

**Minutes - Executive Committee Meeting
Duncan and District Branch - National Association of Federal Retirees
Held at the Third Wave Café, Crofton
On Thursday 12th September 2019**

Present: Drew Bodaly, Paul Chmielewski, Bronwen Cossey, George Cossey, Dee Dohm, Melanie Fugard, Karin Laurie, Kathy Pringle, Gino Wessan

Regrets: Val Cretney, Mary Rimek

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

1. Previous Minutes:
M/S/C (Bronwen/Kathy) that the Minutes of the meeting of 4th July 2019 be accepted as distributed.
2. **Reports:**
 - 2.1 Treasurer's Report:
Gino discussed the financial report as of August 2019 as distributed. Drew asked for clarification on the amounts received from NO and was advised that the amounts shown only show the amounts received to date. As our membership numbers are fairly constant, the amount we receive is reasonably consistent. M/S/C (Dee/Melanie) that the report be accepted as distributed.
 - 3.0 **Committee Reports:**
 - 3.1 Membership:
George advised that we have 959 members at this time.
 - 3.2 Member Services:
SSI: Nothing to report except Drew is feeling lonely as he is no longer receiving requests for information via email or phone calls. It was suggested that we post information about our branch and the association at local legions. George will contact NO to see if there are any suitable posters available.
VJ: No report
 - 3.3 Programme Coordinator:
Dee thanked Bronwen for suggesting the lawn bowling event for this year's picnic.
Dee noted that Bruce Wilkinson from the Cowichan Valley Hospital Auxiliary has been invited to complete his talk from the AGM and a member of the hospital board will discuss the plans for the new hospital.
The cost of the lunch at Ramada has been increased to \$17.95 per person plus additional expenses for taxes, equipment, etc. Dee had previously negotiated a reduced rate.
Dee has been in contact with the Community Paramedics who will provide a speaker for the 2020 AGM.
M/S/C (Dee/Kathy) that the report be accepted.
 - 3.4 Communication/Websites:
Bronwen has been updating the website as necessary. Melanie is interested in updating the website and will contact Bronwen to discuss.
 - 3.5 Sage Magazine/Branch Reports:
Next submission is due at NO on 15th October for the winter Sage issue due in members' homes in early January. As we have no events for the period covered by the magazine, we will not be submitting anything at this time.
 - 3.6 Advocacy:
See attached report
 - 4.0 **Old Business:**
 - 4.1 Picnic for 2019:
This was a very successful event. All attendees enjoyed themselves and we received several favourable comments. The Cowichan Lawn Bowling Club coaches did a great job assisting members who wanted to give this a try and one of our members has joined the club and has been playing and receiving coaching all summer. As this was so successful, Drew will look at doing something similar for next year.

5.0 **New Business:**

5.1 Wreaths

Bronwen will confirm that our standing orders are in place and arrange for payments of invoices. We will request that all wreaths show our name as the donor. We have volunteers to lay wreaths at the following local cenotaphs.

Chemainus: Lawrence Hogge

Cobble Hill: Karin Laurie

Duncan: Rick Devlieger

Ladysmith: Jim Brown

Lake Cowichan: Mary Rimek

Salt Spring Island: John Flannagan or Drew Bodaly

5.2 Year-end greetings to telephone callers

Bronwen noted that a few years ago, we held a volunteer 'thank-you' lunch but due to lack of participation, we started sending Christmas cards with 'free lunch certificates'. As we have not charged members for lunches in the past year, it was decided that we should send Christmas cards with a \$20 Tim Horton's gift card as a thank you. Bronwen will contact Mary for a current list and send out the cards.

5.3 Aging Well Seniors Expo – 18th October 2019

See George's report

5.4 Mega Recruitment Drive:

NO has initiated a recruitment drive which runs from 1st September to 15th December. For the duration of the contest period, any existing member who successfully refers a new prospective member to the Association or successfully has a prospective member sign up for our electronic newsletter will instantly receive a \$5 gift card and an official ballot for the grand prize draw. Prizes include a \$500 prepaid Visa gift card as an early bird draw courtesy of Simply Connect, a \$10,000 trip for two courtesy of Collette and other prizes courtesy of our other preferred partners.

For more information, including how to enter and full contest rules, please visit

www.federalretirees.ca/mrd or call us at 1-855-304-4700, ext. 300.

5.5 PSHCP Rebates:

Paul noted that he has had a conversation with one of our members who has been having difficulties getting reimbursement for their medications. A discussion ensued about the PSHCP and the dental plans and coordination of benefits. It was suggested that the member contact Sun Life for more information about the amount covered as it appears that Sun Life only pays for a generic drug unless there is confirmation from the prescribing physician that a generic drug is not suitable. Sun Life follows the information provided by the pharmacy.

5.6 Other Business:

Nametags are required for Melanie, Karin (corrected spelling) and Paul. Bronwen and George will arrange for these.

6.0 Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned by Drew at 10:35 am.

Bronwen Cossey, Secretary

Next meeting: Time 10 am **Thursday 9th January 2020 at the Crofton Senior Centre.** Date to be confirmed

BC03 Advocacy Report, Sept. 2019

Events: Sept. 5, Labour Day Picnic, Transfer Beach, Ladysmith.

Joint event was held with the Nanaimo Branch; 2 good leads for possible new members. George would recommend repeating in future years. The following joint report was prepared by the Nanaimo Branch:

“On September 5, 2019, the Duncan & District Branch and the Nanaimo & Area Branch jointly hosted a booth at the Nanaimo & Duncan District Labour Council Labour Day Picnic.

George and Bronwen Cossey from the Duncan & District Branch and Christine Walker Plumpton and Charles Scrivener from the Nanaimo & Area Branch staffed the booth.

The Picnic was well attended, and the booth received a lot of traffic. We displayed some of the NAFR election materials, SAGE magazines, and member recruitment packages, and had candy and prizes (gift certificates and gift baskets) to give away.

Pharmacare was the issue garnering the most interest.

There were plenty of opportunities for NAFR representatives to engage with people on the election priorities and speak with candidates attending the event, Green candidate, Paul Manly, MP and NDP candidate, Bob Chamberlin. Both candidates were aware of NAFR and its priority issues.

In all, the Picnic was a very successful event for NAFR and worth pursuing in the future. “

Oct. 2, All Candidates Meeting, Quamichan School Theatre, Duncan.

This will be a joint event with the BC Retired Teachers Association. Advocacy Team meeting after Executive meeting was held to finalize tasks. Will do targeted email plus National Office will be putting event on Facebook. Time is 4:30 to 6:30 with focus on senior issues.

Oct. 18, Aging Well Seniors Expo, Multi-purpose Hall, Cowichan Community Centre (10 to 3).

This is the second year for this event. Paul, Dee, Julie and Kathy can attend; additional Executive members could assist. George has have requested additional Sage copies for display. This is our last chance to display our 4 priorities before the election.

George Cossey