



Annual General Meeting
Thursday March 16, 2023

MINUTES

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am by Branch President Ian Spence, with 80 people present including 68 members of the Branch, thereby exceeding the quorum of 35.
- O'Canada – led by Ronnie Scott
- First Nations' Land Acknowledgement – We conducted this meeting on the unceded and traditional territories of the Sto-lo people, the home of the Kwantlen, Katzie and Semiahmoo First Nations.
- A minute of silence was observed for our departed members.

Ian welcomed our special guest, National President Roy Goodall, Chilliwack Branch President Carol Kayser, and Sonja and Barry Kendrick. He also welcomed new members, and first time attendees, including Michelle Roxborough, Marie-France LaPierre and David Zuvic. The following “top 60” were acknowledged in conjunction with the NAFR 60th celebration: Martha Fry (1990) RCMP, Bernie Grinstead (1971), Derek and Claire Hudson (1992), Gaston and Huguette Du Paul (1992), Audrey Drake (1994), Bob Bullough & Audrey Dunkley 1996 (CAF), and Murray & Carol McLaughlin 1997 (RCMP).

Board members present included: Ian Spence, Ilene Fika, Thelma Graham, Katherine Kettler, Rocky Rockwell, Joy Hennen, Sharon Riches, Judy McLellan and Bernd Hirsekorn.

- Ian conveyed regrets from: Stuart Wilson and Steve Sawchuk who were unable to attend.

1. The **agenda** for the meeting was approved. **MSC Ian Spence/Katherine Kettler.**

2. Approval of AGM **Minutes** held March 17, 2022 **MSC Katherine Kettler/Bernd Hirsekorn**

3. Branch President's and Directors' Reports:

Ian Spence

Ian presented an overview of 2022 Branch activities and highlights from Reports received from the Board of Directors.

2022 – Highlights

3.a. Advocacy – In our advocacy work, promoting the Association's four priorities: retirement income security, pharmacare, improved services and outcomes for veterans and their families and a national seniors' strategy – our focus in the past year has been on one element of the seniors' strategy – pushing for improvements in home care services to enable old Canadians to age in place in their homes and communities. Home care - we are working on a symposium on home care to push the message that 'we can do better'.

3.b. Social Events – BBQ/GM at Williams Park in July

- **Speaker Event** – Canadian Mental Health on dealing with Anxiety as we come out of COVID
- **Meet and Chat** – White Rock hosts Karin and Sten Christiansen
- **Christmas Luncheon** – Guest Speakers Rowena Rizzotti and Veronica Brown spoke to us about the new project “Legion Veterans’ Village” located in Surrey. This multi-service building will provide an integrated continuum of programs and services for suffering veterans, first responders and their families.

In short, it felt like a successful year to me – thanks to the dedication of our board members and volunteers, we managed to tiptoe through the Covid restrictions to hold a number of enjoyable in-person events and we came out with a number of new volunteers to work and play with in the coming year. Thank you, everyone.

3.c. Directors Reports – Please see the enclosed reports from Steve Sawchuk, our Director of Membership Administration, Joy Hennen, our Director of Membership Marketing, and Rocky Rockwell, our Health Benefits Officer.

Steve is stepping down from the board after many years as Director of Membership Administration. He has been a valued member of the team, always ready to help members update their memberships and resolve any issues and pull reports for the Branch from national database, the Client Relationship Management System. For the past couple of years, he has been doing double duty as Branch Services Co-ordinator for the Western BC Region, which involves event planning and serving as a liaison with national office for our branch, as well as the Vancouver, Central Fraser Valley, Chilliwack and Prince George branches. And he has decided to focus on his BSC role going forward. We will miss his contribution to our Branch.

4. Branch Bylaw Amendment

Ian Spence

The proposed amendment was presented as an information item at the 2022 Branch Annual Meeting and we are bringing it forward for your decision today.

The motion is that the members assembled at this Branch Annual meeting approve the amendment of the branch bylaws, **deleting the current subsection 9.6 and paragraphs 9.6.1 and 9.6.2, and substituting a new subsection 9.6, worded as follows:**

9.6 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.

Ian moved that the members assembled at this Branch Annual Meeting, approve the proposed amendment to Branch Bylaw above. MSC Ian Spence/Rocky. Vote carried.

5. Treasurer’s Report — for Stuart Wilson

Ian Spence

- Stuart Wilson has served as treasurer for the past 2 years, and he has been on the branch board and served in various capacities for the past 15 years, including three years as president 2008-2011. He is stepping down from the board this year. We are very grateful for all the contributions he made to our Branch over the many years and he will be missed! Stuart wound up the branch books for 2022 and submitted them for examination and review by our financial reviewer – Verna Sandison. Verna has duly certified the records as ‘acceptable’. Thank you Verna.

5.a. Motion to Accept Reviewed Financial Statement for 2022:

Ian Spence

- Ian gave an overview of the financial statements ending 31 Dec 2022 including Revenues, Expenses, Earnings/Loss and Balances showing net assets.
- Balances: At the end of 2022, the branch held total assets of \$41,441.79. Of that amount, \$17,129.35 were marked as 'reserves', i.e. money we are holding for future spending on non-operational, non-recurring expenses.
- Moving to the Earnings/Loss page, you will see that in 2022, our total revenue was \$16,122.82. Our total expenses came to \$14,461.74, for a positive balance or 'earnings' on the year of **\$1,661.08.**

Ian moved that the members assembled at this Annual Meeting approve the Reviewed Financial Statements for the year 2022 showing Earnings of \$1,661.08. MSC Ian Spence/Johanna Picard. Vote carried

5.b. Motion to Accept 3 Branch Budget 2023 and Branch Reserves

Ian Spence

- Ian explained what the Direct Benefits are and CRA rules governing subsidization of Branch social events. The direct benefit calculation does not apply to volunteer support/engagement or to recruitment events. **See attached Budget 2023 notes.**
- In order for volunteers to obtain reimbursements for mileage/food expenses, they must be designated volunteers in the Association's National database.
- Ian gave an overview of why Reserves are kept and the rules governing their use. The types of projects and non-recurring expenses that we are holding funds for include:
 1. \$6,000 for recruitment & Communications
 2. \$6,000 for volunteer training & development
 3. \$8200 for advocacy (because we have both provincial and federal elections coming up in the next 2 years)
 4. \$6,000 for special events – namely today's 60th anniversary celebration,
 5. And \$1500 for equipment replacement.
- With planned spending from the reserves of \$12,500, and operating expenses of \$15,060, our total planned expenses for 2023 comes to \$27,560.

