

CALGARY BRANCH NEWSLETTER

President:

Marlene LaMontagne

1st Vice-President

Steve Harbicht

2nd Vice-President:

Vacant

Membership Secretary:

Pat Henderson

Treasurer:

Rob Pollard

Secretary:

Gabrielle Simpson

Volunteer Coordinator:

Sally Manchurek

Past President:

Gerry Thompson

Directors:

Lois Fisch

Willma Haney

Heather Thompson

Sally Manchurek

Gabriele Simpson

Rob Malcolm

Anne Prusakowski

Health Benefits Officer:

Steve Harbicht

National Director

Roy Goodall

Auditor:

Vacant

Presidents Report - Summer 2015

This past year has been a busy and productive one for our Branch as last year at this time we were in the middle of our “Honour Your Promise” campaign to which our members responded with such enthusiasm. Unfortunately, the Federal government carried on with their plans to change the subsidy of our PSHCP effective April 1st of this year. I would remind you that if you are in receipt of the Old Age Pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, there is a form available for you to apply for a reduction in your premiums. In the meantime, our National office is seeking to legally force the government to return to favorable rates for all of us. Another major issue for our Branch in particular was the decision at the 2014 National AGM last June to require each of the six branches across Canada who had Incorporated to change that status to conform with all of the other Branches. At our General meetings throughout the past year, we have kept our members up to date on the necessary steps we needed to take to dissolve the Corporation and resume carrying on as a Branch under the aegis of the national Corporation. This required a re-writing of our By-Laws in which we were assisted by Deborah Krause at a Regional Meeting held in Airdrie last October. Gerry Thompson, our Past President, continues to work on finalizing our new By-Laws which we will present at our September 25th General Meeting for discussion and, hopefully, your approval.

You may have noticed that we have changed our name from Federal Superannuates National Association to National Association of Federal Retirees, a decision made at the National AGM last June in Montreal. Along with that, our popular “On Guard” newspaper became the new and shiny “Sage” magazine and our familiar logo has developed a rainbow of colors.

In addition, Anne Prusakowski is being assisted by Ursula Thorn in updating our own local website while our National website is also being updated. Therefore, some members of our Board, Willma Haney, Gabrielle Simpson, and Anne Prusakowski attended an IT Training Session in Airdrie

on November 7, 2014 to learn how to operate the new “Walk Me” system which has been developed by our National Office to improve Relationship Management for all of our members across Canada. This training was supplemented by Web Casts which were available to all members of our Board who wished to participate. Also, a Web Cast was recently provided to update us on the Strategic Plan which was initially introduced at the 2012 National AGM held in Edmonton.

Our own General Meetings and Luncheons, always diligently organized by Lois Fisch with attention to every little detail, is where we have attempted to provide a platform for some of our Affinity Partners to make presentations so, on September 19, 2014, we featured Shelley Wark-Martyn who was responsible for Business Development Planning and Training for Chartwell Homes where NAFR members receive a discount if they decide to move in.

Supporting Veterans programs is a major priority for us and on November 11th, members of our Board were again present at the Military Museum in Calgary to lay a wreath on behalf of our members. We also make an annual donation to the Poppy Fund and we encourage members to bring food donations to our General Meetings for the Veterans Food Bank. In keeping with remembering veterans, on November 21, 2014, our featured speaker was Retired Warrant Officer Tex Leugner speaking on behalf of the Wounded Warriors organization.

Our Foothills Satellite Branch in Okotoks set an example for us to follow by inviting Monica Kilburn-Smith and Judy Butler to speak on the availability of Spiritual Care in the Hospice Society as well as Caroline Hart from the Calgary Co-operative Memorial Society. Since Gerry Thompson and I endeavor to support the work of our Satellite Branches, I was privileged to hear them speak and recommended them for our General Membership meeting and luncheon for February 20, 2015. We are grateful to Heather Thompson for her continuing support of the Canmore Satellite Branch and for her monitoring of Health in the News for us. Heather’s husband, Gordon Thompson, had been a valued member of our Board but he moved on to the National Finance Board and we can only thank him for his advice and support while we had the benefit of his knowledge.

It is with regret, that we need to part with our popular and long-time Treasurer, Dennis Day. He and his wife, Dianne, have been dedicated workers on behalf of our Branch in everything we undertook to do. He will be missed by our Board as he kept us on a sensible and responsible track with all of our financial planning. They will also be missed by our members coming to General Meetings and luncheons as they cheerfully checked everyone in at the door and supervised the 50/50 draws. For the sake of his health, Dennis is being forced to retire and we want to wish him and Dianne a happy and healthy future.

