



National Association
of Federal Retirees Association nationale
des retraités fédéraux
WINNIPEG & DISTRICT

National Association of Federal Retirees
Winnipeg & District Branch
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:
Tuesday, April 12, 2022
Masonic Memorial Temple

MINUTES

Present: Ceci O'Flaherty, Lionel Guerard, Gwen Schentag, Donna Dobson, Cynthia Foreman, Naomi Ashton, Dorian Guerard

Regrets: Paula Nygaard

Attendees: 99

Meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda:

Changes were made under Reports: Business Services Officer report is unavailable. As well as under New Business: Change the order of the items to put By-Law Changes first as it impacts the financial information.

- *Motion to approve agenda as changed by Lionel Guerard and seconded by John Bjore. Carried*

2. Introduction of "first-time attendees":

- Ten first time attendees were welcomed.
- A moment of silence was held for all loved ones no longer with us.

3. Review of Minutes from the November 24, 2021 General Meeting:

- *Motion to approve minutes as presented was made by Cynthia Foreman and seconded by Dorian Guerard. Carried*

4. President's Report: It is great to see everyone here today for our first in-person meeting in two years! All of the information I am giving you today is on the assumption that we can move forward as we did pre-pandemic so I won't keep repeating that phrase-assuming we can with Covid.

For the past two years we have been very much in a holding pattern, doing our best to keep the objectives of the Association moving forward. Our most significant accomplishment during the 2021 year was in the area of Advocacy which Cynthia Foreman will talk about later.

Over the past couple years, membership in the Association has decreased significantly. Unfortunately, a large part of this is due to the impact of Covid on our senior population in Canada which directly impacts all of us. Because of that each event we hold will be a recruitment drive-please bring anyone you know who is eligible to join to any of our events.

Our Branch has the following incentive to encourage you to bring members: A \$25 gift card of your choice for every new person you recruit who joins the Association; A \$15 gift card from either Starbucks or Tim Horton's for a change from a single membership to a double membership. All you have to do is send an email to the NAFRwpg@mymts.net branch email address outlining who you referred and once that membership has been confirmed we will send you the gift card.

At the end of this meeting, we will be having elections. We have two people who have volunteered to stand for election which means we have at least three board positions that remain vacant. This is a working board and it is very hard to continue to organize events with limited volunteers. Please consider putting your name forward and volunteering for the Board.

I want to highlight some of the initiatives we have scheduled for this year:

Branch Board Retreat – May 30 – June 1. Since we are just starting to meet in person as a board it is clear that we have lots of work to do to become a cohesive board to support the Association in the Winnipeg & District and to support you. To this end, the board will be meeting from May 30 to June 1 and have asked Pat Jarrett to facilitate this meeting for us. Pat has previously been on the Board of Directors holding many different positions, including President, for many years and we are counting on her facilitation skills and knowledge of the Association to help us map a way forward for the next several years.

AMM - The Annual Meeting of Members is planned for Gatineau June 21-23, 2022. Our president, Jean-Guy Souliere will be stepping down as he has reached the term limit for his position. There are currently three people who have put their names forward to replace him. As well there are several director positions available across the country. Both Prairie directors, Rick Brick and Connie Kehler, are still within their term period so we won't see a change in directors for our region.

I will be attending the AMM and our Branch will be sending two observers, which is the maximum we can bring. As well, if necessary, we have offered to financially help the smaller branches in Manitoba to send the maximum number of observers.

Golf Tournament – We are excited to announce that we are again hosting our annual Golf Tournament. It will be at Scotswood Links on August 16 and will be golf and dinner/prizes. More information will be coming out about this soon. This event takes planning and volunteers so if you are able to volunteer to help with the event, please let us know.

Manitoba 150 and Branch 55 Anniversary – We are still planning to celebrate the Manitoba 150 anniversary of joining confederation which took place in 2020 as well as our Branch’s 55 anniversary. We are exploring a few options such as “An Evening at the Zoo”, “Lower Fort Garry Experience”, or “Celebrations Dinner Theatre”. Nothing is confirmed yet. We will also need volunteers to help with the organization of this event once we have made a final decision.

We have two general meetings planned for the coming year: September 21 and November 23. Hope all our plans go well and we are able to proceed with everything.

