

## **BC09 BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**January 2, 2024**

We acknowledge that this meeting is taking place on the Traditional Lands of the Lekwungen-speaking Peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

**Location:** Royal Canadian Legion Branch 292,  
411 Gorge Road East, Victoria, B.C.

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.

**In Attendance:** James Dallimore, Patricia Francis, Jennifer Furry, Elizabeth (Libby) MacRae, Gordon Usipiuk, J. Ray Webber

**Regrets:** Anne Jolicoeur, Sue Martin, Shirley Roberts, David Stinson

**Quorum:** Yes

**Approval of Agenda:** With two additions to New Business, the agenda was approved.

**M/ Gordon    S/ Ray    Carried**

**Approval of Minutes:** December 5, 2023, meeting

**M/ Gordon    S/ Jim    Carried**

### **1. REPORTS**

#### **A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Libby

- Organizational Structure Committee – there is a call for nominations through the District Directors for the six branch presidents who will sit on the organizational structure committee.
- December 2023 Bulletin to Branches
  - a. Still working on the re-design of the national website
  - b. Sage60 – digital magazine; week of Jan. 22
  - c. There will be a series of treasurer webinars in 2024
  - d. NO is developing one-on-one onboarding and orientation training for newly appointed branch presidents and also updating the national training modules for the following:
    - i. Volunteer recruitment and engagement
    - ii. Membership recruitment and engagement
    - iii. Advocacy
    - iv. Communications
- One or more of the modules mentioned above will be presented at the spring district meetings (BC May 6-9, 2024).
- NO and BSC can apparently help us recruit new Board members upon our request.

- Keeping in mind a Branch Excellence Award – The recipient must show evidence of excellence in all three core functions: advocacy, member recruitment and engagement and volunteer recruitment and engagement.
- National By-Law changes e.g., branch annual meeting; will be voted on at 2024 AMM, being held on June 18-20 at the Hilton Lac Leamy Hotel in Gatineau.
- 2023 version of *You and Your Survivors*, updated to reflect the PSHCP transition, is available online.
- NO has confirmed that after January 1<sup>st</sup> we should no longer use the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo.
- NO has requested photos for the cross-Canada Roundup Section of the Sage Magazine.

**B. TREASURER’S REPORT:** Anne

Financial statements were distributed before the meeting. Discussion deferred until next meeting.

**C. ADVOCACY:** Gordon/Libby

Nothing to report at this time.

**D. HEALTH BENEFITS:** Shirley/David

Nothing to report at this time.

**E. MEMBERSHIP:** Ray

Ray received a stack of returned “Sage” magazines which he will go through and try to connect with the members.

**F. RECRUITMENT:** All

See comments below.

**G. SPEAKERS PROGRAM:** Patricia

The speakers for January are: Orderly Affairs with Daralynn Wei and The Victoria at McKenzie Retirement Home with Michael Verzyl.

**H. PREFERRED PARTNER PROGRAM:** Gordon

Gordon will reach out to all of our local preferred partners and invite them to our September meeting.

**I. WEBSITE:** Anne

Nothing to report at this time.

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Recruiting** – Libby/Gordon

Recruiting for the Board is our priority Gordon is looking at a variety of ways to contact people and encourage them to join the Board.

**B. Spring Luncheon** – Libby

Prior to Covid, a Spring Luncheon was held on the second Tuesday in May which this year would be May 14, 2024. That date is available at the Legion. Patricia checked and it is possible to bring in your own caterer. However, the question is how much interest will be

generated and how many people will attend. It was decided that we will not have a spring luncheon.

**C. Committee for Relocation of Board Meetings and General Meetings – Sue**

Here is an excerpt from Sue’s email report to the Board:

I did check out the Gorge Pavilion but unfortunately it is not suitable for ongoing meetings. We cannot book beyond 1 year, i.e., in 2024 we can only book to end of 2025. You have to book each date and give a \$500 deposit. Then you have to pay for the event prior to the event to guarantee the booking. It did not seem allowable from the information they have on their website to simply book all 5 dates for general meetings in advance without paying in full to secure the bookings. The other concern was the \$500 damage deposit before holding the event. In addition, all set up and take down has to be done by us. We would need insurance which has Township of Esquimalt as additional insured. For their above reasons, I didn’t feel this venue was suitable.

I also checked around for hotels that might have banquet facilities and/or meeting rooms. There are a few in the central area identified on the map I gave out. I was going to contact them for prices but since we had less than 30 of over 5,000 members at the Dec general meeting (which included the board members), I did not see the need to check any further at this time. We all know meeting/banquet space is not cheap, and they are definitely more than we are currently paying.

After much thought, I am not comfortable pursuing the possibility of changing locations at this time for many of reasons we have discussed at meetings, the most important one is that we don’t get enough members out to warrant spending so much more. Unless we resolve that problem, I think it is pointless to pursue moving. My biggest fear is if we left, we may never be able to come back and surely not at the lower prices we pay since we have been long time users of the meeting spaces at the legion.

My opinion is that if we think attendance will improve just because we move the location, we will be sadly disappointed. There are several things this board need to resolve before spending time and money in this pursuit.

I am withdrawing from this project and my suggestion is the rest of the board do the same.

After consideration of this report, it was moved that we continue to have our meetings for the foreseeable future at the Legion.

**M/ Libby      S/ Ray      Carried**

**D. Spring Sage Report - Libby**

Submission due Jan.5; in members’ homes March 1-12; date range for events March 2-June 12. Draft as previously provided by Libby will be forwarded to NO with minor amendments as mentioned.

**E. Potential to Communicate via Zoom – Libby/Gordon**

No further report at this time.

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Military Expo and Seniors Expo – All

Should we attend the Military Expo to be held in Naden on March 7 and Seniors Expo to be held at George Pearkes on March 21? It was decided that we would not attend this year.

#### B. 2022 Excess Surplus Return – Libby

The choice as to where the surplus may be returned is between the National Defense of Benefits or National Branch Infrastructure Reserve. It was moved that the surplus be allocated to the National Branch Infrastructure Reserve.

**M/ Gordon S/ Ray Carried**

#### C. AGM – Libby

We have to send the notice of our AGM 21-60 days before the AGM which is being held on March 12. Gordon reviewed the dates he will be sending out an e-blast reminding everyone about the meeting. The notices will go out as follows: Jan. 23 – First notice, Feb. 20 – Second notice along with the agenda; March 5 – Third notice.

We also require a chair of the nominations committee and confirmation as to who will continue in the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer positions before the notice. Ray volunteered to be the chair of the nominations committee. Libby, Gordon, and Jennifer will stand again. Ray, Patricia and Jim will also remain. As David and Shirley were not at the meeting, Libby will double check their status with them.

Libby will follow up with Anne about Maxine Clark who had volunteered to be the reviewer of the financial statements.

Ray will organise luncheon vouchers for this recruitment event for \$15.

**M/ Libby S/ Ray Carried**

#### D. General Meeting January 9<sup>th</sup> - Libby

It was decided that \$10 luncheon vouchers be provided for this recruitment event.

**M/ Libby S/ Ray Carried**

#### E. Branch General Meetings - Libby

Next General meeting is March 12 which is the AGM.

### 4. ROUNDTABLE:

- Speaker for March 12 is Joan Wallace, Wallace Driving School.
- Gordon will send out an invitation to our calendars showing all critical events. Please send any suggestions for improvement to Gordon.

**UPCOMING BOD MEETINGS:** February 6, 2024, March 5, April 2, and June 4.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** January 9, 2024

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**M/ Libby      S/ Jennifer      Carried**