



National Association of Federal Retirees
North Island – John Finn Branch
General Meeting
Westerly Hotel – 13 September 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1300 hours by the President, Bill Turnbull.

Margaret Crites led the singing of O Canada.

Bill introduced the guest speaker, LCol Curtis Wright, 19 Wing Operations Officer, and his wife Shelley.

Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was accepted as presented. It was moved by Barney Bernard, seconded by Francine Fredrickson that the 14 June 2017 minutes be approved. Carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Serge reported that as of 31 August 2017, the branch savings and cash accounts totaled \$55,392.90. Income for the period 01 January to 31 August 2017 was \$11,769.85 and expenses were \$3,855.73, resulting in a surplus of \$7,914.12. It was moved by Serge, seconded by Dave Bell that the financial statement be accepted as presented. Carried.

Membership: Steve Bunyan was away. Bill reported that we have a total of 2154 members, 729 double memberships and 696 singles memberships for a total of 2,154 members in 1424 households. Our membership is actually 2,153 as one couple has a double and a single membership. Bill has been trying to contact them to correct the problem.

Newsletter: The newsletter was out two weeks prior to the meeting. Kevin would welcome comments/inputs from members.

Communications: Bill reported that half of the newsletters are being sent by regular mail and half by e-mail. Approximately 55% of those sent by e-mail were opened, but the special invitation to the luncheon did a little better with 61% being opened.

Benefits: Clint Halfkenny advised things have been quiet lately. He hoped he had helped the woman who approached him prior to today's meeting.

Programs: Cecile Turnbull thanked everyone for coming and hoped they enjoyed the lunch. She thanked the hotel staff for an excellent job. She said there would be two 50/50 prizes of \$31.00 and the door prize was a \$50 gift card for Crown Isle.

Cecile reminded everyone that no tickets will be sold at the door at the December Christmas luncheon. If you haven't bought yours, contact Cecile at 250-338-1857 to arrange for pick up. Again this year, there will be over 50 gifts from Santa, a special door prize and the usual 50/50 draws. Lunch will be the traditional turkey dinner and Cecile looks forward to seeing everyone there.

Welfare: Deb Yelf hurt her back and was unable to attend the meeting. Cecile reported that six members had passed away over the summer. If you know or hear of a member who is ill and/or in hospital, let Deb know and she will send a card.

Telephone: Norma Dean thanked the telephoners and noted that they are finished with calls for this year as the Christmas tickets have to be bought in advance. Stay tuned for next year's plan.

Announcement:

Ian Sibbald, on behalf of his wife Jean, let the members know about a garage sale on Sterling Crescent in the Aberdeen Heights area. It is being put on by a group of ladies from a local and International organization called 'Days for Girls'. The organization manufactures sanitary products for girls in third world countries, making it possible for them to go to school.

NEW BUSINESS:

Veterans Outreach Town Hall. The Association has set itself an objective of helping veterans' organizations get what is needed for veterans but are unsure of the best way to help. The thought was to ask the veterans themselves, so a series of Town Hall meetings has been set up near military installations across Canada. One of those meetings will take place on 01 November 2017 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Florence Filberg upper hall. National Office is covering the costs and the event will be advertised in local newspapers. If anyone has any thoughts on this, please pass them to Bill by phone or e-mail.

Contributions to National's Defence of Benefits Fund. Branches were asked about two years ago to help rebuild the National Defence of Benefits reserve which was depleted by the *Honour Your Promise* campaign and legal costs arising from the health care premium issue. It turns out that 34 branches heeded the call and transferred \$237,000 to Ottawa. It was discussed at the Executive meeting on 5 September and approved, subject to general membership approval, that we donate \$10,000 to Ottawa.

Moved by Kevin Weighill, seconded by Connie Watson that our branch will donate \$10,000 from our Defence of Benefits fund to the National Office Defence of Benefits Fund.

After much animated discussion, it was moved by Cecile Turnbull, seconded by Kevin Weighill that the first motion be withdrawn and that we hang onto our funds until we have more facts from National Office in regards to what they need and what they plan to do with these funds. Then, with more clarity, we can make a decision. Carried. (2 opposed)

Branch Admin Support. Some time ago National Office offered to take some of the routine admin work off our hands, mostly membership and membership renewals. Using this support has resulted in an 85% re-up rate which is much better than most branches achieve. Keeping track of the rolling membership expiry dates has become quite an onerous task for Steve, so he and the Executive agreed that we should avail ourselves of the support.

Frequency of Meetings. Some people have questioned whether we need four General Meetings a year since attendance has dropped off. Cecile put forward a suggestion that that the March meeting could be moved to early April, the June meeting cancelled, the September meeting could be held a little later and that the December meeting remain as is; however, no formal motion was put forward. The members present seemed content to retain quarterly meetings.

Norma said that it is unclear whether the drop off in attendance is a result of the new notification system or not. If we go back to phoning everyone, then she is going to need to recruit quite a few new telephoners.

Executive Vacancies. We don't currently have a full complement on the Board, Kathi has said she does not wish to run again and the Communications position has been vacant for some time. If anyone is interested or can twist someone's arm into volunteering, let Bill know.

Guest Speaker. Bill introduced LCol Wright who gave a very interesting and informative briefing on current and upcoming happenings at 19 Wing Comox.

The two 50/50 draw winners were Cecile Turnbull and Connie Watson.

The \$50.00 Crown Isle door prize winner was Aji Fliss.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1415 hours.

Edith Kelly, Secretary

Bill Turnbull, President