

# BRANCH REPORT

## NL87 | Avalon-Burin Peninsula Branch

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### MEMBERSHIP

The National Association of Federal Retirees, or commonly **Federal Retirees**, is the largest organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and retired federally appointed judges, as well as their partners and survivors.

**We believe every Canadian today and in the future should benefit from better retirement income security and a strong, sustainable health care system.**

With your support, we can make retirement better for all Canadians.

### President's Message

To: All members Avalon - Burin Peninsula Branch NL87

At this time of the year, we all look back on the last 12 months and reflect on what has been accomplished.



Since taking over as president following the March 16 Annual Members Meeting, it has been a busy nine months.

I have chaired five Board and five General meetings as president. Also, I had the opportunity to attend the District Meeting in Dartmouth and the National Meeting in Gatineau held earlier this year. Getting to these meetings provides an excellent opportunity to see what other branches are doing and enables us to evaluate our own activities in relation to them. In addition, we had an afternoon social, a barbeque and dance and our annual Christmas Dinner and Dance.

Our membership has fluctuated. Since Dec 2017 our numbers dropped from 2118 to 2049 at the end of 2021. However, they have rebounded. The latest figures as of November 17 indicate 2130 members. One hundred thirty-three members joined in 2022, 24 in the last month. This year has seen the second largest annual growth since such statistics have been kept. Let's keep up the good work.

Membership recruitment and retention is an ongoing important task as our organization is an aging one and we require new members who are near retirement or retired to help keep the organization strong. As a federal employee or retiree, you're already part of something big - a commitment to serve Canadians. We need your help to defend federal pensions and benefits and to build a better retirement for all Canadians. NAFR



**BOARD AND VOLUNTEER LISTINGS**

Richard Sparkes	President 745-4517
Leo O'Brien	Vice President & RCMP
Frank Mackey	Treasurer
Elaine Hillier	Secretary
Walter Combden	Past President
<b>Directors</b>	
Joanne Morrissey	Conception Bay North
John Baker	Burin Peninsula
Leo O'Brien	RCMP
Brian Briffett	Recruitment & Retention
Steve Boulos	Information Technology
Val Linehan	Canadian Forces & CRM
Bonnie Fox	Communications



efforts dating back to 1970 in advocating for pension indexing is reflected in the recent announcement that our pensions have been increased by 6.2% for 2023 to reflect the increase in the cost of living.

Your membership in NAFR ensures that you are part of a large and dedicated organization that is looking out for you. Maintain your membership, attend our general meetings and social events. Encourage others who are eligible, to join us. Our strength is in our numbers.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Avalon-Burin Branch 87 whose valuable knowledge and assistance make my job a lot easier, I would like to extend Holiday Greetings to all members and those close to you during the upcoming festive season. May 2023 be a happy and prosperous New Year.

Stay safe.

Richard Sparkes  
President Avalon–Burin Branch 87

**GOVERNANCE**

There have been several changes this year within our Board membership. Vice-President Richard Sparkes has now assumed the position of President. Director Leo O'Brien has now assumed the position of Vice-President.

Joanne Morrissey has been appointed to the position of Director representing Conception Bay North and Advocacy Liason (see more below). One of the longest serving members on the Board, Joyce Owers, our Director responsible for Telephone and CRM, has resigned. With the appointment of Val Linehan as Director representing the Canadian Forces and CRM, we again have a full Board with no vacancies.

We wish to thank Joyce for her many years of volunteer service to the Branch.

The current Branch Board members are in place until the next AGM in March 2023.





Branch Board 2022-23: L-R Joanne Morrissey, Steve Boulos, Frank Mackey, Leo O'Brien, Bonnie Fox, Brian Briffett, Richard Sparkes.

Missing from photo: Val Linehan, John Baker, Elaine Hillier, Walter Combden



## MEETINGS

After a long absence due to COVID restrictions, we resumed in-person meetings in 2022 starting with the AGM in March.

We have also resumed in-person Branch Board meetings as scheduled. The Board meets the week prior to each members meeting at Safety NL. We continue to use ZOOM technology for virtual committee meetings and plan to hold a hybrid members meeting in 2023 combining virtual and in-person attendance. You'll hear more about this in the coming months.

## ADVOCACY - Joanne Morrissey

NAFR has been a strong advocate for financial security, health and well being for members for 58 years. I am your Advocacy Director for the Avalon-Burin branch and I will advocate on your behalf on issues that are important for retirees and all seniors in Canada.

I believe that there is strength in numbers and that every public service retiree should be a member of the NAFR.

I will continue to recruit new members, advocate on issues of importance and build and strengthen our membership.



**SOCIAL ACIVITIES**

With the lifting of most COVID restrictions, we were able to hold our annual BBQ and dance in September. As expected, the turnout was a little lower than in previous years but the new location at the Freemasons Hall, food and entertainment were well received by all those that attended.

Earlier this month, we also held our annual Christmas Dinner and Dance at the Legion. A large number of people attended to rekindle old friendships and spend an evening of good food, music and dance.

