

STAYING IN TOUCH



Newsletter No. 93 March 2022

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Greetings and welcome to 2022. I hope you were all able to have a peaceful and happy holiday season despite the arrival of a new COVID-19 variable, Omicron. The beginning of 2022 has been a bit of a disappointment due to this new variant as we were all hoping to be able to put the pandemic behind us and be able to meet in person for the first time in almost two years. Unfortunately, that is not the case so it looks like we will have to hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March via *Zoom* once again. Details about this meeting are outlined further in this newsletter.

My message to you is going to be more of a brief, reporting on our achievements for 2021. We started the year much like we are starting this year with our AGM held in March using *Zoom*. National Office (NO) had mandated that no in-person meetings would be held and allowed each branch to consider a quorum to be twice the number of executive members plus one. Our Executive has 11 positions, therefore, our quorum requirements were 23. Thirty two (32) members and executive joined the meeting so that requirement was met. As a result we were able to forward all reports to NO on time. Thanks to our Treasurer, *Serge Gosselin*, for all his hard work throughout the year in keeping our finances in order.

Earlier in the new year it became increasingly apparent that since the pandemic started our membership declined to under 2000. This has ramifications for our branch as the number of votes assigned to each branch at the Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) is based on the number of active members. One of the cutoffs is 2000. A small task force group from the executive met to brainstorm ways to increase membership. As a result we decided to try and be more inclusive to current and potential members from the military, RCMP and federal employees serving or having served in the smaller communities on the North Island and Powell River. We started by sending a few copies of our quarterly Newsletter to the Legions and various departments in Powell River, Port Hardy, Port McNeil, and Bowser as well as Courtenay, Comox and Campbell River. Included with the newsletter was information on how to become a member, plus the advantages of some of our Preferred Partners (*ie. Medoc*). In a brief period when travel restrictions were lifted, *Warren Kelley*, Advocacy and *Cherie Kelley*, Newsletter and myself, travelled to Powell River, delivered the newsletters and met with the Vice President of the Legion who was very pleased to meet us and committed to sharing our information at the board meeting scheduled for the next day. Cherie Kelley has taken on the task of liaising with the editor of the Totem Times who is more than willing to promote the organization for a reduced price if we provide the material.

Don't forget to pick up a copy as we may be featured. We recruited one of our members, *Joan Sykes*, to call every person who had not renewed their membership to find out why and encourage them to rethink that decision. I am happy to say that the last report from the membership director, *Steve Banyan*, showed that our membership has gone back up to 2005. Our goal for 2022 is 15 new members.

The Benefits Director, *Gordon Richardson*, has been helpful to a number of members over the year, responding to various questions on their benefits and compensation entitlements. Unfortunately we do lose members who pass away and *Lena Jenkins*, Welfare Director sends out condolence cards on behalf of our group. Lena is a new board member along with *Lorene Hill* who has very ably taken on the role of Programs Director and is putting together tentative plans for in person meetings when restrictions allow. *Bill Turnbull* continues to look after our communications and this year put together a very interesting review of the history of our branch. Check it out on our website www.nijf.ca. *Cecile Turnbull* keep us all on track with her excellent secretarial skills.

Warren Kelley, Vice President and Advocacy Director, actively promotes the goals and objectives of the organization to members and potential members. His report is included in the newsletter.

As President, I represented you at the NO Annual General Meeting (AGM) via *Zoom* in June, the Special Members Meeting, also via *Zoom* in September and the BC/Yukon Meeting of the Branches in August. All meetings were three to four hours in length so I have learned the advantages of *Zoom*. All four of our branch meetings were held via *Zoom*. I would like to thank all member who took part in these meetings and hope you will join us once again in March for our AGM.

2022 marks the **40th Anniversary** of our branch and if the saints allow, we are planning a very special celebratory meeting in June. Stay tuned for more on this as we work our way through COVID -19 restrictions.

