National Association of Federal Retirees
North Island - John Finn Branch
Executive Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2026
Filberg Park Cottage

Call to Order

- Norma called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm
- Present: Norma Dean, Garry Dixon, Cherie Kelley, Annette Store, Bill Turnbull, Scott Hodge
- Absent: Lisa McHaffie, Shawna Hodge, Gordon Richardson, Lena Jenkins

Agenda

- Bill requested adding an item regarding Young at Heart Seniors Expo.
- It was moved by Annette, seconded by Garry, that the agenda be approved as amended. Carried.

Approval of Minutes

- Norma asked whether there were any errors or omissions in the June 3 executive meeting minutes. Hearing none, she requested a motion of approval.
- It was moved by Cherie, seconded by Annette, that the minutes be approved. Carried.

Reports

Finance

Cherie reported:

- The current branch bank balance is $25,182.19 and that we had received a quarterly payment of $3849.56 from Ottawa.
- Cherie said communication from our TD Bank contact had been lacking but that she had finally received a new ATM card that works.
- It was moved by Cherie, seconded by Annette, that the financial report be accepted as presented. Carried.

Membership

- Bill reported a current membership count of 1936 which is up one from the time of our last meeting.
- Scott noted an issue involving two members with single memberships who had become partners and switched to a double membership. However, this was not recognized by Belair Direct and so their travel insurance is currently in limbo.

- The foregoing triggered a discussion about Belair insurance. It was pointed out that Belair travel insurance could be attractive to serving personnel to cover their family members. It was asked whether an information article should be placed in the newsletter. Scott suggested asking Belair to provide a Zoom presentation at a future general meeting. He also noted that his home insurance premium dropped considerably after switching to Belair.

Newsletter

- Lisa submitted a written report that the newsletter had been sent for distribution on August 20, 2026.

Communications

- Bill said he was awaiting a report from Ottawa as to the opening rate of our most recent *Staying in Touch* e-blast. In the past, it has been around 65% which doesn't sound great but is considered good. (Note: Just after the meeting Ottawa reported an opening rate of 72%.)
- Bill reported that Shawna had sent a letter to the 180 or so members who had been receiving a commercially printed copy of the newsletter advising that this practice had been discontinued. They were asked to provide us an email address or, if they had neither a computer or smart phone, to call him. Just over 30 members provided an email address and four people called. Shawna will print and mail copies of the newsletter to those four individuals.
- Bill asked for observations concerning the website. He pointed out that it constitutes a relatively small annual expense. Scott asked whether we had considered opting into the revamped national website. Bill said he had not but would look into it.

Benefits

- Nil report

Programs

- Annette reported that the catering manager, Sean, is no longer with Crown Isle and has been replaced by Tyler who has overseen prior luncheons. So far she has recorded 50 attendees for September.
- Annette expressed frustration with complaints she received from a couple of attendees at the last meeting and at the fact that she is no longer allowed to offer gift cards as prizes.
- We are also now required to display to whom the 50/50 proceeds will go. The planned recipient for the next meeting is the Campbell River Food Bank.
- Annette wants to return to the practice of selling tickets for the Christmas luncheon in order to get a firm attendance count. Bill said he would provide an updated template for printing at ABC.

Welfare

- Nil report.

Business

AMM 2026

- Norma noted that membership issues had been a hot topic at the AMM and that restructuring had generated a lot of controversy.

Governance Structure

- Scott observed that some of the branch proposals at the AMM were premature in that the committee charged with studying the issue has yet to meet. He did note that Eastern BC has proposed amalgamating all of its branches and Manitoba all of its and that there are, in fact, four pilot projects underway. These projects are experiments and have been authorized for two years by the National Board. It seems that these consolidations are driven in part by a declining number of volunteers. While some functions can perhaps be consolidated, there will remain a requirement to maintain some local services.

Comox Young at Heart Seniors Expo

- Bill reported that we have been approached by Black Press to have a booth at their upcoming expo event at the Comox Community Centre on November 4. Apparently, Nanaimo branch participated at the "Silver Level" at a similar event in May. Norma recalled that the Nanaimo branch president had spoken favorably of the experience and so Norma will contact her to learn more and will poll the executive by email regarding participation. The Silver Level will cost $1650.
- Scott noted that Nanaimo developed a visual presentation and used a TV monitor to display it at their booth. He thought we might be able to obtain a copy from them. This would also mean needing AC power at the booth.

Upcoming executive meetings:

- October 13
- November 3
- December 1

Norma will book the Filberg Park Cottage for these meetings.

Adjournment: Norma adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.

Bill Turnbull *Norma Dean*
A/Secretary *President*