



National Association of Federal Retirees
North Island – John Finn Branch
General Meeting
Officers' Mess – CFB Comox
11 September 2019

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

The meeting opened with the singing of O Canada.

Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes of the 12 June 2019 General Meeting were also approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Serge reported that as of 31 August 2019, the branch savings/cash accounts and investments totaled \$58,445.71. Income for the period 01 January to 31 August 2019 was \$9,424.38 and expenses were \$7,882.28, resulting in a surplus of \$1,542.10. It was moved by Serge, seconded by Stocky Edwards that the financial statement be accepted as presented. Carried.

Membership: Steve reported that we currently have 725 double and 662 single memberships for a total of 2112 members in 1387 households. Fourteen people are on the verge of losing their memberships as their dues have not been paid.

Newsletter: Steve reported that 392 newsletters were mailed out this month compared to 882 five years ago. The savings to the branch are considerable. Most of the new members who sign up are receiving their newsletters electronically. Kevin said there had been some miscommunication and apologized for the latest newsletter being sent out a little late. He hoped people find the newsletter informative and enjoy receiving it.

Health Benefits: Cecile said she had included an article on the latest updates to MEDOC in the newsletter. She also had some estate documents available for \$3.00. They are very helpful to the family when a member or spouse passes away.

Cecile said that this would be the only meeting at which Christmas tickets are available. If you can't get them today, you can phone her or Bill and arrange to pick them at their residence, cash or cheques acceptable.

Advocacy: Cecile thanked the members for filling out the forms that were on each table. She asked the members to pick up some of the items located on a separate table and help to support NAFR across Canada.

Programs: Paddy hoped that everyone had enjoyed their meal. Prime Kitchen & Bar will also be catering the Christmas meal and plans are underway for the event. Anyone wishing Christmas tickets should get them as soon as possible as only 140 tickets will be sold. As the meal is being catered by another facility, we are now dealing with exact figures. You cannot just show up and expect that there will be enough food to accommodate you. We must also provide a list of the attendees for the Commissionaire at the gate.

Communications: Bill did not have an exact count of the newsletters sent electronically in September as they are now sent through the National Office e-mail service. He is waiting to hear from them about the number of copies sent out and opened.

Welfare: Deb reported that since the June general meeting we have lost 14 members, eight who were still active. She also said we have three members recovering from cancer and another one recovering from a stroke.

Telephone: Norma thanked the phoners for doing a great job getting the word out. The luncheon information is always in the newsletter so, with this new regime, if you do not get a phone call or e-mail and wish to attend, please contact her. Members who receive a phone message and wish to attend should get back to their caller or Norma. Paddy must have all the information by the Saturday prior to the luncheon so a list of attendees can be given to the Commissionaire at the gate.

NEW BUSINESS:

Federal Election: The National Association of Federal Retirees has to be nonpartisan and therefore cannot endorse one particular candidate. As an individual, however, you can. The branch is not planning to hold an "all candidates" meeting, but if we did, it would have to include all candidates.

Guest: Bill introduced Lisa Hansen and Mark Costales from Senior Consultant Group Benefits at Johnson Insurance. They provided more information on the new, improved coverage provided by MEDOC insurance; adding to the information Cecile had provided in the September 2019 newsletter.

One item, unknown to some members, was the fact that they can claim a portion of their MEDOC premium on their tax returns. The eligible amount that can be claimed can be requested from Johnson Insurance.

If you have MEDOC insurance, it is renewed automatically. If you wish to opt out, you will have to write the local office of Johnson Insurance which is located in Langley, B.C., prior to the renewal date.

The members of the audience found the presentation extremely interesting and had many questions which Lisa and Mark were able to answer.

Bill thanked Lisa and Mark for their presentation.

Draws:

Jim Edwards was the winner of a Roadside Travel Emergency Kit, donated by Johnson Insurance.

Cecile Turnbull was the door prize winner of a \$50.00 Prime Chophouse Gift Certificate.

The two 50/50 draw winners were Marjorie Arnold and Mary Breer.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1400 hours.

Edith Kelly, Secretary

Bill Turnbull, President