Well, I think that is about it for 2021. In the new year ahead I am hoping we will see each other *face to face* again, but in the meantime, stay well and stay safe.

Norma Dean, President

Publisher

NORTH ISLAND JOHN FINN BRANCH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES (NAFR)

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Representing retired federal employees and spouses from the Public Service of Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Federally Appointed Judges

Board of Directors –Election Slate 2022 – North Island Branch

Position	Name	Started	Due 2022	Decision - 2022
President	Norma Dean	2020	2022	
Vice President	Warren Kelley	2019	2023	2023
Secretary	Cecile Turnbull	2009	2022	Willing - 1 Yr
Treasurer	Serge Gosselin	2018	2022	Not Returning
Membership	Steve Bunyan	2005	2023	2023
Communications	Bill Turnbull	2013	2022	Wiling - 1 yr
Newsletter Editor	Cherie Kelley	2019	2022	
HBO	Gordon Richardson	2021	2023	2023
Telephone	Cherie Kelley	2018	2022	Not Returning??
Programs	Lorene Hill	2021	2023	2023
Welfare	Lena Jenkins	2021	2023	2023
Director	Brad Bridgeman	2020	2023	2023
Director	Vacant			Vacant
Zoom - Director	Bill Turnbull	2020	2023	2023
Advocacy	Warren Kelley	2020	2023	2023
Past President	Bill Turnbull	2013	2020	Honorary

Branch Executive 2021 NORTH ISLAND JOHN FINN BRANCH BC06

Position	Name	Telephone	E-Mail
President	Norma Dean	250-890-1218	n-ad-2@hotmail.com
Vice President, Advocacy	Warren Kelley	236-255-2327	wckelley27@gmail.com
Secretary	Cecile Turnbull	250-338-1857	cecile.turnbull@shaw.ca
Treasurer	Serge Gosselin	250-338-0846	sergegos@shaw.ca
Membership	Steve Bunyan	250-703-3558	sgbunyan@shaw.ca
Newsletter Editor, Telephone Co-Ord	Cherie Kelley	236-255-2327	wckelley27@gmail.com
Health Benefits Officer	Gordon Richardson	250-339-5446	gordon.donlie@gmail.com
Programs	Lorene Hill	778-992-1925	jilohill@hotmail.com
Welfare	Lena Jenkins	250-897-0038	clle_jenk@shaw.ca
Communications	Bill Turnbull	250-338-1857	bc.turnbull@shaw.ca
Director	Brad Bridgeman	778-716-7127	brad.brigeman@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

FOR OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WE REQUIRE A QUORUM

***PLEASE SIGN IN FOR THE MEETING AND HOPEFULLY YOU MAY BE A WINNER OF
ONE OF THE DRAWS***

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR AGM ZOOM MEETING

NAFR Branches Focus their efforts on the following items:

- Delivering strong representation for federal retirees on their pension, health and dental benefits and security;
- Standing up for retirement income security;
- Working with veterans' on their well-being;
- Insuring that seniors' voices are heard and recognized in federal cabinet;
- Delivering historic advocacy efforts on behalf of federal retirees and veterans.

People are curious and ask how many members the association has? Some approximate numbers from the year 2020. Across Canada we have approximately 176,000 Members. Here in BC we have 15 Branches with approximately 26,000 members. Our North Island John Finn Branch (BC06) has approximately 2000 Members. So you can see that if we proceed ahead as a focused group we can influence our Governments both at Federal and Provincial levels.

Sent in by one of our members:

AN ODE TO OLD AGE

There's quite an art to falling apart as the years go by,

And life doesn't begin at 40. That's a big fat lie.

My hair is getting thinner, my body is not;

The few teeth I have are beginning to rot.

I smell of Vick's-Vapo-Rub, not Chanel #5

My new pacemaker's all the keeps me alive.

When asked of my past, every detail I'll know

But what was I doing 10 minutes ago?

Well, you get the idea, what more can I say?

I'm off to read the obituary like I do every day;

If my names are not there, I'll once again start -

Perfecting the art of falling apart.

