



## Minutes of Annual Members' Meeting – National Association of Federal Retirees

*Monday, April 24, 2023 (in person)*

### Southern Alberta Branch No. 18

1. This meeting was held in person and called to order by President, Richard CHEVRIER, who welcomed everyone. A Moment of Silence was held to honor all the members whom we've lost over the past year.

#### Approval of Agenda

**It was agreed by consensus** to approve the agenda as outlined verbally for this meeting.

#### Approval of Minutes

**It was agreed by consensus** the minutes of the Annual Members' meeting of April 25, 2022 be accepted as presented.

2. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:** Nil

3. **BRANCH REPORTS (via slide presentation):**

##### **Membership (Judy CARTWRIGHT):**

Our membership numbers have been decreasing steadily since the beginning of the pandemic in March, 2020. There were 946 members in March 2020, 872 in April 2021, 840 in April 2022 and 831 as of April, 2023 for a loss of 115. The loss of membership can be attributed to: death, transfers to other Branches, COVID-19 travel restrictions. Many members who had paid their dues before, dropped out due to travel restrictions as their main reason for becoming a member was for the Medoc travel insurance. As travel restrictions ease, we hope to continue seeing our membership #'s rising. Our membership 'picture' is not unique, as Branches across Canada have noted decreases in numbers.

**Finance (Don WICKENS)** As per Bylaw 8.1.2 the reviewed financial records for the previous year, the budget for the current year, and the forecast for the next fiscal year were presented. The year-end Asset balance for 2022 was \$13,329.53 (which includes the 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Membership shares and Quarter 4 fees). The year-end Net Asset balance for 2022 is \$12,750.02. The financial statements that were presented at this AGM are attached.

The operating budget for 2023 was completed and approved by the Board of Directors. There is an estimated loss of \$4530.00 for 2023.

The 2024 operating budget forecast and the Reserves Motions Template was presented to the members.

Bylaw 9.6 – The Branch's previous Bylaw 9.6 was incomplete in providing the detail required by the Association but retained the intent. The exact wording proposed by National for dealing with Branch Reserves was proposed and passed at the February 24, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting which will bring our bylaws in line with National. This change requires ratification at this AGM.

**Don WICKENS moved** that current bylaw Section 9.6 be replaced as follows:

*"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 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."* **Seconded by** Anneke NYENHUIS.

**Carried**

As per Bylaw 8.1.2: At every Branch Annual Meeting, the members assembled shall approve a Reviewer for the current financial (calendar) year. The Reviewer shall NOT be a member of the Branch Board.

**Don WICKENS moved** that Pattie van den BERGHE be approved as the reviewer for the current financial (calendar) year. **Seconded by** Anneke NYENHUIS. **Carried**

### **Advocacy (Maria FITZPATRICK) –**

It is expected the writ will be dropped by May 1<sup>st</sup> for the Provincial Election. The Branch and Provincial advocacy group have identified 5 priorities, as follows:

- 1) An Independent Provincial Seniors Advocate reporting directly to the Alberta Legislature.
- 2) Develop and implement an Alberta Seniors Strategy.
- 3) Health Care (from access to primary care and specialist physicians, homecare, long-term care, wait times and ambulances, etc.)
- 4) Retain our current CPP which is reviewed annually by pension actuaries and deemed to be viable out 75 years vs possible Alberta Pension Plan for which the current government has provided no details surrounding cost, pay out, control of funding-investing etc.
- 5) Maintain the RCMP presence in Alberta as the primary policing agency

There will be 2 forums/town halls held prior to the Provincial Election (as follows): Lethbridge East candidates at Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre on April 24, 2023 (tonight) from 6 – 8:30 pm. Lethbridge West candidates at the Lethbridge Senior Centre on May 5, 2023 from 6 – 8:30 pm. The candidates have been provided the questions that will be asked at each forum. There will be time after each forum for one on one discussion with the candidates.

### **Office Administration (Sheila PESZAT) –**

Our office has moved locations at Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre to another larger office and is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Our email account and phone messages are routinely monitored. Everyone is welcome to stop in for assistance or simply to have coffee.

### **President (Richard CHEVRIER):**

NAFR is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. The Branch will be holding a BBQ to celebrate this milestone. All current and retired Federal employees are invited to attend. It will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Elks Compound in the river bottom starting at 11:30 am. There will be no cost for members and potential members. RSVP is requested prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to 403-328-0801 or via email at [naf18@shaw.ca](mailto:naf18@shaw.ca).

Anyone who wishes to volunteer for the Branch can do so as a “friend of the Association”. There is no need to be a Board member to help out the Branch. If anyone wishes to volunteer, please contact our office and we will work with you to design a schedule that fits the time you have to offer and the function in which you wish to get involved.

### **4. New Business – Branch Elections (Judy CARTWRIGHT – Nominations Committee Member)**

Elections need to be held at this AGM for the positions of President, Treasurer, Advocacy team leader, and 2 Members at Large. All are 3 year terms and are effective at the conclusion of today’s AGM. The current President, Treasurer and Advocacy team leader have let their names stand.

Results: President: Richard CHEVRIER (by acclamation)  
Treasurer: Don WICKENS (by acclamation)  
Advocacy Team Leader: Maria FITZPATRICK (by acclamation)  
Members at Large: Gary OBERG, 2<sup>nd</sup> position remains vacant

3 Presentations were made by Richard CHEVRIER: Association Appreciation Certificates and 5 year pins were presented to Doug MULLIN, Maria FITZPATRICK and Anneke NYENHUIS in recognition of their stellar involvement managing the Southern Alberta Branch.

**Adjournment:** 1:50 pm.

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Richard CHEVRIER, President

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Anneke NYENHUIS, Secretary