

NAFR – Fredericton and District Branch (NB62)
Spring Branch Annual Meeting/Dinner – May 7th, 2019 5:00 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Lincoln, NB



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Elliott Keizer; Cyril Theriault; Evans Estabrooks, John Richards, Denise Blanchard, Gary Barfitt
Norm Sheen, Ian Culligan, Elise Young, Rae Hopper and Andrew Gunter.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Goddard and Mike McCormick.

1. WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elliott Keizer welcomed all to the meeting.

2. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Elliott Keizer introduced the Board.

3. O CANADA

Gary Barfitt led the singing of "O Canada".

4. DEPARTED MEMBERS

Gary Barfitt led the moment of silence for our departed members

5. GRACE

Gary Barfitt said Grace.

6. DINNER

7. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Elliott Keizer

The President called the 2019 Spring Branch Annual Meeting to order.

8. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Moved by: Wendy Creighton Seconded by Rae Hopper **CARRIED**

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting/Spring Dinner as circulated.

Moved by: Wayne Gunter Seconded by Rae Hopper

CARRIED

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ELLIOTT KEIZER:

- The President presented his report.
- Board is active and we had a good attendance at the Board meetings in Cromocto.
- We are financially solid, and we have no problems meeting National requirements.
- Two priorities from our October 2018 planning session:
 - Membership Growth: 1900+, we lost a few members. Actions to improve:
 - Membership Growth Committee is active, and Evans Estabrooks has been asked and agreed to join a National level committee focusing on Membership Growth. New initiatives coming this year.
 - Communications:
 - Committee will be formed soon. Terms of Reference include:
 - Assessing our communications needs
 - Evaluating our delivery (Facebook, Web, Print)
 - Will look for membership looking for experience; involve members not on the Board. Asked members that have experience with communications, finance, etc.... to contact us.
 - A Finance Committee will be formed.
 - Facebook and Website are doing well; about 250 hits/month last fall.
 - Advocacy:
 - NAFR is ramping up its advocacy efforts for the Federal election. Dorma Grants is our new Provincial Advocacy Officer.
 - Last Fall Chris Goddard let a committee that held an open Q&A election forum at the WU Centre.
 - Representative from all six parties in Provincial election were present.
 - About 165 attended.
 - It's in the running for an award at the AMM in June.
 - Will we do it this Fall for the Federal election.
 - Reports
 - a. Membership Growth Committee (MGC) – Evans Estabrooks
 - The MGC was first composed of volunteers: Mariet van Groenewoud and Wayne Gunter, Tracy Dalton and Evans Estabrooks. During the past year two Directors joined: Denise Blanchard and Elise Young. We held two planning meetings in November 2018 and January 2019 to develop goals and an action plan that was accepted by the Board. English and French Banners have been designed, printed and now ready for use.
 - Worksite Office Recruitment – it was decided that our main effort to recruit new members would be to visit local federal offices to make federal employees aware of the information that we can provide on retirement and the benefits of membership in the Federal Retirees. One office was visited in Nov. 2018 and contact has been made with four other departments plus RCMP for possible visits in 2019. This is in line with National goals related to membership growth and retention. More work is required to identify the needs of retirees and near retirees at National Defence, Base Gagetown.
 - Why Should You Join NAFR? – the Committee completed a Branch one-page handout for use during worksite visits called "Why Should You Join the Federal Retirees"? Its contents will be printed in Sage magazine (Fall 2019), on the Branch website, and through emails the members and encouraging them to share with potential members.
 - Welcome New Members Letter - Letters are being sent out under the president's name by Denise Blanchard every 2-3 months to new members.

- Surviving Spouse Letter Template – During the year a surviving spouse letter template was developed to be sent to recently widowed members or spouses reminding them of the urgent need to establish their claim for pension and health plans. This has been shared with Head Office and should be implemented soon.
- Membership Numbers and Growth - There were 2000+ Branch members in 2016, 1949 members in 2017 and 1907 members in 2018. The MGC plan is to increase membership by 100 for the year 2019. Evans asked to pass along information like the "Why Should You Join NAFR?" to their friends and neighbours who are eligible but not now NAFR members.

b. Financial Statements – John Richards

Reviewed Financial Statements 2018: for the year ended December 31, 2018 and reviewed by Gil Farmer, member of Frederickton and District Branch (NB62) and the 2019 budget approved by the board were presented by John and explained.

The first page of the financial statements shows that, as of December 31, 2018, our branch has net assets of \$33,009.79.

Last year NB62 incurred a deficit of \$3,370 higher than the planned deficit of \$1,275. This was caused by increased expenditures on the following priorities: advocacy, information sharing, and recruitment-membership.

