

Minutes of the General Meeting
Duncan & District Branch, National Association of Federal Retirees
Held at the Duncan Ramada
On Thursday 26th September 2019

Call to order: President Paul Chmielewski called the meeting to order at 11 am

Welcome:

Paul opened the meeting by welcoming members, Rick Devlieger – V I Regional Services Officer and first time attendees: Russ Howard, Cindy Little, Dale and Dianne McConnell, Neil and Leslie Sordahl, Frank Smith, Lynn Pammett, Pat Mossington, Steve Bittner, Colin Walton and Solange Faucher.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 25th April 2019 were provided on each table by the Secretary.

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

Treasurer's Report: Gino Wessan spoke to the report provided on each table and advised that we are in good shape financially. There were no questions from the membership.

M/S/C (Bronwen Cossey/Lawrence Hogge) that the report be accepted as presented.

Programme: Dee Dohm spoke about the success of the picnic held at the Cowichan Lawn Bowling Club in July and noted that everyone had a great time and enjoyed trying lawn bowling. She thanked Bronwen for arranging this event and hopes that Drew Bodaly will be arranging a similar event to be held on Salt Spring Island in 2020. Dee noted that she has arranged for the paramedics to speak at our April AGM and the topic of the presentation will be on family caregiver support. Dee suggests that there was an excellent article in the Times Colonist on 30th August "The systematic Impoverishment of BC Seniors" and that this may be a good question to be raised when attending the All Candidates Meeting on 2nd October
M/S/C (Dee Dohm/Kathy Pringle) that the report be accepted as presented.

Membership: currently 961 members. George Cossey noted that our membership does change as people move in and out of the area but the total both locally and nationally remains approximately the same. He noted that our national membership is still about 176,000. He advised that our membership information is maintained in a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) program and personal email addresses are never shared with any person or company outside the association.

Advocacy: George alerted members to the information provided in the current edition of the Sage magazine which included his Advocacy item in the Branch Report. He advised the members about the ability to vote at the Elections Canada office in Duncan if they were unable to vote at the Advance Poll or on Election Day. George spoke about the arrangements made for the All Candidates Meeting on 2nd October being held in conjunction with the BC Retired Teachers Association (BCRTA) and noted that their priorities are very similar to those of NAFR. He believes that we may continue to cooperate with BCRTA in the future. A question from the floor about registering for the event using Everbrite asked about the use of email. It was noted that a members could register and not disclose an email address. Another member noted that she was unable to register online. Registration is not required as there are 200 plus seats available. George will contact NO and confirm that Everbrite does not disclose email addresses received in the registration process.

Other Business:

Reserves – Defence of Benefits Reserve Fund: Bronwen Cossey has prepared a timeline report on this fund based on an email received from NO and explained the need to keep the membership informed. There were no issues expressed.

M/S/C (Bronwen Cossey/Eric Marshall) that the report be accepted as presented

Report on District Meeting and AMM: Report is attached

Mega Recruitment Drive: Paul alerted members to the drive which commenced on 3rd September and ends on 15th December. He explained the procedure for recruiting new members (friends, ex-colleagues, family, neighbours, etc.) and the prizes available. Information was sent to all members by email and information is available online on the Federal Retirees website.

Aging Well Expo: Paul spoke about this event being held on 18th October at the Cowichan Community Centre from 10 am to 3 pm at which the Branch has secured a table. He asked for volunteers to assist in hosting the table for a period during the day. Bronwen and George Cossey arranged our participation last year but will be away this time. Following the meeting, 2 members volunteered to assist and George had previously spoken to Kathy Pringle, Karin Laurie and Julie Martin to assist. This will be our last chance to discuss our priorities with local seniors.

Remembrance Day Observances: There will be services at the cenotaphs in Chemainus, Cobble Hill, Duncan, Ladysmith, Lake Cowichan and Salt Spring Island. We have members to represent and lay wreaths on behalf of the Branch and Paul encouraged all members to attend the event in their area..

National Child Day: An event is being held to celebrate children on 23rd November 2019 at the Cowichan Community Centre from 11 am to 3 pm. All are welcome.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am

59 members and 3 guest speakers were in attendance.

