

**NAFR – Fredericton and District Branch (NB62)**

**Zoom Annual General Meeting**

**May 3rd, 2022 – 7:00 pm**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Elliott Keizer; Cyril Theriault; Elise Young, Evans Estabrooks, John Richards, Denise Blanchard, Mike McCormick, Norm Sheen, Ian Culligan, Rae Hopper, Mariet van Groenewoud and Glenn Fraser**.**

**BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:** Gary Barfitt, Chris Goddard.

1. **WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT – Cyril Theriault**

Cyril welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS – Cyril Theriault**

Cyril introduced the Board and welcomed Léonard LeBlanc, National Director to the meeting.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Cyril Theriault**

The President called the 2022 AGM to order and stated that a Quorum has been met.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Cyril Theriault**

Motion that the agenda be approved as distributed.

**Moved: Mariet van Groenewoud Seconded: Rae Hopper APPROVED**

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 2021 AGM OF MAY 4TH, 2021 – Elliott Keizer**

Motion by Rae Hopper to approve the minutes of the 2021 AGM as distributed.

**Seconded: John Richards APPROVED**

1. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Cyril Theriault**

The President presented his report previously distributed to the members.

Highlights:

* In-person Regional Meeting of the Directors and Atlantic Boards scheduled for Dartmouth and the National AMM is scheduled for Gatineau in late June will be held jointly in-person and via ZOOM. The Board is currently planning in-person events for late summer into the fall.
* The Board and he Executive Members of the Board continues to meet, via ZOOM.
* The Past President, President, and Vice-President have had a few in-person meetings as well. Results of these deliberations have been the recently released Newsletters/Bulletins to branch members (lead by Communications – Mike) and the increased advocacy initiatives, including the political forums (lead by John, VP & Advocacy Director). Past President (Elliott) has led the nominating committee and has put up the slate for election at this AGM.
* Board Rejuvenation: Denise Blanchard, the Administrative Director has relocated to Miscou Island in northern NB. She continues her role (via ZOOM) as long as we held virtual meetings. Several other Board Members (including me) have expressed a desire to step away from some of their duties as they have contributed for a number of years. So, the opportunity to volunteer is now, a number of board positions will be available as well as positions on the Executive. Current members will be available to assist and as resources.
* The President calls on everyone to consider volunteering for our chapter of NAFR Canada.

**Cyril Theriault moved that the President’s report be approved as presented.**

**Seconded: Mariet van Groenewoud APPROVED**

1. **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS REGARD BRANCH RESERVE FUNDS – Cyril Theriault**

The President deferred to Elise Young.

Rationale:

The Association at a special meeting held on September 15, 2021, voted to update Regulation 4.3 on Branch Reserves. It was updated to read “*Branch reserves shall be presented to branch members at each annual general meeting*”. The rationale for amending Regulation 4.3 was to give branches the same flexibility that the national board has to manage their reserves. Therefore, the branch boards should not have to seek a member vote to establish reserve spending authority.

The following amendment to the branch’s bylaws is being proposed in order that the Branch bylaws reflect the above changes made to the National regulation.

**Proposed amendments:**

**Delete**

**9.6 Allocated Reserve Funds**

The branch may establish and maintain allocated Reserve Funds in accordance with national policy, withdrawals from which may be made as approved by the Branch board in accordance with the stated purpose for the allocated reserve Fund.

**9.6.1 Maximum Amount**

The maximum amount to be held in the allocated Reserve Funds may be set at a Branch Annual Meeting by a proposal receiving a majority (50%+1) of the votes cast.

**9.6.2** The Branch board may authorize the withdrawal from the allocated reserve up to a limit set by a vote at a general meeting. Withdrawals over that limit must be authorized at a Branch Annual, Special or General meeting, by a proposal receiving a majority (50%+1) of the votes cast.

**9.6.3** When an allocated fund is not at its maximum amount, the Branch board shall report to the members on its plan for replenishing that fund.

**Add:**

**9.6** **Branch Reserve Funds**

The branch may establish and maintain reserve funds in accordance with the Association’s regulations. The branch board has the authority to create, change, or remove such reserves and must present a report on the status of all branch reserves at each annual general meeting as part of the presentation of the branch’s financial statements.”

**Moved by Elise Young that the Amendment to Bylaws regarding Branch Reserve Funds by approved as presented and distributed.**

**SECONDED: Rae Hopper APPROVED**

**REPORTS**

1. **Membership Growth Committee (MGC) – Evans Estabrooks**

Evans Estabrooks presented his MGC Report that was previously sent to the members. The MGC was composed of volunteers: Evans Estabrooks, Glenn Fraser, Mariet van Groenewoud, Agnes Murphy and Elise Young. Glenn Fraser joined and Agnes Murphy left the MGC during the year. Thanks to all volunteers for their service.

