

NAFR York Branch Meeting

09:30 – 11:50 AM January 10, 2024

Video Meeting (Zoom)

Present: Fred Conway, President; Tom Nichols, Past President; John Macphee, Treasurer; Marie Macphee, Events; Frank Froude, Web Editor, Linda Laffree, Membership Vasdev Sawhney, Joe Vettese, Directors-at-Large; Ed Millar, Recording Secretary.

Regrets: Nil.

1. Review and Approval of the Agenda: Approval moved by Marie, seconded by Vasdev.
2. **Review and Approval of the Minutes of November 7, 2023:** Approval moved by Joe, seconded by Linda.
3. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**
 - (a) **Equipment Storage:** In abeyance. Currently at various locations. Fred to call a practice session in late January or early February to check out the virtual setup for the AGM.
 - (b) **AGM Speaker and Venue:** Marie has been looking at locations. The Aurora Library has a suitable room but area construction using most of the available parking. If available the Aurora Legion has a couple of suitable rooms with sufficient parking. Arrangements for a screen required. The March Branch meeting will afford an opportunity to further test the electronic setup. The AGM speaker is local so may appear in person.
 - (c) **Mailing Address:** Fred described a mailing service with offices in Richmond Hill and Thornhill. Depending on the services selected the price would be in the range of \$11.00 to \$20.00/month. The purpose would be to give York Branch a local mailing address replacing the National Office in Ottawa. Comments centered around the need based on the volume of mail and security (possibility a US company). Fred agreed to bring forward a specific proposal to be voted on at the March meeting.

4. Reports:

(a) President: Fred referred to recent issues raised in the Bulletins to Branches distribution. A committee to report in 2025 is being formed to look at Branch boundaries, coverage and voting issues. York is now classed as a medium Branch with a membership above 800. June 18 – 20 is the date set for the AMM and the call has gone out for nominations. There have been a large number of National Board resignations across the country. Canada Life has continued to improve services to meet specific response times. The NAFR website is being updated and will include ad's in future. Pension indexing has been set at 4.8% for 2024. NAFR table cloths are available for sale and Fred will check on the price. In addition CRM tutorials are available. Following the resignation of Sharon Paris from the Board Joe moved, seconded by Vasdev, that the President send her a letter of appreciation.

(b) Treasurer: John reported the balance in the operating account is correct at \$17,237.40. This after a number of fraud actions against the Branch account were resolved with the TD bank. All required documents have been electronically signed by Vasdev, Tom, Fred and John for the creation of a new chequing account with TD. John will contact TD to determine the next step to open the account. The original account remains open, and the existing cheques still work with that account. John asks that the existing cheques for the outstanding amounts be signed at the "practice meeting" this month. Any combination of three signing authorities will allow for all the cheques to be signed. Plan B is to wait for the new account to be opened and new cheques to arrive, which will delay payments. In addition to travel and meal costs, a number of larger transactions remain outstanding as follows: Vasdev moved seconded by Frank that the purchase of a third computer (\$500.00) which was previously authorized by email be approved and included in the minutes. Tom moved, seconded by Linda that the shortfall between the Branch calculation and the National Office calculation of \$352.21 which is surplus to the Branch requirements for 2023 be deducted from the Q4 payment to the Branch and that the National Office credit it to the Defence of Benefits Reserve. To date the Branch reviewer has not approved the financial statements.

(c) Membership: Linda spoke to her report noting the Branch numbers are creeping up with 983 active members. 14 new members have joined, there are 5 unpaid active members and in a new category (Voluntary Member Losses) 129 members contacted the National Office to cancel their membership or were inactivated due to non-payment. There were 2 deceased members and 27 lost contacts. The National Office would appreciate any Branch efforts in locating lost contacts. Linda will review the lost contacts report and see if a workable list can be prepared for such a purpose.

(d) Web Site: Frank sought clarification on what should be posted to the web site and when. Fred indicated that the Branch SAGE report should only be posted when relevant as it is written well in advance of publication. Both unapproved and approved minutes have been posted to date. Following a discussion it was determined that only minutes that have been approved should be on the web site.

(e) Advocacy: Nil.

5. New Business:

(a) Recruitment and Retention: With the resignation there is a need to recruit more Board members.

(b) Trends and Concerns Review: Nil.

6. Next Board Meeting: 09:30 March 5, 2024 Aurora Legion

7. Adjournment: Moved by Vasdev, seconded by Joe.