



BC 15 - Annual General Meeting 2021-March-08
Minutes
Held electronically by Zoom

President: Deb Nilsen	Vice President: Rose Bowker
Treasurer: Marian Muir	Secretary: Deb Tomlinson
Director at Large: Eileen Leinweber	Seniors Liaison: Marilyn Rayner
Historian:	Web, Members: Ben Wiebe
Regrets:	

Meeting called to order by: Deb Nilsen
Zoom Host: Rick Devlieger, BSC, Regional

Time: 1:07

Quorum: Yes, 15 members attending

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Member Introductions: Deb Nilsen welcomed members and guests and each attendee introduced themselves.

Guests: Rick Devlieger, BSC, Regional (host of Zoom meeting)
Leslie Gaudette, Advocacy Program Officer, B.C.
Brian Strongman, Director for District of B.C and Yukon
Randy Wilson, Director for District of B.C. and Yukon
Steve Sawchuk, BSC Fraser Valley West

AGENDA

Rick shared Agenda on screen.

Additions:

Marian would like to add addition to agenda under the Treasurer Report. Request to add "Motion to transfer excess contingency funds to reserve" just before heading 2021 Budget Forecast.

Motion to accept new agenda: Eileen Leinweber

Seconded: Marilyn Rayner

All were in favour.

PREVIOUS MINUTES - AGM – March 9, 2020

Rick shared previous AGM minutes of Mar 9, 2020 on screen.

Errors or omissions: No errors or omissions.

Motion to accept minutes of 2020 AGM: Marilyn Rayner

Seconded: Hennie Cook

All were in favour.

PRESIDENT'S BRANCH REPORT

(Highlights below. See full President's Report attached)

Mar 30'20 Annual Branch Report was sent to National on Mar 24'20. Due to Branch President resignation a Branch executive Zoom meeting was held Mar 30'20 to revise appointed officers. National office approved revised board.

May 28'20 Virtual meeting with Senior Minister Deb Schulte.

Jun 1'20 Eblast "Supporting Your Members." A reminder about stay-at-home orders due to Covid19.

Jun 10-14'20 NPSW. Posters went out. (Update in VP advocacy report.)

Jun 24'20 District Meeting by Zoom Update on National and Regional and how branches are doing.

Sep 25'20 Zoom Regional meeting regarding Reach 338 and upcoming Provincial Election.

Sep 25'20 Zoom meeting – COSCO (Council of Senior Citizens Organization) focusing on quality of life for seniors and support for long-term care workers.

Sep 28'20 Zoom meeting on Member Engagement Survey Results. The Covid19 pandemic was resulting in a loss of members with one reason being Medoc travel benefits. A mega recruitment drive, "Win Back Campaign", was started.

Oct 13'20 Zoom meeting with MP Todd Doherty – Cariboo PG riding. Meeting focused on national standards for senior care including home care, long-term care, and pharmacare.

Oct 16'20 Joint Zoom meeting with COSCO and BC election candidates focusing on long-term care, home care and pharmacare.

Oct 17'20 Letters sent to B.C. election candidates. (Update in VP advocacy report).

Nov 2'20 Zoom meeting with MP Bob Zimmer, PG-Peace River-Northern Rockies riding. Meeting focused on issues with senior care.

Nov 4'20 Meeting with MP Taylor Bachrach, Skeena-Bulkley Valley focusing on issues with senior care.

Nov 11'20 Wreath for Remembrance Day

Nov 16'20 Meet the Candidates virtual meeting set up as an opportunity for the branch presidents to meet the candidates who have been nominated to serve a three-year term on the National board.

Dec 2'20 AMM virtual meeting. Highlights: the strategic plan was reviewed; National office is working on hosting pre-retirement seminars with Global Affairs; discussions on extending Reach 338 Initiative.

Dec 15'20 District Regional meeting by Zoom. Highlights: surplus funds and reserves; recruitment; communication with members; and advocacy updates.