**Branch** **Membership**

Active Members was 1865 at the end of December, 2021; down slightly from 1870 members at the end of 2020 and follows a similar decline in recent years. During the past year 47 new members joined while 88 became Inactive due to death, cancellation or non-payment. During Covid restrictions, the main goal of the MGC was to stop the decline in membership.

**Branch Goal: Promote Membership Retention and Growth**

The goal is to grow the membership through engagement of members and recruitment. The MGC goal was to retain or recruit 70 members and this goal was not met due mainly to Covid restrictions that prevented meeting with members and prospective members.

**Overall MGC Actions and Branch Efforts:**

* Encourage communications with branch members through e-blasts, emails, website updating, articles in SAGE and development of a hard copy branch newsletter. A Branch Communications Committee was established during the past year to enhance communications.
* A Welcome Letter from the Branch President was sent out to new members three times during the year to advise new members of local activities and introduce local partners.
* Contact was made with 18 non-paying and inactive members by telephone to determine their status and encourage renewal. About 40% of the contacts indicate that they wish to rejoin and offered thanks for the telephone call. Up-to-date contact information continues to be an issue as members change addresses and telephone numbers.
* No Federal worksite visits were made during the past year due to Covid restrictions.
* No in-person Branch information sessions, dinners or advocacy forums were held during the past year due to Covid restrictions, but a successful Zoom All Candidates Session was held prior to the last Federal election.
* The Branch supports the National recruitment efforts by having a Branch representative on the National Ad Hoc Recruitment Committee that met by Zoom three time during the year. National membership numbers have dropped during the past two years but appear to be improving by year end 2021. The branch MGC has supported and encouraged members to help get new members during the National Mega Recruitment Drive and other national efforts during the past year.

**Evans Estabrooks moved to accept the MGC report as presented.**

**Seconded: Elise Young APPROVED**

1. **Finance – Elise Young**
2. **Review of Financial Statements 2021**

The Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2021, were reviewed by Nancy Williston, member of the Fredericton and District Branch (NB62) and the accounts were found to be in good order.

Balances Statement:

* Net Assets of $42,764 as of December 31, 2021, mostly in checking account and investments.
* The Reserved Equity Funds total $ 22,500. There are three Reserved Equity Funds of $7,500 each (Advocacy; Recruitment/Communications and Training/Succession Planning) The agenda item “Reserves Motion Template”, will provide additional details on these reserve funds.
* The Unreserved Equity balance as of December 31, 2021 is $ 20,264. Due to our status as a non-profit organization, we are allowed to have up to one years’ average expenditures as “unreserved equity” ($14,651 for 2021). The Branch exceeds this amount by $5,613, and the Board will determine how to deal with this issue over the next several months.

Earnings/Loss Statement:

* Year-end earnings of $4,518
* Amount slightly less than revised budget projecting a surplus of $ 4,990. The initial 2021 budget projected a deficit of $3,475
* The revised budget and surplus were again due to COVID-19 and the Branch’s inability to proceed with various activities such as the spring and fall dinners as well as not attending National and Regional meetings.
* Total revenues of $ 13,120 was slightly less than the budgeted amount of $13,500
* Total expenditures of $ 8,602 were mostly under 2 categories- Advocacy- (Federal Candidates Q & A session) and Branch Information Sharing- (Newsletter) These 2 items total $ 7,047

**Motion by Elise to move acceptance of the Treasurer’s report and of the Reviewed Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2021, showing earnings of $ 4,517.99**

**Seconded: Mariet van Grownewoud APPROVED**

1. **2022 Budget Presentation**

For the year 2022, the branch is projecting a deficit of $160. The projected deficit is very dependent on being able to hold the branch fall dinner, in person information sessions, and the ability to travel to National and Regional meetings. This appears more likely for 2022, given that an in-person AGM for National office will be taking place in June and most Covid restrictions are currently lifted. If the situation changes, the budget may require adjustments.

Budget was already approved previously by the Board; no need for a motion.

1. **Reserves Motion Template – See Appendix “A”**

As noted previously in the amendment to bylaws regarding Branch Reserve Funds, the branch must present a report on the status of all branch reserves at each annual general meeting.

The Reserve Motions Template document provides details of potential activities for each of the 3 reserve funds. The expenditures should take place within a reasonable time frame of 3-5 years. Activities may be adjusted following a Branch Strategic Planning session planned for the fall. No motion required for this presentation.

1. **Financial Reviewer for 2022**

Nancy Williston has agreed to review the branch’s financial statements again in 2022. Thank you, Nancy.

**Motion by Elise Young to appoint Nancy Williston as the reviewer for the year 2022.**

**Seconded: Denise Blanchard APPROVED**

1. **Advocacy – John Richards**

Branch was able to work with members of the Board and outside of the Board.

(1) Mariet, Glenn and Mike were very active working on some of the projects. Sandy, Carol and Peggy Powell worked on the Health Care project.

Last year we were able to host a Zoom and all-candidate meetings with the help of our National Office; all four candidates running in the last provincial election were present. Our contribution was acknowledged in SAGE.

