

## **NAFR York Branch Meeting (Zoom Video conference)**

**09:30 AM – 12:15 PM Tuesday March 2, 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:** Item 5(a) add District Meeting March 10. Approval moved by Sharon Carson, seconded by Joe.

**2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of January 5, 2021:** Approval moved by Tom, seconded by Marie.

**3. Action Items from the Minutes:** The President made comments on various items recorded in the Minutes.

### **4. Reports:**

**(a) President:** Fred made reference to a number of items contained in the Bulletins to Branches and expressed concern over the level of control being exercised by the National Office. The AMM virtual meeting went off smoothly with no resolutions with the September meeting possibly in person. Membership is down by 12K. National Office indicating members who have not renewed might be called but not definite who will do the calling. NAFR looking for volunteers to replace a number of National Board Members who are leaving or who have finished their terms. Revenue is down due to fewer members and partners. Expenses have also dropped with use of virtual meetings and fewer hotel bookings. Pharmacare voted down by parliament. A new advocacy person has come on strength. The publication You and Your Survivor has been reproduced and York Branch will get 50 copies. A new recruitment brochure is available. Fred expressed concern over governance and the role of Branches with the National Office changing Branch By-Laws.

**(b) Treasurer:** Tom circulated a Financial Statement, an Earnings and Loss Statement, the Bank Statement and a statement on Reserves prior to the meeting. After a brief review of the numbers the discussion focused on the level and disposition of surplus funds. Tom noted the Branch can retain two years of operating funds based on 2017 expenditures. Funds allocated to reserves are subject to a vote identifying how the Branch plans to spend and who gets to spend the funds. A facilities reserve cannot be set up while the Branch has access to free meeting space. Instead, an amount can be included in the budget if and when needed. Based on current expenditures and permitted reserves Tom moved that \$2,056 be returned to the National Office, seconded by Joe. To restructure the reserves Tom moved that the facilities reserve be closed and renamed the Training reserve, seconded by Joe.

**(c) Membership:** Tom reported that the Branch has 958 members down 7% from a year ago. One new double membership acquired since January 1<sup>st</sup>. There are 24 lost contacts.

**(d) Advocacy:** Sharon Carson noted the campaign end has resulted in a very quiet period. She noted there is a lack of understanding by members between Federal and Provincial responsibilities. Political parties appear to be preparing for a spring election by recruiting candidates, but a Federal election is not in the immediate future. It was therefore decided to defer discussion of election activities until April. Sharon also offered to provide further information on veterans; issues at a future Board meeting.

**(e) Website:** Frank would like Board members to review the site and provide comments and suggestions. Suitable photographs can be uploaded by National Office with a limit of 3. Fred offered to circulate the URL to members.

#### **4. On-Going Business:**

**(a) NAFR Policy on Recognizing and Compensating Branch Volunteers and Implications for Branch Operations:** Fred circulated the National Office policy which goes against the previous practice by the Branch of creating a fixed allowance to compensate volunteers for miscellaneous expenses and providing a subsidized meal to members. The policy requires an actual invoice or a detailed calculation for shared expenses i.e. internet use. After a discussion on how to move forward Tom offered to present questions to the National Office,

specifically Ted Young, who originated the policy, and other District boards on how to handle expenses especially when members are present.

**(b) AGM Preparation:** Fred noted the CV for the speaker is still outstanding. The SAGE announcement made, with an e-blast to go out. Marie to circulate a check sheet. Agenda, Minutes of 2020 meeting, Presidents Report and Financial Report along with any motions to be part of package. Tom and Fred to work on speaker slides. Information on Advocacy and Web Site may be added. Re: York Board elections: three directors' terms are up (Fred, Joe, Marie and the Branch President is elected every year.

**5. New Business:**

**(a) Federal Election 2021:** Covered above.

**(b) District Meeting March 10:** Nil

**6. Trends and Concerns Review:** Nil

**7. Next Board Meeting: 09:30 AM Tuesday April 6, 2021 (Video).**

**8. Adjournment:** Moved by Vasdev, seconded by Linda.