Feb 18'21 Zoom webinar on surplus funds and reserves. Attended by Deb Nilsen and Marian Muir.

Other Items of Note:

-You and Your Survivor booklet coming back and will be available soon.

-There have been issues with some members e-mails being blocked and National is working on this.

-No membership dues increase this year.

-There is the possibility of a federal election this year. If members are interested in working jobs during the election these would be posted on the Elections Canada website once the election is called.

-All Sage Reports are available on website.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Rick shared all financial reports on screen. Financial Reports: Balances, Earnings/Loss, Budget for 2021, and Reserves Motions Template.

(Reports are available on website)

Marian discussed each report. Highlights: amount in chequing is higher as lower expenses due to Covid19 pandemic; reserves set aside are for special events such as meet and greets with election candidates and for director travel to meetings for succession planning; stationery costs also include annual payment for software update; branch recruitment expense was for articles and banner in PG Matters for National Public Service Week. For 2020, the net income, (earnings), presented on the financial statement is \$1,485.08.

2020 Annual Report

Motion to accept 2020 financial statements as presented: Eileen Leinweber

Seconded: Rose Bowker

All were in favour.

Marian discussed the Reserves Motion Template:

Name & Amount	Define (To be used for)	Timeline (To be used when)	Justify Amount	Spending authority
Transfer \$1,612.71 from the Equipment Reserve to Training/Succession Planning. (originally passed in the 2019 year-end AGM, (but didn't have this form)	Training/Succession Planning Training is to be going to the National AMN for the vice president in preparation for succession	Originally to be used in 2020, but Covid-19 came, so expect 2021-22 if able	This is the amount left after the computer purchase. The price has gone down since the original reserve had been set up. We see no need to replace the computer or projector within the next 3 years.	If the amount is under \$1,000; the executive will approve, otherwise will go to National for approval
Transfer \$621,19 from Special Events to Training/Succession Planning. (originally passed in the 2019 year-end AGM, but didn't have this form)	Training/Succession Planning Training is to be going to the National AMN for the vice president in preparation for succession	The balance left in the Special Events account of \$1,198.81 is marked for 2021 for meet and greets with candidates for the federal election. Training/Succession planning: Originally to be used in 2020, but Covid-19 came, so expect 2021-22 if able	This reserve has been on the books for several years and not marked for any specific event. The total amount transferred will be used with the above to send a member to Ottawa for AMM with any extra for regional training travel.	If the amount is under \$1,000; the executive will approve, otherwise will go to National for approval

Motion to transfer excess contingency of 80.79 to Training/ Succession Planning.	Training/Succession Planning Training is to be going to other training sessions that require travel to cross train for succession.	To be used in 2021, if possible, otherwise 2022	The amount will increase the amount available to send a member to the Vancouver lower mainland for a training session.	If the amount is under \$1,000; the executive will approve, otherwise will go to National for approval
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Motion to transfer excess contingency of \$80.79 to Training/Succession Planning.

Motion to accept template and transfer to reserve as presented: Marilyn Rayner

Seconded: Hennie Cook.

All were in favour.

2021 Budget Forecast

Marian discussed budget amounts for 2021. The big unknown is how the Covid19 pandemic will affect the rest of this year. However, amounts have been allocated for hopeful face-to-face member meetings possibly in the fall.

Motion to accept 2021 budget as presented: Marian Muir

Seconded: Marilyn Rayner

All were in favour.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Highlights below. See full Vice President's Report attached)

June 2020 National Public Service Week

-On Jun 12'20 we recognized and honored current and previous federal employees by sending out posters designed by National Office to 10 federal employers. The poster also highlighted membership awareness and our local branch.

-A standout article and banner ad recognizing federal and other public service workers was also prepared for PG Matters.com which went live on Jun 15'20. This article featured an interview with President, Deb Nilsen and can be viewed at <https://www.princegeorgematters.com/standout/national-organization-urges-canadians-to-celebrate-public-servants-2436231>.