(2) our branch built on the members’ health survey initiated last year. Started as a Branch initiative and ended up a Provincial initiative and received some very good data; based on that data, we created a written submission that was sent to the NB Government Advisor Committee on the reform of our health system and made a presentation. The data showed that in Fredericton a large portion of our members are without a family doctor and the branch focus on this issue. Over the next year, the branch will re-focus based on the results of what comes out at our planning session in the Fall.

**John moves to accept the report as presented.**

**SECONDED: Mariet van Groenewoud APPROVED**

1. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – ELLIOTT KEIZER AND GLENN FRASER**

The following Board Members have their terms running out in May, 2022:

Norm Sheen, Gary Barfitt, Denise Blanchard, Rae Hopper, Mariet van Groenewoud.

In addition, our bylaws require that any position filled by the Board (as opposed to elected at an AGM) shall be up for election at the next AGM.  So that adds Glenn Fraser and Chris Goddard to the list for a total of seven.

All will be for two-year terms (2022-24) and that will leave six to run out in 2023 and seven in 2024, which is a good balance. Of the above list only, Norm Sheen is not offering for re-election.

One additional member, Dino Kubik has agreed to let his name stand for the board.

Thus, the Nominating Committee submits the following nominations for Board members for terms ending in 2024:

Gary Barfitt, Denise Blanchard, Rae Hopper, Mariet van Groenewoud, Glenn Fraser, Chris Goddard and Dino Kubik.

There is still room of the Board for one more person nomination. Elliott made 3 calls for further nominations and declared the candidates are elected.

1. **REMARKS FROM LÉONARD LEBLANC, ATLANTIC NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

Cyril mentioned that Léonard has been with the National Office, serving as the Atlantic National Director for 11 years. His term in ending this coming June; according to the National Bylaws, this is Léonard’s last term. Cyril thanked him for all the work that he has done for the Board, his cooperation and guidance given in the past.

Léonard mentioned that it has been an honor to represent our Board’s interest and those across the country on the National Board.

We had virtual meetings every month for the past two years and now we had the first in-person Atlantic District meeting in April with Cyril and Evans attending.

On the National Level, the negotiations with the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) are continuing. Our pensioner’s representative is Jean-Guy Soulière, our National President. There had been no comprehensive review of the Public Service Health Care Plan since 2006. Based on surveys, members want a review and that there is a need for improvement for vision care, para-medical services, hearing aids among others things. Government proposed several changes to the Public Service Health Care Plan coverage including and prior authorization program for those who are seeking medical and expensive drugs.

Sun Life’s term ends June 30th, 2023, and Canada Life will take over. The new contract will come into effect July 1, 2023, for a term of up to 12 years. Between now and June 30th, 2023, we still deal with Sun Life and with Canada Life on July 1st, 2023.

Currently, members pay 20 per cent of drug claims until they reach $3,000, at which point they obtain full coverage. The Treasury Board Secretariat has proposed to increase the out-of-pocket threshold to $5,000; this is part of the negotiations.

Besides Jean-Guy Soulière, the Unions also are part of what is called the Partners Committee and they are also part of the negotiations along with Treasury Board.

Discussions occurred, negotiations and hopefully a plan that will show improvements.

New census data from Statistics Canada regarding Seniors on the emphasis on home care. Impact in the Atlantic Provinces is very significant. Government will have to address this and unfortunately, it has not been taking care as we move along.

An article on CBC news Marketplace regarding Dr. Samir Sinha, director of health policy research for the National Institute on Ageing and director of geriatrics at Sinai Health and the University Health Network in Toronto. He visited Denmark and said that there are 200,000 Canadians living in a long-term facility across the country and 60,000 to 70,000 of them could stay in their home with proper home care support. Home care is an issue and will become a greater issue as we move along. Our association is involved not only in term of provincial responsibility but also in term of globally health for seniors.

Another issue is “Marriage after 60”. People who marry a veteran who is 60 or older at the time of marriage do not automatically receive a survivor pension, which is worth half of the veteran's pension benefits, if the veteran dies first. Last week, our CEO and our President appeared before the Parliamentary Committee. Some associations (like the RCMP association) are dealing with this also.

MEDOC and JOHNSON: briefings occurred at the Board and waiting for the new MEDOC program that will come out in July. Johnson spoke briefly about this, but we don’t know what will transpire from this. Trip interruption has been a big issue as you cannot be reimbursed if it is COVID related.

Cyril thanked Léonard for his service. He mentioned that Elliott was automatically appointed Past President for one year when his presidency was up and he is leaving the Board tonight. He thanked him for his long service for the Fredericton Area Chapter.

1. **DRAW FOR TWO GIFT CERTIFICATES – John Richards**

Winners: Rae Hopper and Richard Ward.

Having concluded the business at hand, Cyril declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**Moved: Mariet van Groenewoud Seconded: Rae Hopper APPROVED**

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