

**Branch Board Meeting Minutes
John's Restaurant
June 8, 2022**

Branch web site <https://www.federalretirees.ca/Bluewater>

Present -

President - Laurie Lachapelle
Vice President / Advocacy - Gloria Cayea
Treasurer - Diane Kerr
Director of Membership - Bill Mason
Outreach Coordinator - Pat Mason
IT and Web Site Coordinator - Doug Kerr
Secretary - Robert Jackson

Regrets -

Member at Large - Murray Lester

President Laurie Lachapelle opened the meeting at 12:00 pm.

The meeting began with an overview discussion of the latest Ontario District Meeting and the upcoming Annual Meeting of Members. Laurie noted some 10 or so of the largest NAFR branches have the vast majority of members, therefore there is discussion and study respecting whether their Presidents' votes should be weighted in comparison to those of the much more numerous but considerably smaller branch (roughly 70) Presidents.

Laurie noted the resignation of our Treasurer leaves the position vacant. **Bill** put forward a motion nominating **Diane Kerr** to a one year appointment in accordance with the Branch By-Laws. **Gloria** seconded the motion. Motion carried by a show of hands.

Lawrie lead a wide-ranging discussion on governance, volunteer support and development, membership and recruitment, advocacy, information sharing and financial management.

Gloria noted the entire Board's term (excluding the President) expires at next year's AGM. We should explore amalgamation with other branches as an option of the last resort should Board recruitment initiatives fail. In addition the Treasurer's position should have a job shadower if there is to be a successful transition next spring.

Diane explained the Branch's three reserve funds.

Gloria stated it should be doable to hold an all-candidates town-hall to discuss seniors'/NAFR issues during the next federal or provincial election. In addition, area MPs or MPPs could be invited to our General Meetings to discuss these issues.

General consensus was reached on the following :

- Invite CCG Alumni Association members to our annual Christmas meeting as a recruitment strategy
- Arrange for a recruitment boat tour event, potentially in August
- Seek recruitment opportunities during Public Service Week events
- Since the Board is heavily weighted with former members of the Coast Guard, involve/recruit people from other organizations (largely the Post Office, CBS, and the RCMP in the case of Sarnia)
- Partner with another organization, e.g. the Ontario Health Coalition
- Conduct a member survey to determine issues/needs members expect the Branch to champion/fulfill. This survey will be electronic at first, expanded to those requiring paper copy at a later

date, depending on the success of the electronic version.
Lawrie and Doug will work on this initiative.

Other business:

Lawrie will contact Chris Hawksworth re securing the Branch computer and Post Office key

Lawrie will inform the Branch's bank that Diane is the Branch Treasurer

Pat and Gloria will look into venues for our September meeting and report back to the Board in July.

The next meeting of the Board will be in July, venue and date to be determined.

Other upcoming meetings are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- September 7/22 Branch Board
- September 21/22 General Meeting
- November 2/22 Branch Board
- November 23/22 Annual Christmas Meeting
- February 1/23. Branch Board
- February 22/23. General Meeting
- April 5/23. Branch Board
- April 19/23. Annual General Meeting

The meeting adjourned on a motion by **Doug**.