

**Minutes - Executive Committee Meeting
Duncan and District Branch - National Association of Federal Retirees
Held at the Crofton Senior Centre
On Thursday 4th July 2019**

Present: Paul Chmielewski, Bronwen Cossey, George Cossey, Val Cretney, Dee Dohm, Karin Laurie, Gino Wessan

Regrets: Drew Bodaly, Melanie Fugard, Kathy Pringle, Mary Rimek

Meeting was called to order by Paul Chmielewski at 9:40 am

1. Previous Minutes:
M/S/C (George/Karin) that the Minutes of the meeting of 11th April 2019 be accepted as distributed.
2. **Reports:**
 - 2.1 Treasurer's Report:
Gino noted that he is working on making entries in CRM and has been paying bills as necessary. He advised that, as at 7th June 2019, the current account had a balance of \$12,838.12.
 - 3.0 **Committee Reports:**
 - 3.1 Membership:
George advised that we have 966 members at this time.
 - 3.2 Member Services:
SSI: No report

VI: Nothing to report
 - 3.3 Programme Coordinator:
Dee confirmed that she has not yet confirmed any speaker(s) for the September general meeting. She has made contact with a couple of possible speakers but nothing has been confirmed yet. Dee noted that the speaker from Hearing Life did take longer than anticipated leaving less time for Bruce Wilkinson from Cowichan Hospital Auxiliary. Dee will invite him to return to speak at a future meeting. Bronwen noted that the Volunteer application form for the Auxiliary has been updated to our website. Also, it was suggested that we could contact Johnson Insurance and the BC Senior Advocate as possible speakers.
 - 3.4 Communication/Websites:
Bronwen has been updating the website as necessary.
 - 3.5 Sage Magazine/Branch Reports:
Next submission is due at NO on 5th July for the fall Sage issue due in members' homes in early September. Bronwen circulated the draft copy of the report for comment. There was a suggestion that we include a note about reporting membership changes (i.e. death or separation) to the pension office.
 - 3.6 Advocacy:
George discussed the preparations for the upcoming federal elections and contacts he has made with the local branch of the BC Retired Teachers Association. He has discussed sharing expenses for town halls with them and possible dates and locations were discussed. The consensus was that the lecture hall at VIU in Duncan on 2nd or 3rd October would be a preferred date and location if this can be arranged. NO has advised that electronic blasts can be sent to members by postal code so that notices can be sent to members by federal election riding. George noted that he has been in discussion with the Nanaimo branch of the Association who are planning to host a booth at a Labour Day function being held in Ladysmith. Hopefully this will help us to gain more exposure in the community to highlight the Association 2019 Federal Election Priorities as well as possibly attract new members.

M/S/C (Paul/Dee) that we add an annual expenditure of up to \$500 to the budget for expenses relating to advocacy and membership.

4.0 **Old Business:**

4.1 BC District Meeting:

Gino, George and Bronwen attended the meeting in Chilliwack at the end of May. See attached report.

4.2 Picnic for 2019:

The invitation 'blast' has been sent to NO for distribution. It was agreed that we give a donation of \$100 to the Cowichan Lawn Bowling Club for use of the facilities. Dee and Bronwen will order food for the picnic once we know numbers.

M/S/C (Dee/Gino) that there will be no charge for the picnic.

4.3 Telephone Calling:

The telephone calling by members of the executive was successful in increasing the number of members who attended the AGM and updating member information. CRM will be updated with as much of the information we received as possible. We received a lot of positive comments about the organization, Sage magazine and the branch.

5.0 **New Business:**

5.1 AMM – Gatineau – 2019:

As Paul was unable to attend the AMM, George represented the branch in his place. Report attached.

5.2 Volunteer Information Portal:

While at the District meeting, Gino and Bronwen received a user guide for the portal which was given to all members of the executive in attendance.

5.3 Other Business:

Karin noted that she recently renewed her Police Record Check (PRC) for her volunteer work with the hospital and was not sure if this is also required for the branch in her position as Health Benefits Officer. After the meeting, Bronwen checked the RCMP website which states that the organization decides when the PRC needs to be renewed. Per the NAFR regulations, PRCs are valid for 5 years. Those in our branch who needed PRCs were obtained in 2015; therefore renewal is not required until 2020 for NAFR purposes.

