

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Duncan & District Branch, National Association of Federal Retirees  
Held at the Duncan Ramada  
On Thursday 25 April 2019

Call to order: President George Cossey called the meeting to order at 11:10 am.

Welcome:

George opened the meeting by welcoming Vancouver Island Services Officer, Rick Devlieger, all members which included first time attendees Roswynne and Ron Cuthbert, Marian Pattenden and Melanie Fugard.

A moment of silence was observed for those members who are no longer with us.

Minutes of the General Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were provided on each table by the Secretary.

M/S/C (Bronwen Cossey/Wayne Tuck) that the minutes be accepted as distributed.

President's Report:

George Cossey presented a report on his tenure as President – copy attached.

- Finance Report:

Copies of the 2018 Financial Statement and 2019 Budget were provided on each table for review.

George noted that reviewers, Lawrence Hogge who is a Branch member and Hugh Morrison, the Treasurer for the 55 Plus Activity Centre in Chemainus, agreed that the Financial Statements for 2018 accurately reflected the financial activities of the Branch for 2018.

George noted that he will be attending the AMM in June as an observer as there will be sessions on advocacy and communications he wishes to attend. The Branch will cover all expenses.

A member asked how much of the membership fees is paid to the Branch. George noted that he would investigate and report the amount in the minutes.

Following the meeting, George advised that the branch receives approximately 18% of the single member fees and 20% of the double membership fees.

M/S/C (Bronwen Cossey/Maureen Gold) that the reviewed financial statements for 2018 showing a net loss of \$388.79 and the proposed budget for 2018 be accepted as presented.

- Advocacy:

George noted that, in addition to the Aging Well Seniors Expo held in October 2018, there has been a pop-up senior event held in Crofton and more have been scheduled by the Cowichan Valleys Seniors Foundation. He advised that, although we do not recruit new members at these events, it is a good opportunity to let people know who we are as an organization and what we are doing for all seniors in Canada. Also, he noted that there are funds available to allow branch members for travel costs to represent the organization at election events, such as town hall meetings.

- Website and Communications:

George advised that he and Bronwen have been updating the Branch website with minutes and items of interest to Branch members: [www.fsnacoastal.com](http://www.fsnacoastal.com). George hopes that we will be able to make better use of the branch page on the national site after his training session at the AMM. All meeting minutes, informative links and items of interest are posted regularly.

- Membership:

Membership for the Branch is currently 972 members.

Programme:

Dee Dohm confirmed the lunch menu and speakers for today's meeting. She noted that the chicken will be served first followed by the salmon. The September general meeting to be held at the Ramada on 26<sup>th</sup> September will be a soup and sandwich meal with a speaker from the paramedics. No location has been secured for our summer picnic/event. It was suggested that we hold this at the Cowichan Lawn Bowling Club with either a BBQ or catered lunch of sandwiches, salads, fruits, desserts, etc. and a chance for members to try lawn bowling if they wish. By show of hands, it appeared that this would be good choice. Members will be advised by email or phone prior to the event which we hope to have on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

Other Business:

Election and Installation of New Executive:

George advised that, according to our By-Laws, all Executive positions are for a one year term. The following officers were elected:

President:	Paul Chmielewski
Vice-President:	Kathy Pringle
Secretary:	Bronwen Cossey
Treasurer:	Gino Wessan
Membership/Advocacy:	George Cossey
Programme Coordinator:	Dee Dohm
Telephone Committee:	Mary Rimek
Health Benefits Officer:	Karin Laurie
SSI Representative:	Drew Bodaly
Members at Large:	Val Cretney Melanie Fugard

Rick Devlieger, our Vancouver Island Services Officer, thanked the volunteers for their service and installed the Executive.

Other Business:

- Pat Thompson moved a vote of thanks to the Executive members for their service to members in the Cowichan valley and Salt Spring Island.
- A member was pleased to see that our Association is listed in the Cowichan Valley Seniors Directory but was not sure about the phone no. George advised that we contacted the publisher and the phone number will be correct in the next issue.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Speakers:

Brian Sharron from Hearing Life, a preferred partner, discussed the different types of hearing loss and the type of aids available. He stated that everyone over 60 should have a hearing test which is free for all.

Bruce Wilkinson provided information on the Cowichan Valley Hospital Auxiliary, its history and the funds which have been raised by the various groups within the Auxiliary. He encouraged anyone with any talent to volunteer and provided application forms. A copy of the application form will be available on our website.

81 members and 2 guest speakers were in attendance.

*Original signed by*  
Bronwen Cossey  
Secretary

*Original signed by*  
George Cossey  
President

## **BC03 President's Report 2019**

One of the risks of being in a position for 6 years is that you start repeating yourself. I will try to avoid this by briefly summarizing the changes that have occurred in the Association during my tenure as Branch President.

Back in 2013, the Association was grappling with a number of issues. The most pressing issue was the Canada Not for Profit Corporation Act which came into effect in 2011. The Federal Superannuates National Association, as we were then known, had until 2014 to apply for a "Certificate of Continuance" to maintain the not for profit status. The Not for Profit Act was not written to accommodate an organization of our size or with our governance model (a National Office with many Branches throughout the country) and there were many meetings and heated discussions as the deadline loomed. From my perspective as a Branch President, the Certificate of Continuance came with a new name, a strengthened National Office and some distrust between the National Office and Branches.

Fortunately, over the last few years, the National Office staff members have strived to cooperate with the Branches and provide computerized tools to assist Branches to lighten their workload. I believe that the occasional hiccup that develops in the relationship between Branches and National Office is the result of requirements that the Association must meet to retain the "Not for Profit" status and these "must dos" are not always appreciated by Branches. In summary, to the concern that the Branch has "lost power", I would suggest that we share power more with the National Office than in the past and I, personally, appreciate that 176,000 voices are much louder than an individual branch membership.

At the first Executive Meeting I chaired in July 2013, we had an Executive of 15; at the April 2019 meeting the Executive consisted of 9 members with only 3 new officers since 2013. Would I like to see more members on the Executive? Of course but I also know that most of us didn't think that retirement would be so busy. However, if you have any desire to come on board, you'll be welcomed. There is a lot of information available to Board members (or "volunteers" as the National Office refers to them) which members cannot access unless designated as a volunteer. Also, there are many opportunities at the Branch, District and even National level if you are so inclined.