We are grateful to our Auditor, Rob Pollard, for stepping up and agreeing to become Treasurer for the coming year and to our former Auditor, Sateen Katarey, for stepping in to help with preparing our financial records. We are also grateful to our First Vice President, Steve Harbicht, for his help and advice when problems arise and to Pat Henderson for her continuing work of trying to convince all members to pay their dues through DDS.

We are immensely grateful to all of our volunteers who come into the office on a regular basis. We could not operate without you. Rob Malcolm and Sally Manchurak are busy planning a special recognition luncheon for all volunteers in November of 2015. In the meantime, we are planning another Volunteer Training Session in September of 2015. The last such training session was held in 2013 so we need to keep everyone on track with the duties we, as one of the largest Branches in the country, are responsible for.

We do expect another busy year ahead as we complete the dissolution of our status as an Incorporated Branch and continue providing service to our members as we return to operating in the same manner as all other Branches in our National Association. Personally, I feel honored to have the privilege of being President of this Branch and to be able to work with such a co-operative and caring Board of Directors. Thank you for that privilege.

Marlene LaMontagne, President, NAFR AB 16, Calgary and District

BRANCH EVENTS:

Notice of Special General Meetings - Calgary and District Branch

Two Special General Meetings are being scheduled to coincide with our fall and winter quarterly Luncheons on Sept 25, 2015 and November 20, 2015 respectively.

As we have been discussing with members the past six months, our Branch is taking steps to comply with a resolution passed at the National Association's Annual Meeting in June 2014. It requires the current six incorporated Branches to dissolve their corporate status and return to their Branch Charter status. We are one of the six incorporated Branches.

FSNA Calgary Branch was founded on December 31, 1964 when it was awarded a charter by the National Association. In 2007 our Branch became incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act. The intent was to allow the Branch greater flexibility to raise and/or borrow money to pursue the acquisition of a property to house our office and administrative records.

To proceed with returning to our charter status and dissolving our corporate status we will be asking members to vote on a series of motions at the September and November Special General meetings.

The purpose of the September meeting will be to pass a special resolution that will reactivate the original charter with a revised Branch name (National Association of Federal Retirees –Calgary and District Branch) and to function as an unincorporated part of the Association. Members will also be asked to pass a special resolution that will result in the adoption of new by-laws, and normal resolutions to elect/appoint a Board of Directors, and authorize funding transfers from the current corporate bank accounts to the new Branch unincorporated bank accounts.

The November meeting will deal with special resolutions to dissolve and wind down the corporation.

The intent is to make this a seamless transition so that members will not see any impact on their membership and benefits either nationally or at the Branch level.

All materials pertaining to these motions will be posted on our website www.fsnaab.ca or will be available if you call the office at 403-265-0773 or send an email to fsnocal@telus.net.

The meeting will commence at 10:30 A.M. at Fort Calgary, 750 9th Ave., S. E. Calgary, AB. RSVP by September 18, 2015 by calling 403-265-0773 or e mail fsnacalg@telusplanet.net.

The General Members Quarterly Lunch will follow at Noon at a cost of \$25.

Volunteer recognition awards

The Volunteer Recognition Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 Individual Volunteer Awards, who will be honoured at the Volunteer Recognition Dinner on June 26th in Ottawa.

Francis Bowkett has been awarded the **Claude Edwards Leadership Award** for his extraordinary contribution to the Association for close to twenty years. He was the founding father and first Branch President of the York Branch (1999) and also held several volunteer leadership roles at the regional and national levels, culminating in his appointment as First National Vice President for a three year term in 2004. He also served as Executive Director of the Association from 2007 to 2009. In 2012, he was recruited to lead the By-Law Review Committee through an extensive consultation process and revision process, ensuring the Association was in compliance with the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act by the October 2014 deadline.

Leslie Gaudette has been awarded the **Collaboration Award** for her tireless efforts and advocacy work, working in partnership with the Council of Senior Citizens Organization (COSCO) in promoting and educating issues pertinent to seniors and to members of our Association. With Leslie's knowledge of COSCO initiatives and the collaborative relationship she built with COSCO in her leading role, she has enabled our Association to have more influence at the provincial level and has expanded the Association's ability to influence federal MPs.

Roy Goodall has been awarded the **Volunteerism Award** for his commitment and dedication to not only our Association, but to other major organizations as well! Roy has held several leadership roles with the Kerby Centre in Calgary, the Canadian Club, Calgary Seniors' Resource Society, the Calgary Association of Life Long Learners and the Calgary Co-Operative Memorial Society. Roy worked tirelessly to encourage, to guide and to lead not only the Calgary Branch of our Association, but outside agencies to success.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are seeking volunteers to work in the Office which is open Monday to Friday 10:00am to 12:00 Noon. Duties include processing receipts for payment of membership fees, providing contact information for Pensions and Benefits, referrals to the HBO and following up on general membership inquiries. Call 403-265-0773 or send an email to fsnacal@telus.net if you can spare a few hours to assist the members.