6.0 Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Bronwen Cossey, Secretary

Next meeting: Time TBD **Thursday 12th September 2019 at the Crofton Senior Centre.**

Notes re: District Meeting (May 23-25,2019)

Day 1 (PM):

National Vice President's Address (Ray Goodall):

- NAFR received an unqualified Audit report (i.e. no concerns);
- there are concerns re: national level of reserves;
- preferred partners (Johnson/Hearing Life/Collette) doing well from relationship;
- NO is looking at how to properly fund Branches (need vs. \$/member).

Advocacy Update (Sayward Montague/Leslie Gaudette):

- To advocate means to champion, more in Day 2.

District Director/Br. Presidents:

- Ideas were discussed about having more members attend branch meetings and attracting more volunteers;
- Proposals for AM: George asked re: fee increase – how does NO keep our 'not for profit status' when the increase is tied to the cost-of living increase we receive each year as a pension increase. There is no concern as NO only has 6 weeks' worth of expenses in reserve and Branches are allowed to maintain 1 year of expenses so could operate without income from NO.

Day 2 (FULL DAY):

- Fin. Mgmt/CRM training: Bronwen & Gino. This was an excellent training although more time should have been allowed;
- Advocacy Workshop for 2019 Election: George noted this was a good session; worked with branches with whom we share federal ridings (Nanaimo and Sidney). Worksheets were prepared and good preparation for AMM session.
- Advocacy Panel with Gerry Tiede, President of BC Retired Teachers Association: very interested in working with NAFR Branches and he will advise his Branches accordingly. Association of Retired Teachers of Canada (ARTC) is part of Vibrant Voices Campaign and share 3 of the Association's 4 priorities.
- Guest Speaker: Shawn McCord from Johnson Insurance: very pleased with relationship, and Medoc will feature substantial improvements at no extra cost starting Sept. 2019.
- Banquet: Guest Speaker was Steve Morgan, UBC Professor, Health Services and Policy. Spoke of national pharmacare and how important it is to make it an election issue, very good talk.

Day 3 (AM):

Town Hall:

Lots of discussion about recruiting new members and volunteers and looking at new ways to connect with members (go for coffee, etc. once/month?); advise that Executive meetings are open to members who wish to attend.

Notes re: 2019 AMM (June 17 -20, 2019)

I attended the entire meeting on behalf of the President as he was unable to attend. As a complete official record of the AMM will be posted to the National Website and accessible through the Volunteer Information Portal, I will limit my remarks.

The first day was basically devoted to the all the administrative details (Rules of Order, Previous Minutes, etc.). There was a presentation by Dave Colette of Abacus Data who talking about how the parties were trending and what issues are important to the electorate and how that could affect the final results of the election. This is one election in which every vote is critical so members should make every effort to vote.

The President (Jean-Guy Souliere) expressed his pleasure with how the Association has developed over the years that he has been President and how much more productive and respectful the AMM has become. The Chief Executive Officer (Simon Coakeley) talked about how well, in his opinion, the 2016 Strategic Plan was met. The only major concern is with member recruitment but we do add sufficient members on a yearly basis to offset those who leave.

The afternoon sessions were focused on financial matters.

The morning session of Day 2 was devoted to the Presidents forum where the presidents/branch representatives were assigned specific topics (advocacy/membership/volunteers) and then a representative of each group gave a presentation. In the afternoon, there was a Communications Mini Modules Workshop (modules were Local Press, Social Media and Photography for Sage, etc.). This was followed by an advocacy workshop, basically the same as we experienced at the District Meeting but with more information this time.

The final day started with the proposals:

1. The new Strategic Plan was approved 100%;
2. Branch Support Fund was approved (70%) with the understanding that it would be reviewed after one full year of operation to determine amount actually required. Capital expenditures will not be considered;
3. Membership Fees Increase was approved (79%) as the Strategic Plan was prepared based on being supported by the Fee increase.
4. Code of Conduct change was approved (100%)
5. Collection and Remittance of Fees was approved (100%)
6. Preferred Partner Program was approved (100%)
7. Defence of Benefits Reserve was approved (100%). Annual withdrawal amount set at \$500,000 with a cap on the total Reserve of \$2.5 million.

The next item was the elections; the President and the District Directors for Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic were acclaimed. There were 3 candidates for the District Director in BC – Randy Wilson (Duncan), Ian Sanderson (Vancouver) and Leslie Gaudette (Fraser Valley). The first one to achieve 50%+ of the vote was Randy Wilson after 2 rounds of voting.

The afternoon featured 2 advocacy panels with the AMM finishing at 3 PM.