

Minutes of Annual General Meeting – National Association of Federal Retirees

Monday, April 26, 2021

Southern Alberta Branch No. 18

Meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 restrictions and called to order at 1:33 pm. The Quorum needed to have the AGM was 21 attendees which was met. The meeting was called to order by Richard CHEVRIER, President, who welcomed everyone. A Moment of Silence was held to honor all the members we'd lost over the past 2 years.

Approval of Agenda

M/S/C to approve the agenda for the Annual General Meeting of April 26, 2021.

MINUTES

M/S/C As there were no modifications, the minutes of the last AGM held April 26, 2019 were approved as presented.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: Nil

BRANCH REPORTS

- **President's Report (Richard CHEVRIER)** Richard presented a slideshow outlining the initiatives in which the Branch participated over the past two years. This included Advocacy and pre election initiatives as well as MP/MLA contacts. He also highlighted the changes that have occurred in terms of communication since the start of the pandemic and how COVID has impacted on how we currently do business and expectations for the future. It was reported that the Board of Directors continued to meet monthly via ZOOM and that the Branch has increased the use of national e-blasts, extra inserts in SAGE, and updating our local website to keep in touch with our members. As our office is housed in the Nord-Bridge Senior's Centre, access to the office has been limited to Directors necessitating the cancellation of our weekly officer hours. We are, however, still available through emails and by leaving phone messages. As soon as it is safe, we will reopen the office. If everything goes well, we are tentatively planning an 'in person' supper meeting in the fall. More details regarding the opening up of the office and the next members meeting will be forthcoming in the Fall Branch newsletter and on the Web Site.

Richard thanked all members of the Board and volunteers for their excellent work and dedication over the past 2 years. A special thank you was sent out to Gary DRAKE who is stepping down from the Board this year. As a member of the Board for 11 years, he has held key positions on the Board including President, Past President, Treasurer and member of the policy committee.

- **Membership** Total membership as of this date - 872. The membership has declined by 112 members since 2019 which has been attributed to relocations, natural attrition and members leaving the organization.

- **Finance (Gary DRAKE)** The 2019 and 2020 Financial Statements including Earnings/Losses were broadcast and explained.

The AGM also received, with explanation, the Board approved budget and Reserves for the current year, 2021.

M/S/C the Board approved financial statements for the year 2019 with a loss of \$1212.42 **were presented and unanimously accepted** at the 2021 AGM.

M/S/C the Board approved financial statements for the year 2020 with a profit of \$3178.11 **were presented and unanimously accepted** at the 2021 AGM.

M/S/C to set up a reserve for Succession Planning and Training, totalling \$6000.00 for the period of 2021 to 2024 (moved by Richard CHEVRIER and seconded by Dave COLBECK). This motion was voted upon by members attending that AGM and **unanimously approved**.

Advocacy (Maria FITZPATRICK) Maria presented a slideshow outlining the Advocacy team accomplishments over the last 2 years. Upon thanking members of the Advocacy Committee for all their work, Maria highlighted the 2019 initiative in which team members, Judy Cartwright, Richard Chevrier and Maria reached out to the 4 MPs in our catchment area via email, letters and phone calls. Subsequently Maria and Richard met two of the MPs to share our Association's four major priorities, assess their positions and to offer to be a conduit of information to and from our membership. As of yet, no MP has taken us up on this offer. Members of the Advocacy team also met with local MLAs to introduce and educate members on our association and discuss province specific issues.

Once the writ was dropped in 2019, Advocacy Team members Judy Cartwright, Richard Chevrier, Don Wikens and Maria met with all 5 candidates from the Lethbridge riding using this opportunity to highlight our Association's priorities and assessing their positions. All members were invited to and subsequently attended an "All Candidates Forum" hosted by our Branch. The Forum was a great success attended by more than 50 individuals. The Branch was awarded the 2019 National Advocacy as a result of this initiative.

As we entered 2020 we realized that a number of our member's memberships had lapsed. The Advocacy and Membership teams of Judy Cartwright, Doug Mullins and Maria undertook to contact members for which we had up-to-date information was available. It was discovered that seven members had not realized that their membership had lapsed and righted the situation. This gave us an opportunity as a board to discuss how we could possibly grow our membership. Unfortunately when COVID hit the membership initiative was put on the back burner until things get better.

In 2021, the Advocacy Team connected with other Alberta Branches concerning enshrining an independent Alberta Seniors Advocate in legislation. This developed into a discussion with District Officers and National staff which resulted in the initiation of a Provincial Campaign; a campaign which asked members to engage in a letter writing campaign to our MLAs. Initially, this campaign was just about the Branches reaching out to our MLAs. As a former MLA, the Advocacy Officer has experienced the power and impact of having many members contacting an MLA versus simple sending a letter from a single spokesperson when addressing an issue. Those attending the AGM were encouraged to make sure they participate if they hadn't already.

For the future the Advocacy Team expects to continue focussing on the Association's and Provincial mandates with expected future campaigns related to such issues/concerns as Long Term Care, Home Care and transfer of CPP funds to the province if such becomes necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

Election: (Gary OBERG)

The election call was made February 17, 2021 (Bylaw 6.1.3).

The following members seeking election are:

PRESIDENT: (2 yr term) Richard CHEVRIER

VICE-PRESIDENT: (3 yr term) Maria FITZPATRICK

TREASURER: (2 yr term) Don WICKENS

SECRETARY: (3 yr term) Anneke NYENHUIS

DIRECTORS: Sheila PESZAT (3 yr term), Dave COLBECK (2 yr term), Judy CARTWRIGHT (3 yr term), Doug MULLIN (2 yr term), Mike McCague (3 yr term), Gary OBERG (2 yr term)

Nominations from the floor were requested. As there were no further nominations, each person as presented on the slate were elected by acclamation.

The new Board of Directors is comprised as follows:

- President – Richard CHEVRIER,
- Vice-President – Maria FITZPATRICK
- Treasurer – Don WICKENS,
- Secretary – Anneke NYENHUIS.
- Directors:
 - Doug MULLIN

- Dave COLBECK
- Judy CARTWRIGHT
- Sheila PESZAT
- Gary OBERG
- Mike McCAGUE

THERE being no further business, adjournment was called at 2:35 pm.

Richard CHEVRIER, President

Anneke NYENHUIS, Secretary