

Branch Board Meeting Minutes Huron Oaks July 20, 2022

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

Present -

President - Lawrie Lachapelle
Treasurer - Diane Kerr
Director of Membership - Bill Mason
Outreach Coordinator - Pat Mason
IT and Web Site Coordinator - Doug Kerr
Member at Large - Murray Lester
Secretary - Robert Jackson

Regrets -

Vice President / Advocacy - Gloria Cayea
Past President - Chris Hawksworth

President Lawrie Lachapelle opened the meeting at 12:15pm.

The minutes of the June 8, 2022, Branch Board meeting were tabled and subsequently approved on a motion by **Doug** seconded by **Murray**. Motion carried.

Diane presented the Treasurer's report, providing an update of the Branch finances. A discussion ensued concerning the need for extending the Branch's Zoom licence. A motion to cancel renewal of the Zoom licence was tabled by **Doug**, seconded by **Murray**. Motion carried.

Lawrie will contact **Chris** to arrange pickup of the Branch president's computer.

Bill presented the membership update. Since the last report two new members have transferred to the Branch, and one person is deceased. Currently there are 506 members according to CRM.

Lawrie gave an advocacy update, noting he attended an Advocacy Workshop at the recent national AMM (**A**nnual **M**eeting of **M**embers). **Lawrie** gave an overview on internal (promotion of NAFR membership) and external (promoting NAFR objectives) advocacy.

To promote membership in NAFR, **Lawrie** proposes to meet with Deb Hicks of Fisheries and Oceans; with Jamie Forsythe of the Coast Guard alumni. **Lawrie** also emphasized the need to develop contacts with other Bluewater-based federal government departments and eligible agencies.

Lawrie will be contacting National Office to see if additional NAFR and NAFR Partner promotional materials (e.g. reusable shopping bags, pens, pins, notebooks, etc) might be made available for use when promoting NAFR membership and/or as door prizes during meetings.

Pat gave an update on the August Duc d'Orleans II cruise. To date 29 members have expressed an interest, and 17 have pre-paid. The event will be advertised in the Observer and Sarnia This Week newspapers.

Pat noted the venue for the September members meeting has been chosen. The meeting will be held at the Forest Golf and Country Hotel. **Gloria** is working with the facility to have a choice of three menu items. In addition, **Gloria** is arranging for a guest speaker from the pharmaceutical industry. Meal costs of the meeting will not be subsidized by Bluewater Branch.

Lawrie tabled a survey from Bruce Challis, Western Ontario Branch Services Coordinator, concerning the health of the Branch. Three categories were given, "healthy"; "struggling" ; or "at risk of folding". After discussion the Board rated the Branch as falling under the "struggling" category of the survey. The principal rea-

sons being the challenges of recruiting newly retired persons, and the challenge of attracting replacement Board members.

Other business discussed includes:

- **Lawrie** and **Doug** continue to work on a members survey;
- A core function survey is expected from National Office. It will be sent to each Branch and to select volunteers;
- **Lawrie** will provide a President's update for the website;
- **Gloria** and **Pat** will book the venues for Board meetings; and
- Board members are invited to express their interest in joining the president while meeting with Deb Hicks and/or Jamie Forsythe.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned on a motion by **Murray**, seconded by **Diane**. Motion carried.