Choice Hotels named company of the year by *Hotelier* magazine

One of our preferred partners was recently honoured by *Hotelier* Magazine's Pinnacle Awards. Choice Hotels Canada was named 2014 Company of the Year for its achievements in franchisee services, innovative practices, and commitment to expanding its network of high quality hotels across Canada.

How good pensions help keep your community afloat: Mayers

http://www.thestar.com/business/personal_finance/retirement/2015/03/30/how-good-pensions-help-keep-your-community-afloat-mayers.html

According to a study by the Boston Consulting Group : « Good pension plans support more than the people receiving the money. They support their neighbour and their communities in a big way [...]. The money they are paid is a huge economic energizer in the community where they live. The money they spend on groceries and restaurants, at the hardware store or taking yoga and fitness classes is greasing the local wheels.” A few of the study’s findings:

- In 2012, Canadian defined benefit plans paid out \$72 billion to 3.5 million pensioners.
- Most of this money is spent where they live.
- In Ontario, 7 per cent of all income in our towns and cities, or \$27 billion, is derived from defined benefit pensions.
- That \$27 billion generated \$3 billion in federal and provincial income tax, \$2 billion in sales taxes and \$1 billion in property tax on an annual basis.
- Seniors with defined benefit plans are confident consumers because the predictable income stream allows them to better plan their affairs.
- Defined benefit plans offer a broader social benefit, because people who get them rely less on benefits like the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) to the tune of \$2 to \$3 billion a year.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2016

For members who are **NOT** on **DDS** (Dues Deducted at Source)

Name _____ Spouse _____ Membership# _____

Address _____ Single \$38.28

Telephone# _____ Dual \$49.68

Email Address _____

Please return this form with your cheque or money order to:

National Association of Federal Retirees (AB 16)

Room 302, 1133 7th Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1B2

SEPTEMBER NAFR MEETING and LUNCHEON – Fort Calgary – *Please arrive at 10:00 am to be seated.*

- Date:** Friday, September 25, 2015 Special General meeting re the motions to dissolve our corporate status - commencing at 10:30am prior to the speaker.
- Location:** Fort Calgary, 750 - 9 Ave. SE, Calgary.
- Speaker:** Colleen Ruest the sales representative for Jamieson Laboratories
- Meal:** Buttermilk Scones with Butter
Tomato/Roasted Red Pepper Soup
Pork Tenderloin/Mushroom Ragout/Chef Potato & Vegetable
Plate of Assorted Dessert Squares and Tarts
Freshly Brewed Coffee & Tea

Remember to reserve a seat by calling the office at 403-265-0773 two to three weeks before the function. We have to pay for the number of meals ordered once we have committed to that number, therefore, if you cannot attend the luncheon, it is very important to please phone the office and cancel five days before the luncheon.

Speakers Bio: Colleen Ruest is a Territory Manager for Jamieson Laboratories and has worked for them for 10 years. She calls on all Pharmacies in the NE and NW of Calgary and all towns north of Calgary up to and including Red Deer. She has a 20 year background in the sales industry and does many Vitamin Clinics at pharmacies. She has a very strong passion for the Health and Wellness industry and a strong knowledge on the Vitamin Products.

*****Please remember our Veterans; food donations will be much appreciated.***

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:



Stuart McBride

Stuart McBride was born in Edmonton and spent his childhood on farms near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and south-east of Peace River, Alberta. He went to a one-room district school up to Grade 9. When he was fifteen years old, his father passed away and he quit school for a year to take over the farm. After a year he was able to return to school and continued farming to support himself and his mother. When he graduated in 1946, the universities were filled with people returned from World War II so he ended up farming and operating heavy equipment for the next eighteen years. In 1964 he decided to make a change so he sold the farm and took a job as a municipal secretary. He met and married Beverly in 1965 and they settled in Edmonton where he worked for Indian Affairs and attended night classes in accounting. In 1968 Stuart was transferred to Calgary and joined the National Parks Service. He achieved his Certified Management Accountant designation in 1972 and became a Budget Specialist and Financial Planner in the Western Regional Office in Calgary until he retired in 1992.

Stuart and Beverly have a married son and daughter and enjoy spending as much time as possible with them and six grandchildren. During the last 14 years, Stuart has served as a volunteer, Membership Secretary and Director with the Calgary Branch of the NAFR. He performs with the Confederation Park Senior's Chorus and plays clarinet and piano with the Confederates Jazz Band.