Ian Spence moved that the members assembled at this Annual Meeting receive and approve the proposed Operating Budget for 2023. Cindy Armstrong seconded the motion and Vote Carried.

6. Motion for (Board) Authority to Appoint a Financial Reviewer for 2023

Ian Spence

Ian Spence moved that this motion be accepted/Sandi-Lougheed Britton seconded it. Vote Carried.

7. Motion to Appoint Bank and Cheque Signing Officers for 2023

Ian Spence

Ian Spence moved that the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary be appointed as Bank Signing Officers as well as other Signing Officers as the Board deems necessary for the financial administration of the Branch. Charles Kettler seconded the motion and Vote Carried.

8. Dismissal of the 2022 BC04 Board of Directors

Ian Spence

- Ian dismissed the Fraser Valley West branch board and asked for a motion that the members assembled express their appreciation for the contributions made by the volunteers who served on the board in 2022. **MSC Barbara Stobie/Bill Masse and Vote carried.**
- At this point Ian Spence conveyed, on behalf of the Branch members his sincere appreciation to our outgoing Board of Directors for their valued contributions. (Stuart Wilson, Steve Sawchuk)
- He then turned the meeting over to Bernd Hirsekorn as the Nominations Committee Chair.

9. Nomination and election of officers

Bernd Hirsekorn

Bernd Hirsekorn, our past president, chaired the meeting for election of officers for the 2023-2024 Board of Directors. Officers/directors nominated by the nominations committee were introduced and asked if they accepted their nominations. Nominations from the floor were called for each position.

- **Motion to elect slate of Executive positions:** **Bernd Hirsekorn**

Ian Spence to the position of President; Eric Ross to the position of Vice-President; Rod Tondevold to the position of Treasurer; and Ilene Fika/Thelma Graham to share the position of Secretary. **MSC Bernd Hirsekorn/Joan Reynolds. Vote carried.**

- **Motion to elect slate of Directors-At-Large:** **Bernd Hirsekorn**

For the 8 positions of Director-at-Large, the following Branch members agreed to serve:

- (1) Rocky Rockwell,
- (2) Leslie Gaudette,
- (3) Bernd Hirsekorn,
- (4) Joy Hennen,
- (5) Sharon Riches
- (6) Judy McLellan
- (7) Katherine Kettler
- (8) Arlene Johnston

Additional nominations from the floor were called for, but no other members wished to stand for election. **MSC Bernd Hirsekorn/Martha Fry. Vote carried.**

The elected officers were congratulated by Bernd Hirsekorn and Ian Spence.

The branch officers/directors for 2023-2024 for the Fraser Valley West Branch comprise: President Ian Spence, Vice-President Eric Ross, Treasurer Rod Tondevold and Secretary Ilene Fika/Thelma Graham; and the Directors-at-Large below who will be assigned to specific portfolios at the first Board meeting to be held **20 April 2023**.

PRESIDENT	Ian Spence
VICE PRESIDENT	Eric Ross
TREASURER	Rod Tondevold
SECRETARY	Ilene Fika/Thelma Graham
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Bernd Hirsekorn
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Rocky (Glen) Rockwell

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Sharon Riches
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Judy McLellan
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Katherine Kettler
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Leslie Gaudette
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Joy Hennen
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Arlene Johnston

10. Special Guest Speaker – Roy Goodall National President Federal Retirees, thanked the Branch for the invitation and Leslie Gaudette for escorting him around the area.

- He highlighted some of the Association’s past achievements concerning pensions, indexations, and benefits obtained over the years. In 2017 the Veterans Outreach Program, and related Advocacy programs were launched, and in 2022 a renewed Public Service Health Care Plan was achieved.
- PSHCP is not insurance – 73% of this program is used for pharmacy expenses - last year totalled \$1.5 million dollars. 56% of members are still active public service employees and the rest are retirees. Our new plan with Canada Life comes into effect as of 1 July 2023 and you will be invited to be positively enrolled in order to claim any benefits.
 - Fee schedule will be published shortly delayed due to the change of Provider to Canada Life. (likely will be an increase). Plan renewed for many reasons including improved benefits. To keep costs down there will be mandatory generic drug substitution. However, if your MD feels you need a special drug, s/he can make a case for you to continue on same drug. Nevertheless, prior authorization is required and will be based on medical recommendations.
 - Compound drugs will be also included in upcoming plan.
- Roy also mentioned a Special Committee on Branch Financing that was formed to ensure Branches are able to do their appropriate jobs.
 - Branches usually do not need additional money to function at this point. (80/20) shared expenses.
 - Branches may need special assistance based on low numbers or diverse membership proximity. They can apply to NO for funding if needed.
- The National Budget for 2023 has been approved.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was officially adjourned at 12:23pm. **MSC Cindy Armstrong/Rod Tondevoid.**

Signed on this day of _____ March, 2023 by:

Ian Spence, President

Ilene Fika, Secretary