- Advocacy priority, an all-candidates' meeting that was held in September and was cost-shared with Ottawa. Our portion was \$1650.
- Information sharing came in higher than budgeted due an "extra" information session being held in the fall due to high demand for it.
- Membership costs were more than budgeted due to purchase of banners, advertising in a local paper and to a higher-level activity than in past years.

Due to our status as a non-profit organization, we are allowed to have up to one-year's average expenditures as "unreserved equity" (around \$14,000). The 2017 balance was \$16,048 and previous years amounts were higher due to systemic surpluses. The 2018 deficit has reduced our balance to \$12,678.

The projected 2019 deficit is almost entirely due to a potential "all-candidates" meeting tentatively planned for the autumn. If this meeting occurs, the plan is to use the "Reserved Equity" to pay for its costs. This step will reduce our Reserved Equity and demonstrate that it is being used for targeted one-time purposes as per its intent.

Reserved equity: Board will ask membership for support to change orientation of one at the Fall Dinner.

John moved acceptance of his report and of 2018 Reviewed Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2018 showing a deficit of \$3,369.

Seconded by Cyril

CARRIED

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. National Report – Megan Williams, National Director (introduced by Cyril Theriault) and Dorna Grant, Provincial Advocacy Officer (introduced by Megan Williams)

Megan Williams

The most significant thing was the creation of the Branch Support Funds (\$77,000) for activities done by the branches. First round: 9 branches applied and were awarded \$40,000. There is only one deadline per year which is March so, branches have to apply early.

Complaints against the National Office at the Regional meetings. National Office has taken a lot of administrative work that the branches used to do like maintaining membership list and collecting fees leaving the branches to concentrate on connecting with members, recruitment and advocacy. Very impressed at the way the branches were able to go in to federal offices and contact federal employees who are still working. 90% of members who were surveyed said that the main reason they join is Advocacy and MEDOC also.

Big Advocacy success: Lobby day in February on the Hill on Senior's issues. Several people from the Board and membership joined a group called Vibrant Voices, a community-based advocacy campaign to influence political action for Canada's seniors.

She is on the Advisory Committee for Sage Magazine. Contract with iPolitics has expired and Sage will now be published in-house. National has hired an in-house publisher who is now working in the Ottawa office. The Branch inserts will be produced in the same quality of the Sage magazine.

The Board is going to meet in the month of December in Moncton.

Dorna Grant

Power Point presentation on the upcoming Federal Election 2019 roadmap. Highlights of the presentation:

• Overall Campaign Goals:

- Core issues of retirement income security, particularly for our members, improved veteran/family well-being, as well as conversations about Pharmacare and advancement of a National Seniors Strategy by the next government.
- To ensure Canada's federal public policy environment and next government are ready to meet and respond to the needs of a growing, vibrant, yet in some cases vulnerable, demographic of older adults.
- Increased visibility and credibility with parties, politicians and candidates. Strengthened ties with allied organizations and a cohesive, connected voice on the issues noted above.

• Objectives:

- Policy commitments
- Increased visibility
- Strengthened partnerships
- Enabling conversations
- Network of advocates
- Supporting future efforts
- Building better data

- 5-steps to branch Advocacy
- Make sure your voice is heard
- Spread the word
- Build momentum
- Get louder
- Deliver results

b. Quick Poll – Evans Estabrooks

Evans conducted a poll to find out who is using the services of our local partners.

Audiocorp: 10; Coast Tires and Auto Service: 5; Capital Home Watch: 0; Griffins Pub &

Eatery: 15; Schnittzel Parlour: 0; Guidecraft Print & Media: 0; Wine Kitiz: 14.

He asked for suggestions for other partners: lawyer and massage therapist.

c. Presentation of Long Service Pins – Megan Williams

Megan presented the following awards:

- Five years pins to Denise Blanchard, Norm Sheen and Rae Hopper

d. Nominations Committee Report and Elections – Cyril Theriault

This year there are 50% of the Board that are up for renewal.

President is up for renewal and he has agreed to let his name stand for President again.

Director whose terms are up: Evans Estabrooks, John Richards, Chris Goddard, Mike

McCormick, Ian Culligan and Elise Young. They all have agreed to let their name stand

for another term (two years). No nominations from the floor.

Cyrl declared these 6 people elected. Elliott is acclaimed for another term.

14. DRAW FOR EARLY REGISTRANTS AND DOOR PRIZES – NORM SHEEN

- Electronic Registration: \$50 gift certificate to Atlantic Superstore: Chris Goddard and Robert Murphy
- Early Registrants: Gloria Cooper and Jacques Piché
- Door prizes: Stan Parker, Lloyd Greene and Cécile Morin

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Recorded by:

Denise Blanchard

Denise Blanchard, Admin Director

Approved by:

Elliott Keizer

Elliott Keizer, President

