



## Minutes of Annual Members' Meeting – National Association of Federal Retirees

Monday, April 25, 2022 (in person)

### Southern Alberta Branch No. 18

1. This meeting was held in person and called to order at 12:25 pm by President, Richard CHEVRIER, who welcomed everyone. A Moment of Silence was held to honor all the members whom we've lost over the past year.

#### Approval of Agenda

**It was agreed by consensus** to approve the agenda as outlined verbally for this meeting.

#### Approval of Minutes

**It was agreed by consensus** the minutes of the Annual Members' meeting of April 26, 2021 be accepted as presented.

#### 2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: Nil

#### 3. BRANCH REPORTS (via slide presentation):

- **Finance (Don WICKENS)** As per Bylaw 8.1.2 the reviewed financial records for the previous year, the budget for the current year, and the forecast for the next fiscal year were presented. The year-end financials for 2021 are: Chequing - \$16,097.53, 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Membership - \$235.55 for a total of \$16,333.08.
- The operating budget for 2022 was completed and approved by the Board of Directors. There is an estimated income of \$6100.00 for 2022 (quarterly remittance).
- The anticipated operating expenses for 2022 were presented to the members. There is a projected loss of \$4470.00 for the year. Such a loss over time is unsustainable, however, as a Not-For-Profit under the Canada Corporations Act, the Canada Revenue Agency normally expects a Not-For-Profit to have operating capital of approximately 1 year's expenses. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our income after expenses is considerably over what would normally be expected. The 2023 Operating budget should be similar with the exception that phone/internet charges should increase by \$52/month as the incentive contract expires in November, 2022. Postage should be much less and same may be said for Office Supplies as the current stock should last several years. Regional/District/National meeting expenses will be revisited in November, 2022 with decisions to be made based on this year and wishes for next year. Overall, it is anticipated next year's budget should be much closer to being balanced.
- Bylaw 9.6 – The Branch's previous Bylaw 9.6 required changing contingent on changes made by National office. The change will give the Branch Board equal control and responsibility for all of the Branch finances. A motion was proposed and passed at the January 10, 2022 Board of Directors' meeting which will bring our bylaws in line with National. This change requires ratification at this AMM.

**Don WICKENS moved** that current bylaw Sections 9.6, 9.6.1, and 9.6.2 be repealed in their entirety and replaced as follows: "9.6 *Branch Reserve Funds.* The Branch Board of Directors may establish and manage Reserves in accordance with National Regulations." **Seconded by** Pattie van den BERGHE. **Carried**

- At the 2021 special meeting of members on September 15, 2021, a resolution was passed to amend Regulation 4.3 to give branches the same latitude as the National Board for dealing with their financial reserves. However, it was later determined the wording of the Regulation was incomplete, as the requirement for branches to get their reserves approved by the members at an Annual General Meeting remained. The National Board therefore amended Regulation 4.3 at its November 10, 2021 web meeting to address the oversight. It will therefore require a vote by the electors at an Annual Meeting of Members to be ratified.

**Don WICKENS moved** that the 2022 Reserves Template be approved (as presented). **Seconded by** Shirley HILL. **Carried**

- As per Bylaw 8.1.2: At every Branch Annual Meeting, the members assembled shall approve a Reviewer for the current financial (calendar) year. The Reviewer shall NOT be a member of the Branch Board.

**Don WICKENS moved** that Pattie van den BERGHE be approved as the reviewer for the current financial (calendar) year. **Seconded by** Sheila PESZAT. **Carried**

### **Advocacy (Maria FITZPATRICK) –**

- The Branch Advocacy outreach events included:
  - a) Podcast with Federal Candidates – Candidates were invited to participate and offered a variety of dates of times, and a list of questions that would be asked. The podcasts were then set up both in person and via Zoom. Three candidates participated and three did not, including our current MP.
  - b) Podcast with Regional Director Prairies & Northwest Territories (Rick BRICK) – this podcast was successfully completed on March 25, 2022 and will be posted on our Branch website for those that missed it. 74,000 people tuned in for the podcast on Facebook, YouTube, and internet radio and television.
  - c) Advocated for the reinstatement of an Independent Provincial Seniors Advocate – The Regional Director has taken on the lead for this work. Information has been sent out to each of the NAFR branches in Alberta. We are hoping to develop a method in which we can reach out to the membership to support this initiative.