5. New Business:

By-Law Changes: Because of a change in the National By-Laws, as of September 2022 branches can no longer have a reserve called Defense of Benefits. We had \$30,000 in this reserve so we are proposing to redistribute that money as follows: remit \$15,000 to the National Defense of Benefit fund; remit \$15,000 to the newly established Branch Infrastructure Reserve Fund. This is a new fund that enables branches with special initiatives that support the goals of the Association to apply for funding if they don’t have the required funds in their account. In keeping with the changes made by the National Board of Directors at their meeting in December 2021 to the National Bylaws, Ceci O’Flaherty moved to amend the Winnipeg & District Bylaws as follows: Part IX – Financial Administration Section 9.6 by deleting the reference to Defense of Benefit Emergency Reserve Fund and replacing it with Branch Reserve Funds as outlined in the document titled Reserves Template and by deleting sections 9.6.1. Maximum Amount, 9.6.2 and 9.6.3. Seconded by Glen Halldorson. Carried. Copies of our bylaws were available on the tables. Updated versions of the by-laws will also be posted on the website.

Financial Statements: Gwen Schentag presented the Financial Statement and the Draft Budget available in the meeting documents. Debbie Kushaba questioned what are assets – other? Gwen will look into it and get back to her. Branch information sharing is a new category in CRM and includes newsletter mailings, holiday cards and mailing of the “You and Your Survivor” booklets. Don Vanderhooft questioned why non-operating expenses are listed as these are Balance Sheet items not Income Statement items. Gwen will research and respond to Don’s question at a later date. Denise Galbraith, a former Board member agreed to complete the Review of Engagement (Audit Review Committee) for 2021. She found that all transactions have been completed within the proper parameters. Gwen Schentag moved that the 2021 Financial Statements of the National Association of Federal Retirees (the Association) Winnipeg & District Branch, as reviewed by the Audit Review Committee, and showing earnings of \$28,849.12 be accepted subject to the two outstanding questions being answered. Seconded by Gilbert Laberge. Carried.

After discussion, Gwen Schentag moved that the 2022 draft budget be approved. Seconded by Dorian Guerard. Carried.

Reserves: Reserves are established to set aside monies for things that are not considered ongoing operational expenses. We have reserved \$98,000 which will be used over the next two to four years as described in the documentation. Reserve funds can be changed and redistributed/reallocated as the Board deems necessary. See attached table for Winnipeg & District Reserve Funds.

6. Reports

Advocacy: Cynthia Foreman, Advocacy Program Officer, Manitoba

It has been a busy year for advocacy since our last AGM! You will recall that the Advocacy Program Officer (APO) supports the four Manitoba Branches in their advocacy efforts. However, I am also the Advocacy liaison for the Winnipeg & District Branch as well as a member of the National Advocacy Committee.

We were able to reach out by email to all ten Members of Parliament and election candidates during the summer of 2021 to remind them of our previous discussions on the Association Advocacy priorities which are National Seniors Strategy, including plans to address Long Term Care, a national Pharmacare Plan, Veterans, and Retirement Income Security. These were very effective as at least one MP and a few of the candidates contacted our President to ask for more information or acknowledge our priorities. We will continue to develop these networks.

Many of you are aware of the dismal outcomes in our long term care and home care during the past two years. That is why we included these important issues in our call for a national senior strategy and have engaged locally with other organizations who are concerned about these outcomes including the Manitoba Seniors Coalition (MSC), the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP), and the Manitoba Health Coalition (MHC). We will continue working with these networks as the opportunities arise and are always looking for other like-minded organizations to work with on issues important to older adults.

We met with Manitoba's new Minister of Seniors and Long Term Care on April 4. We were excited to tell him about the Association and hear his priorities for Manitobans on these important issues.

Gilbert Laberge asked if we are planning on having a picnic this summer and could we include Northwestern Ontario. We are planning an event this summer however, although Northwestern Ontario used to be part of our district it has chosen to move to the Ontario District so it is unlikely we will invite them to be part of our events.

7. Elections: Elections were held for Naomi Ashton, Director, Membership and Dorian Guerard, Director, Speakers Series. Both were duly elected. Directors of Equipment, Social Media and Director at Large positions are still available on the Board. If you are interested in filling one of these positions, please let us know.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 2:30 by Mel Godfrey, seconded by Glen Schur. Carried

Next Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2022

SIGNATURES:

Donna Dobson, Secretary Date

Ceci O’Flaherty, President Date