

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Duncan & District Branch, National Association of Federal Retirees
Held via Zoom
On Thursday 15th April 2021

Call to order: President Paul Chmielewski called the meeting to order at 10:48 am.

Welcome:

Paul welcomed all attendees.

Agenda: M/S/C (Bronwen Cossey/Frank Statham) that the agenda be accepted as distributed.

Minutes of the General Meeting of 26th September 2019 distributed via email to proposed attendees.
M/S/C (Bronwen Cossey/Maureen Gold) that the minutes be accepted as distributed.

President's Report:

Paul provided a verbal report of activities affecting the Branch over the last year, including an update on Reach 338 (a national advocacy program for branches to contact every MP in Canada), and advising that terms for all Executive members were extended through 2020 to 2021.

Finance Report:

- Bronwen noted that our previous Treasurer, Gino Wessan, moved from the area in early 2020 and she had added the duties of this position to that of Secretary.
- Copies of the Financial Statements for 2019 and 2020 and the proposed budget for 2021 were provided via email to proposed attendees and added to the Branch website.
- Bronwen noted that, in order for the Association to maintain its 'Not for Profit' status, branches may not have in excess of one year's operating expenses as defined in the Association's Bylaws. As our Branch had surplus funds in 2019 and 2020, funds are required to be sent to National Office and added to the national Defence of Benefits Reserve Fund. \$1,928 was returned to National Office in 2020 for 2019 surplus and \$1,859 will be returned this year for 2020.

M/S/C (Bronwen Cossey/Kathy Pringle) that the reviewed financial statements for 2019 showing a net loss of \$2,027.78 accepted as distributed.

M/S/C (Bronwen Cossey/Kathy Pringle) that the reviewed financial statements for 2020 showing a net gain of \$2,514.01 and the proposed budget for 2021 be accepted as distributed

M/S/C (Bronwen Cossey/Rick Devlieger) to acknowledge the return of surplus funds of \$1,928 for 2019 and to forward the surplus funds of \$1,859 for 2020 to National Office to be added to the national Defence of Benefits Reserve Fund.

Advocacy and Membership Report from George Cossey:

- The current Advocacy priority at the National Office is the Reach 338 program where the local Branches will meet with their MP to present the Association's objectives.
- We have 3 MPs in our Branch; Paul Manly for Ladysmith and North, Alister MacGregor for the Valley and Elizabeth May for Salt Spring Island.
- The Nanaimo Branch met virtually with Paul Manley; I was invited but unfortunately was not available. I had a telephone meeting with Alister early last month. We share Alister's riding with the Victoria Branch but unfortunately, their Advocacy person was not able to attend on the date offered. To the best of my knowledge, a meeting with Elizabeth May has not yet taken place and the Saanich Branch is the lead on it.
- Our membership, as of today, is 915. There have been several deaths as well as members moving in the past year. It is extremely difficult to recruit due to pandemic restrictions. From my perspective, the chief item that the Association offers that is not affected by the pandemic is being one of three parties that review and update the Public Service Health Care Plan. The Association being at the table for the discussions with well researched proposals is worth our monthly dues.

Other Business:

Election and Installation of New Executive:

Rick Devlieger moderated the election of the Executive and the following officers were elected:

President:	Paul Chmielewski
Vice-President:	Kathy Pringle
Secretary/Treasurer:	Bronwen Cossey
Membership/Advocacy:	George Cossey
Programme Coordinator:	Dee Dohm
Telephone Committee:	Mary Rimek
Health Benefits Officer:	Karin Laurie
SSI Representative:	Drew Bodaly
Communications and Administration:	Julie Wilson

Rick Devlieger, our Vancouver Island Services Officer, installed the Executive.

Other Business:

- It was noted that the Branch's Election Reserve Fund could be better served as a Reserve for Advocacy not otherwise included in the operating budget.

M/S/C (George Cossey/Frank Statham) to rename the Election Reserve Fund to the Advocacy Reserve Fund and return the fund to the original limit of \$2,000.

- As 2 of our previous signing officers for the Branch's bank account have moved away, we will need to assign new signing officers. These will be:
Paul Chmielewski, George Cossey, Dee Dohm, Karin Laurie and Julie Wilson.

Paul thanked the 21 members who were in attendance.

Motion to adjourn by Maureen Gold

Original signed by

Bronwen Cossey
Secretary

Paul Chmielewski
President