Here is the complete invitation to the March AGM:

North Island Branch is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: North Island Branch Annual General Meeting
Time: Mar 16, 2022 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://fedretirees-retraitesfed.zoom.us/j/89134629374?pwd=b2tJVGJvY0lCNFhzVFF6VXRyUldXUT09>

Meeting ID: 891 3462 9374

Passcode: 936502

One tap mobile

+16475580588,,89134629374#,,,,*936502# Canada

+17789072071,,89134629374#,,,,*936502# Canada

Dial by your location

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+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

Meeting ID: 891 3462 9374

Passcode: 936502

Find your local number: <https://fedretirees-retraitesfed.zoom.us/u/kc3sA9lCfE>

MEMBERSHIP UP-DATE

Do we have the correct information on you as a member? It is important to us and to you that our records are up to date. If the label on this newsletter has your initials instead of your given name, we may not have all the information we need to ensure that you get all the updates from your branch or National Office. Please fill in the following and send it to us (address on Page 1).

Surname Given Names:.....

Mailing Address:

City/town Postal Code Phone

E-mail address:.....

Pension is from: CF PS RCMP Other I receive a survivor's benefit Yes.....No

It is important to let the branch know of any changes in the above information

ADVOCACY and Our Priorities

At the National Office (NO), Advocacy has been fairly quiet following the federal election. Now that the Federal Parliament is actually sitting again (realizing that there are lots of fires all across Canada that are in the spot light at this moment) so a more pointed direction will be coming from our NO regarding the Reach 338 program for our various Federal MP's. There are good plans directly related to Advocacy, that should be coming shortly from NO.

As you can see we are still in a *ZOOM* environment which I assume will be going on for the foreseeable future.

In a recent Bulletin to the Branches, *January 2022*, there was important information that could be valuable to some of our Retired Public Servants, on December 16, 2021, the Treasury Board finally launched the general compensation claims process for Phoenix-related damages for retirees and former employees. To read more on eligibility, or to check if you qualify, visit **[The Treasury Board Secretariat's website page](#)** and follow the instructions provided. If you have questions about the process, visit the Frequently Asked Questions page.

As the public service bargaining agents prepare for a new round of negotiations on the Public Service Dental Care Plan (PSDCP), Federal Retiree members have asked if improvements to the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP) are forthcoming, a plan that hasn't been touched in roughly twenty years. Our CEO Anthony Pizzino says it's now time. "It took years of hard Advocacy to implement the PDSP" notes Mr Pizzino. " And while I can't guarantee that we will gain needed coverage improvements to the PDSP quickly, I can guarantee that we're working hard to make those changes happen."

That covers some of the things that are happening and also some of guidance we are getting, will keep all informed as best as possible.

Warren Kelley, Vice President and Advocacy

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I hope everyone is getting ready for *SPRING* and I am hoping you are able to visit with family and friends while feeling safe to enjoy everyone's company, either indoors or out in the fresh air. Be happy because flowers are starting to bloom in our gardens and I hope everyone finds a four leaf clover for **GOOD LUCK**

Cheers 🍷🍷

To quote BC's Medical Officer of Health, Doctor Bonnie Henry -

"BE KIND, BE CALM, BE SAFE"

Cherie E Kelley, CD, Editor
E&OE



WELCOME BACK TO THE WORLD

JOIN US: MARCH 22, 2022, 6:30 PM, CRUISE NIGHT EVENT:

RSVP: AJI FLISS, 250 898 3358 / afliss@shaw.ca To Attend / For Details

* Prizes, \$200PP Travel Discounts & Incentives For Attending: Come Learn What's New!