### **Office Administration (Sheila PESZAT) –**

- Our Branch has maintained an office at Nord-Bridge Senior Centre for well over 25 years. We have assisted many members in guiding them to where they needed to go to get answers to their specific questions or concerns. For legal reasons, we are not allowed to offer advice or actually do things on their behalf. We can only direct them where to find their answers. Our office has, unfortunately, not been open since the start of the pandemic, however, Board members routinely go into the office and check for telephone messages and emails.
- Nord-Bridge management asked if we would be willing to move our office to another location in the Centre as they wanted our office for other uses. Our new office is larger and affords opportunity for more people to be in the room.
- Once we re-open our office for in person visits, a Board member is the person who usually mans the office. Notwithstanding, should any other member be interested in helping us out in this regard, we would be most appreciative. We would provide guidance as to the responsibilities that would be carried out.
- When it re-opens, our office hours will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

### **Membership (Judy CARTWRIGHT):**

- Our membership numbers have been decreasing steadily since the beginning of the pandemic in March, 2020. There were 946 members in March 2020, 872 in April 2021, and 840 as of April 2022. The loss of membership can be attributed to: death, transfers to other Branches, COVID-19 travel restrictions. We did, however, gain 30 newly joined members. Many members who had paid their dues before, dropped out due to travel restrictions as their main reason for becoming a member was for the Medoc travel insurance. As travel restrictions ease, we hope to see our membership #'s rising. Our membership 'picture' is not unique, as Branches across Canada have noted decreases in numbers.
- SAGE magazine: the Fall issue with a submission deadline of July 8 will include events from September 2 – December 10, 2022. The Winter issue with a submission deadline of October 6 will include events from December 2, 2022 – March 15, 2023.

### **President (Richard CHEVRIER):**

- Given the decreasing number of members over the past years, the president highlighted the many benefits of NAFR membership and encouraged attending members to reach out to past and current serving Federal employees and lapsed members to ask them to consider joining/rejoining NAFR.
- As we have yet to establish regular office hours, members were reminded that they can, in emergencies, contact the president at his home phone number. Number was provided.
- NAFR Branch #18 currently has an open space on the BOD, and attendees were asked to consider becoming more involved in the association by becoming a Board member. For those who would like to help but not get involved at the level of a Board member, they were encouraged to become a "friend of the Board" where the support they supply depends on how much time they wish to contribute and the type of initiatives in which they wish to participate.
- Recognizing how important it is that our Branch keep in touch with our members, the methods by which we keep in touch with them were highlighted. This included SAGE inserts, email Blasts, Pod Casts, meet and greets, open meetings and telephone contact with those who do not have emails. As the Branch regularly updates its Branch Web page, members were encouraged to make a visit to our site a regular routine. This will allow us to ensure our members are kept abreast of what is happening at the Branch, District and at National level. They were also asked to take some time to explore the wonderful NAFR national web site to benefit from the educational and informational presentations.



4. **New Business** – 2 Presentations were made by Richard CHEVRIER: 1) Thank you to Gary DRAKE, a former Board Director who had held many Executive positions during his tenure with Branch #18. 2) Branch President commendation/certificate to Judy CARTWRIGHT for her many hours of volunteerism on the Board and her exemplary effort during the 2019 Federal Election Campaign.

**Adjournment:** 1:45 pm.

---

Richard CHEVRIER, President

---

Anneke NYENHUIS, Secretary