We hope to use the venue of PG Matters.com again this year for National Public Service Week and highlight our current strategic plan goals.

Advocacy Report

2020 was a challenging year with pandemic restrictions. Meetings were held virtually and correspondence was electronic.

-Reach 338 is our national strategy to ensure that the National Association of Federal Retirees, our members and our key priorities are seen and understood by every single Member of Parliament in all 338 constituencies across Canada. Our branch was selected as one of the first 75 branches to participate and implement this strategy.

The 3 main goals of the strategy are:

- 1) To advocate in the best interest of our members and seek to be recognized as a respected national voice supporting secure, healthy and dignified retirement for federal retirees and all Canadians;
- 2) To promote membership retention and growth;
- 3) To pursue organizational excellence at all levels of the Association.

Reach 338 Federal Advocacy

Three members of the board attended the virtual sessions with MPs with Deb Nilsen being the delegated speaker. The meetings were hosted by Rick Devlieger, one of our Regional Branch Service Coordinators.

Oct 13'20 – the Honorable Todd Doherty, MP, Cariboo - Prince George.

Nov 2'20 – the Honorable Bob Zimmer, MP, Prince George - Northern Rockies.

Nov 4'20 – the Honorable Taylor Bachrach, MP, Skeena – Bulkley Valley

These meetings focused on our long-term care and home care issues. All MPs were receptive to the messaging. Two of the meetings were recorded and posted to our website and the meeting with MP Taylor Bachrach is available upon request by emailing nafr@shaw.ca. Thank you letters along with National Office key messages and MP briefing booklet was sent to candidates.

Our Branch completed our current portion of initiative.

Reach 338 Provincial Advocacy

-National Office initiated a BC Provincial letter campaign to highlight our organization and its current key priority of older adult care.

Oct 16'20 – Introductory letters sent to 18 candidates from 3 parties in our branch boundaries. The publication from National office “Transforming health care in BC” was attached.

Jan 11'21 – Congratulation letters sent to the 8 successful candidates with publication reattached.

-One of the MLA's, John Rustad, requested research on other health care regimes that were significantly better than BC and Canada. National office assisted with response and this was provided to the MLA on Feb 8'21.

Bounce Back Program Covid 19

-This was a virtual presentation hosted by Branch #04. A Bounce Back Coach with the Canadian Mental Health Association delivered a presentation on “Coping with Covid” using the Bounce Back program which was designed for people experiencing side effects from the isolation of Covid.

-There are 3 ways to access the Bounce Back Program in BC which consist of: Bounce Back Coaching; Bounce Back Online; and Bounce Back Video.

-This information will be posted on our website after the AGM.

Other Items of Note:

-National Seniors Day is Oct 1. We are hoping to host a Senior's Coffee day, however, this will depend on Covid restrictions.

-Membership renewals. There are forms available on National website to have fees deducted from pension cheques if a member wishes to do so.

-In a recent article in Hill Times Research, NAFR was ranked among the top 50 organizations lobbying on health for seniors.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Historian Report:

Doug Howarth has been unable to carry on as our Historian. The information has been picked up and we are now looking for a volunteer to carry on this role.

Web Report:

Delivered by Ben Wiebe our webmaster.

-Ben discussed his role of updating website. All postings must be approved by our National office.

Senior's Liaison Report:

(Highlights below. Full report available attached)

Delivered by Marilyn Rayner who is on the Seniors Liaison Advisory Committee (SLAC) to the Board of the Prince George Council of Seniors (PGCOS).

-The primary directive of SLAC is to ensure effective communication between committee members and the Prince George Council of Seniors (PGCOS) Board of Directors.

-The key responsibilities of the SLAC are to identify areas of concern for seniors in order to provide recommendations to the PGCOS Board for governmental or advocacy action.

Some issues of last year were: poverty reduction, long term care, impact of visiting restrictions on long term care.

