

NAFR York Branch Meeting (Zoom Video Conference)

09:30 AM – 12:10 PM Tuesday January 5, 2021

Present: Fred Conway, President; Tom Nichols, Past President/Treasurer; Ken Ackles, Vice President; Vasdev Sawhney, Membership; Sharon Carson, Advocacy; Marie MacPhee, Events; Frank Froude, Web Site; Linda Laffree, Mail; Giuseppe (Joe) Vettese, Sharon Paris, Directors-at-Large; Ed Millar, Recording Secretary.

Regrets: Nil.

1. Review and Approval of the Agenda: Approval moved by Joe, seconded by Vasdev.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of November 3, 2020: Approval moved by Marie, seconded by Ken.

3. Action Items from the Minutes:

(i) Functional Review of Positions: Fred reported work progressing.

(ii) Bank Account Access: Tom's card not yet linked. Fred providing statement support to Tom until problem resolved. Old email accounts closed.

4. Reports:

(a) President: Fred reported on communications with the National Office covering a virtual meet the candidates who were up for election.

(i) AMM (Dec. 2): The virtual meeting approved the 2020 budget containing a healthy surplus. AMM looking forward by presenting a 2021 projected budget. 2021 dues increase cancelled. Elections for the National Directors were held.

(ii) Ontario District Meeting (Nov.3): Jean-Guy featured speaker. Fred reported there was little sympathy for the Branch's position on expense accounts.

(iii) NAFR News: Fred reviewed the information contained in the Bulletins To Branches. The succession order will not let Jean-Guy Souliere to continue beyond his current term. Some speculation that an election call will be made this year. The publication of the booklet "You and Your Survivor" being reprinted. Cost will be \$5.00 but will be available electronically. SAGE inserts from other Branches are available on line. Some Branches providing inserts for each issue. Resolving the

Branch surplus issue a work in progress. Membership continues to drop off. The AMM in June scheduled to be virtual although some possibility June could be the start of in person meetings. Branch surpluses at end of year required to be submitted to the National Office. Calculation of surpluses will be based on expenditures for the three years prior to 2020. The National Office have offered to do Branch banking for a fee. National Office would like members who have not renewed their membership to receive a phone call although not clear who should call. National Office looking at creating a pension plan for NAFR employees.

(b) Treasurer: Prior to the meeting Tom circulated the financial statements for the Branch. Few expenses were incurred due to the pandemic so a “newer budget” for 2021 was displayed. On the revenue side the 4th quarter dues have not been received so the previous years’ number was used as an estimate. The surplus for 2020 calculated at \$4,823 so some funds will have to be remitted to the National Office. \$2,000 (max) set as the advocacy reserve with \$500 budgeted for advocacy in event an election is called. Estimated \$2,000 surplus for 2021.

(c) Membership: Tom reported the Branch currently has 980 members with 24 lost contacts. A total of 194 memberships have lapsed due to non-payment of dues. Tom is working on a list of unpaid members in the last 6 – 12 months for a decision on possible calling at the next meeting.

(d) Advocacy News: Sharon Carson reviewed her advocacy work to date and commented on the very ambitious plan currently set out. Pharmacare and Long Term Care (LTC) high priority issues. Identifying veterans and keeping them in the loop an issue. Some concern expressed when a member who volunteered to assist may have alternative goals related to her business.

(e) Website Editor: Prior to the meeting Frank circulated an outline of the Webpage outline. A map of the Branch boundaries has been completed. Membership criteria established and a description of the Board developed. Determining what should be included in content was discussed including items of interest, minutes of meetings, SAGE inserts, flow chart, members profile, history and if the Branch might be interested in social outings. Should Board member phone numbers be included on website? Who can upload changes to the site?

5. On-Going Business:

(a) Director Allowances (Honoraria): Fred noted honoraria of any kind is not allowed and subsidising social events is discouraged with a limit of \$10.00/person/year. Fred to raise at NAFR AMM. Meal allowances cannot be arbitrarily subsidized at a set amount but could be replaced by making a claim based on the government rate established for meals. Ken moved that a note be forwarded to the National Office expressing upset and dismay at the policy decision on compensating and recognizing Branch volunteers. Seconded by Joe.

(b) SAGE: Fred reported input is required by January 8 and will circulate for comment prior to sending to National Office.

(c) Branch General Meeting Door Prizes: Some question if allowed. Deferred while Tom clarifies.

(d) 2021 Board Meetings: Dates circulated with Agenda.

6. New Business: Nil.

7. Trends and Concerns Review: Possible election in Spring.

8. Next Board Meeting: 09:30 AM Tuesday March 2, 2021 (Video)

9. Adjournment: Moved by Vasdev, seconded by Sharon Carson.