Speakers:

Bruce Wilkinson, President of the Cowichan District Hospital Auxiliary gave a good presentation about auxiliaries locally and specifically the support provided locally in raising money and providing support for health care. Volunteers are always welcome and any talent can be used. A copy of the application form is on our website: <http://fsnacoastal.com/informative-links/>

The website for the auxiliary is: <https://www.cowichanhospitalauxiliary.com/>

Ken Champoux, Chief Planning Officer and Dr. Pat Gallagher, Director of the Redevelopment Plan, gave an update on the current planning for the new hospital for the Cowichan Valley. A site has been found on Bell McKinnon Rd. (near Herd Rd) which will hopefully provide the Cowichan Valley with easily accessible and excellent medical services. They noted how medical needs have changed since the current hospital was opened in 1967. They anticipate that the new facility will open in 2025 to 2026 although funding has not yet been confirmed. They recommend that all residents of the area engage in the meetings held to inform of progress.

A website with up-to-date information is available at <https://www.islandhealth.ca/about-us/accountability/strategic-direction/building-health/cowichan-district-hospital-redevelopment/newsroom>

Bronwen Cossey
Secretary

Next Meeting: Thursday 23rd April 2020 – Duncan Ramada – date to be confirmed

Defence of Benefits Reserve Fund (DOBRF) Report

Timeline:

Early 2015	Request from NO for funds from our DOBRF to help fund the Honour Your Promise Campaign – court challenge of increase to PSHCP premiums
April 2015	Executive decision (M/S/C) to send \$3,500 from our fund to NO after funds were available when our GIC matured
April 2015	AGM - Membership was advised of the decision by the Executive. No concern was raised by the membership
Nov. 2015	Funds sent to NO
Jan 2016	Executive decision (M/S/C) to move \$1,000 per year to replenish our DOBRF until fund is restored to \$10,000
Jan 2016	Member Meeting – Membership was advised of Executive motion. No concern was raised by the membership
Feb 2016	\$1,000 transferred to DOBRF
Jan 2017	Member Meeting – a member asked for update on DOBRF. No concern was raised by the membership
May 2017	\$1,000 was transferred to DOBRF
Sept 2017	Executive note that we could transfer the balance of \$1,500 to DOBRF
Sept 2017	Member Meeting – Membership was advised balance of \$1,500 will be transferred after review of 2017 financial statements
Aug 2018	National Office assisted in transferring balance of \$1,500 to DOBRF

Note that, in accordance with Branch By-Laws, the DOBRF was established to a maximum of \$10,000. Transactions within this limit should not be a concern.

Report on 2019 District Meeting (Chilliwack – May 2019)

- There are usually 2 District (Spring and Fall) and one National (June) meeting that Branch representatives attend. For the Spring District meeting, the Branch had 3 representatives – me for Advocacy, and Bronwen (Assistant Treasurer) and Gino (Treasurer). The meeting ran for a total of 2 days and including workshops on Finance and CRM which Gino and Bronwen attended as well as Advocacy which I attended. During one of the Advocacy session, Gerry Tiede, President of BC Retired Teachers Association expressed his interest in working with NAFR Branches and I reached out to their Duncan Branch and will be partnering with them on the All Candidates meeting on Oct. 2nd.
- Guest speakers included Shawn McCord from Johnson Insurance talking about the Medoc travel insurance and Steve Morgan, UBC Professor, Health Services and Policy. He discussed the need for a national pharmacare program and how important it is to make it an election issue, very good talk.

Annual Meeting of Members (Gatineau - June 2019)

The National (AMM) meeting is normally attended by the Branch President or a Voting Representative plus up to 2 additional Branch members whose expense is covered by the Branch. I planned to attend for most of the AMM due to the focus on advocacy so when Paul advised that he was no longer able to attend; I became the Voting Representative as well and went for the entire meeting. A new Five Year Strategic Plan was approved along with minor membership fee increases to fund the plan. For more details, a recap of the meeting is available on the National Website by going to the Home page and, in the search box at the right top, type in *AMM 2019 Recap*. I have attended a number of AMMs as the former President and can truthfully say that this was the best one to date in terms of decisions made and general flow of the meeting.