The group meets the 1st Wednesday of each month and have been meeting by Zoom this past year.

GUEST SPEAKER

Leslie Gaudette, Advocacy Program Officer, BC

-Leslie is the Advocacy Program Officer for 15 branches and acts as a liaison between branches and National office. This past year she has been active with the B.C. Provincial campaign and Reach 338 initiatives.

-Leslie commended the PG Branch for its work in reaching MP's and MLA's and promoting our strategic goals. She stressed the importance for seniors to have a voice. She was pleased the Branch has an active liaison with PGCOS.

-Leslie discussed the Reach 338 initiative. The promoting of more care at home help for seniors has shown to be invaluable with seniors being restricted in long term care settings due to Covid.

-Leslie discussed some upcoming focuses such as a possible federal election and the Covid19 vaccination rollout.

-Leslie again thanked the PG Branch for completing its advocacy initiatives.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrative Boundaries

Deb Nilsen will be in touch with Brian Strongman on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

Dates for 2021 General Meetings: June 7th (to be held by Zoom), September 13th. December 13th. (Time and place for September 13th and December 13th will depend on protocols due to Covid19.)

ELECTION OF 2021 EXECUTIVE

By-law 5.1.1 requires a minimum of three (3) directors and no more than seven (7) members.

Nominations from nomination representative – Hennie Cook:

Hennie Cook provided names for directors:

Ben Wiebe

Deb Nilsen

Deb Tomlinson

Eileen Leinweber

Marilyn Rayner

Marian Muir

Rose Bowker

Hennie asked for nominations from the floor (3 times as required): There were no nominations from the floor.

Nominations were closed. The above 7 members were elected by acclamation.

New Board of Directors: Ben Wiebe, Deb Nilsen, Deb Tomlinson, Eileen Leinweber, Marilyn Rayner, Marian Muir, Rose Bowker. The directors will meet in a separate meeting to assign their roles.

In Remembrance

Deb Nilsen read out the following names of members who have passed away: Larry Allen, Virginia Archibald, David Croft, Donald McLarty, Robert Kreitz and Wheeler Perry. Names of our members who have passed are submitted to national office for publication in the Sage magazine.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS:

Randy Wilson, Director for District of B.C. and Yukon

Randy mentioned a query pertaining to Medoc. A member and the spouse of a member are eligible to sign up for Medoc, (the spouse does not need to be a member). He thanked Leslie Gaudette for her work as the BC Advocacy Program Officer and the PG Branch for its continued work with National office.

Steve Sawchuk, BSC, Fraser Valley West.

Steve mentioned that he is available anytime to help or attend meetings as an observer.

Brian Strongman, Director for District of B.C and Yukon

Brian asked if it would be helpful to have a virtual district conference Chilliwack meeting. Deb Nilsen felt that all meetings are helpful in assisting Branches.

Deb Nilsen thanked Rick Devlieger for looking after our Zoom meetings.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

National Association of Federal Retirees Website: www.federalretirees.ca

Branch Email: nafr@shaw.ca

COVID19 Resources

Phone resources:

- 1-800-COVID19 (268-4319). To call for COVID-19 information and the latest news.
- 1-604-630-0300. To text for COVID-19 information and the latest news.
- 811 – HealthLink BC. To call to report possible COVID-19 symptoms/request a test.
- 211 – Seniors Support Network. To call to connect seniors to volunteers willing to help (ex. For buying groceries)
- 911 – For emergencies requiring urgent assistance of first responders only.

Online resources:

- BC COVID-19 Support. Phone App available on iPhone, Android, and Web Browser.

<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19app>

This application “Provides the latest updates and recommendations from trusted experts”.

- BC Centre for Disease Control. <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

Within this resource link, “find information about COVID-19, how to protect yourself, your family and your community and what to do if you suspect you have the virus”.

- COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool. <https://ca.thrive.health/covid19/en>

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:36 pm.