FOCUS: LATE 2022 / 2023 / 2024: *EARLYBIRD SAVINGS* :

***NEW RIVER, OCEAN, & EXPEDITION 5* CRUISETOUR ITINERARIES:**

MISSISSIPPI RIVER/ NEW ORLEANS/MEMPHIS; GREAT LAKES; ICELAND; W & E EUROPE; EGYPT/JORDAN/ISRAEL; PANAMA CANAL/CENTRAL AMERICA; AUSTRALIA/NZ; MEKONG; & EXPEDITIONS TO THE ANTARCTIC/SOUTH AMERICA, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, & AFRICA!

* FREE RISK GUARANTEE INCLUDED FOR 2022 RIVER, OCEAN & EXPEDITION CRUISETOURS

* FREE AIR INCLUDED ROUNDTrip MAJOR CAD CITIES FOR A 15 DAY CRUISETOUR,

SAILING AMSTERDAM - BUDAPEST, from \$4999 CADpp!

* OTHER RIVER CRUISETOUR ITINERARIES Starting At \$2399 CADPP + \$599 Roundtrip Air!

* COMBINE A RIVER or OCEAN CRUISE With a LAND PACKAGE, Before or After Your Cruisetour!

* NO SERVICE FEES: Free Service By Aji Fliss, TA, to Customize Your Flights & Arrange Your Vacation!

* TRAVEL ASSISTANCE With Your Full Vacation Plans, Best Health & Safety Protocol, & Advisories!

* FULLY EXPERIENCE LOCAL LIFE: Inspiring Cultures, Historic & Dramatic Settings, & UNESCO Sites!

* YOUR RIVER, OCEAN OR EXPEDITION CRUISETOUR INCLUDES: Airfare, Transfers, Hotels, Tours,

All Meals, Wine & Beer with Lunch/Dinner, WIFI, Health/Safety, Host Services, & Entertainment!

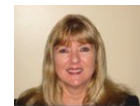
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"We Look After the Details so YOU Can Enjoy Your Journey of a Lifetime!"



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lynda & Paul Peach
Susan Magee
Gary & Angeline Howell
Terrance & Sarah Chenard
Gordon Valerie Curry
Margaret Kelly
Kenneth & Lorraine Kemper
David McMaster
KJ & Stece Sadler
Harold & Madeleine Tremblay
Lorraine Weir



NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:

Please advise the Membership Director, *Steve Bunyan*, of any changes to your personal information, such as:

- Address;
- Phone Number;
- Home address; and
- Email address.

The *Membership Director*, will make all required changes on all relevant data bases.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 5TH GRADER

1. Typical people have how many baby teeth as kids? A.) 20 B.) 24 C.) 28
2. How many nouns are in this question?
3. France borders what ocean?
4. What Norwegian artist painted *The Scream*?
5. In the 16th century what explorer began and lead the first known sea voyage that would circle the globe?
6. True or False? Horse can sleep standing up.

ANSWERS NEXT PAGE



Beverly Joan Callerec
Robert Jackman
Leonard Opperman
Gunter Senkowski
David Troy
Gordon Bate
Doris Messer
Charles |LeFort
Anna Martin
Rosie Hooley
Brian Gossip
William Stephens
Lorne Sutherland
Michael Phoenix



ARE YOU SMARTER THAN 5TH GRADER - ANSWERS

1. **A.) 20**
2. **2**
3. **Atlantic Ocean**
4. **Edvard Munch**
5. **Ferdinant Magellan**
6. **True**

REWARDS



Hello

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2022 will continue to be via *ZOOM* and we look forward to seeing many of you joining us. Of course, we are following all Provincial Health rules in regards to COVID-19 restrictions for the safety of all our members, thus the reason for another *ZOOM* meeting at this time. One of the prime objectives of the AGM is the intent to vote on the Reserve Funds.

Our March AGM via *ZOOM*

will be on

Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 from 1:00 pm to approx. 2 pm.

We will be having 13 SURPRISE Draws!

Gift cards in the amounts of \$25.00 each will be drawn for all those that attend via ZOOM

Best regards and stay safe.

Lorene Hill, Program Director

DON'T FORGET
SIGN IN
TO YOUR
AGM

MARCH 16th, 2022
1PM

