had not been naughty (and whose tickets were drawn).

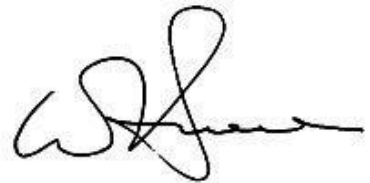
Winner of the Food Bank draw was Peter Edwards who won a \$50 gift certificate to *Toscana’s* Restaurant in Comox.

The 50/50 draws were won by Robert O’Blenis, Agnes Aucoin and Peter Wells.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.



Karen Finn – Secretary



Bill Turnbull – President