

BRANCH REPORT

ON36 | Bluewater

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MEMBERSHIP

The National Association of Federal Retirees, or commonly Federal Retirees, is the largest national advocacy 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

As I write this, we are enduring the massive winter storm that has affected so many people across North America. I hope that you have been able to stay warm and safe, and enjoy the season even if you have had to adjust your plans.

Our Branch needs to start planning for 2023. Building on 2022, we plan to hold several social activities in addition to our spring meeting and our Annual General Meeting in March. If you were able to attend our Christmas Luncheon on November 30th, you might recall that Lawn Bowling was being proposed. Indoor bowling and a golf day have also been suggested.

In my first “President’s Message” in June, I identified three items that I had learned since having been elected as your president. Two of those were:

- the importance of membership in influencing issues of importance to the Association; and
- the importance of Volunteers to lead our Branch.

These issues remain a priority for our Branch, as well as the Association. I ask that you assist our Branch to increase our numbers by promoting membership in the Association and inviting potential members to Branch events. I also ask that you consider “Volunteering” in one of the Board positions. With the exception of myself, all of our Executive will be reaching the end of their term in 2023.

Looking ahead, the National Board of Directors will be considering important issues related to the Association’s branches – Branch Restructuring and Branch Financing. Updates on these issues will be available through all the communication tools used by the Association.

Speaking of communication, I want to again encourage 2-way communication by Branch members. Your Board wants to provide the best possible service to Branch members, and your input will help us to do so.

Lawrie Lachapelle

Branch President

PARTNER BANNER



Treasurer's Report

My quote for this issue: "No Act of Kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted". (Aesop)

Here we are in 2023. Covid is still around so stay healthy by practicing good health measures.

Our finances are in good shape. We have several events planned for this year and our new Budget will take that into consideration. We look forward to seeing all our members and potential members at these events.

REMEMBER our AGM is in March and our Branch is looking for a New Treasurer! Contact me if you have any desire to try this position out.

Diane Kerr

Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Here we are in March 2023. The worst of the Covid-19 pandemic is our rear view mirror. Let's try and keep it that way by still practicing good health measures like keeping a safe distance and masking up in close proximity situations as well as vaccination shots!

Our Branch membership is still around 500 members. Once again, I ask that if you know of any Federal retiree or potential retiree please let them know about our Association or have them contact any member of the Branch executive for further information. Phone numbers for the executive can be found on the last page of this insert. Information can also be found on the "Federalretirees.ca" web site as well.

Membership renewal for DDS (Direct Deduction from Source) has been raised to a monthly payment of \$4.38 for Single and \$5.69 for double. For those that pay annually it will be \$52.56 for singles, and \$68.28 for double memberships. This represents approximately 2.5% increase after holding the renewal fee the same for the last three years.

GOOD NEWS for 2023.

1. Pension index rate for 2023, is 6.3%
2. The Public Service Health Care Plan renewal with Canada Life also comes into effect on July 1, 2023 with increased benefits.

Please check the "Federalretirees.ca" web site for more information.

I hope you and your family stay safe and healthy in 2023! Hopefully we can look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our upcoming luncheon meetings in 2023!!

Bill Mason

Membership Chairperson

Web Site and Information Technology Report

Please be sure the Retirees' Association have your correct email address. It will enable your Branch and the National Association to contact you quickly and efficiently.

Your Retirees' Association will always respect your privacy; we never rent, sell or share your information with any other organization. Period.

Your Communication Preferences can be set by logging in to "My Account" from the Branch web site, or by clicking on the "Communication Preferences" link found at the bottom of all official emails. "Unsubscribe" will remove you from all electronic communications. I and National Office would be glad to help with this if you like.

Please email bluewaterbranch@federalretirees.ca with comments you may have re our Branch web site. Your input will help make it a better and more useful site.

Doug Kerr

IT and Web Site Coordinator

Outreach Coordinator

Here is what your Branch Board currently has planned for year 2023. Any comments welcomed.

- March 23rd - fun bowling day
- The Bluewater Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 29th, 2023.
- June - fun lawn bowling day
- August - fun golf day

Details will follow closer to the event.

Pat Mason

Outreach Coordinator

In Memoriam Notices

- Don Urry

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Bluewater Branch Executive requests nominations for the following Executive positions which are up for renewal at the next AGM. For more information contact Lawrie Lachapelle at (226) 886 6599.

- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Director of Membership

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 23rd - fun bowling day
- March 29th AGM
- June - fun lawn bowling day
- August - fun golf day

Details will follow closer to the events.

Executive, (Elected)

President – Lawrie Lachapelle, (226) 886 6599
| bluewaterbranch@federalretirees.ca

Vice-president - Looking for a volunteer

Treasurer - Looking for a volunteer

Director of membership - Bill Mason, 519-869-8872
| fsna.bluewater@gmail.com

Board Members, (appointed by the Board)

Past president - Chris Hawksworth,

Secretary - Bob Jackson, 519-383-6568

Volunteer recruitment and engagement director – Lawrie Lachapelle

Program coordinator - Looking for a volunteer

Advocacy - Looking for a volunteer

Outreach coordinator - Pat Mason, 519-869-8872

IT and Web site coordinator - Doug Kerr, 519-869-8824

Member at large - Murray Lester, 519-481-0385

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