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**BC 15 General Meeting and Recruitment Event Minutes**

**Sept 25th 2023**

**Elder Citizens Recreation Assn Prince George BC**

**1692 – 10th Avenue**

**Lunch at 12:30 pm - Meeting 1:00 pm**

**President:** Deb Nilsen **Vice President:** Marian Muir

**Treasurer/Advocacy:** Rose Bowker **Secretary:** Deb Tomlinson

**Webmaster:** Ben Wiebe **Webmaster:** Cameron Sutherland

**Director at Large**: Eileen Leinweber **Membership:** Deb Nilsen

**Historian:** Rose Bowker

**Meeting called to order by:** Deb Nilsen **Time:** 1:01 p.m.

**Quorum:** Yes. There were 24 members attending in-person.

Rick Devlieger, BSC, Regional, was our Zoom host along with Marian Muir from our Branch.

No members attended by Zoom.

***GUEST SPEAKER: Cst. Mireille Haunts, RCMP Community Policing Officer***

-Attending with Cst. Mireille Haunts was Aralee Hryciuk from Victim Services.

-Cst. Haunts and Aralee spoke on safety issues and scams from con artists that seniors should be aware of. A lot of these scams take place on social media platforms. Information was provided on grandparent scams where individuals pose as children or grandchildren who need help, subscriptions that are scams in order to obtain credit card information, or clicking on links in fraudulent emails. Con artists are very good at pretending somebody they are not. Warnings are to hang up on suspicious callers and don’t give out information. Call organizations or banks back in order to verify that the calls are legitimate.

-Mireille and Aralee provided many relevant handouts for seniors. They are available to discuss concerns or suspicions of fraud activity.

-Deb Nilsen presented Cst. Haunts with a thank-you card/gift.

**Prince George RCMP Victim Services Unit 250-561-3329**

**Office Hours M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**Additions:** There were no additions to the Agenda.

**Motion to accept:** Fred Archibald.

**Seconded:**  Gary Godwin.

**Motion carried.**

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**June 12, 2023**

**Errors or omissions:** There were no errors or omissions noted.

**Motion to accept:** Eileen Leinweber.

**Seconded:** Cameron Sutherland.

**Motion carried.**

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**PRESIDENT**

**AMM:**

-Deb Nilsen, our president, attended the AMM in June of this year. It was reported that our membership is slowly on the rise.

-A researcher spoke on political data gathered from the last election. He stated that the largest demographic voting group in the last election was millennials. Statistics show that social media is vastly becoming the main source of communication and people under 35 trusted that over television news and print media. It shows that we need to increase the presence of our organization on social media platforms as newspaper and television are no longer viable avenues for advertising.

-DebN stressed the importance to vote in elections in order to keep the awareness of issues pertinent to seniors in the forefront.

-DebN spoke of how organizations grow with time. Our members are aging, and statistics show that generations coming up are not as committed to volunteerism. She encouraged members to use word of mouth to promote volunteering and to help, or become, board members.

-Membership fees were voted on at the AMM and they will be going up likely in January 2024. The top limit would be 6%, however, National Office wants to keep any increases reasonable, so they hope to keep at 3% for the upcoming year.

**District Information:**

-BC has a new District Director. Scott Hodge replaced Brian Strongman whose term was up.

**National Office:**

-See AMM above.

**PSHCP:**

-There have been many problems with the transition of the PSHCP from Sun Life to Canada Life. Members are having problems reaching Canada Life and are put on hold for long periods, and their issues are not being resolved. DebN has contacted National Office on behalf of several members and National has worked on resolving these complaints. Please let DebN know of any continuing problems so this information can be reported or forwarded on to National.

-One of our members noted if there is an issue at the pharmacy, to check and see how the new information is being input, as she resolved an issue that way. Ensure the pharmacy knows it is the PSHCP.

**Sage Report:**

-Branch events are noted in the quarterly Sage magazine.

**Recruitment:**

-Our Mega Recruitment Drive is on.

**Oct 18th, 60th Anniversary NAFR/RCMP 150th Celebration:**

-Venue is booked for Wed October 18, 2023, at the Brunswick Street Senior Center (lower level) from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Coffee venue will run for 2 hrs from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Set up will be from 9:00 to 10:00 am, and take down from 12:00 to 12:30 pm.

-Invitations are being forwarded by email to our MPs, MLAs and local senior centers and our local federal offices.

-Coffee and goodies will be served.

**VICE PRESIDENT**

-Our bylaw amendments were approved at a National Office meeting and are posted on the Branch website.

-Our Christmas lunch will be on December 11th, 2023 at D’Lanos Family Restaurant (1515 Victoria St, Prince George) at 1:00 p.m. Costs have gone up a little so the cost per member this year will be $18. It is a full Christmas dinner.

**TREASURER, ADVOCACY and MEMBERSHIP REPORTS**

-The Financial Statements were displayed for the period ending August 31, 2023. Branch revenues totaled $1,543.46; expenses $1,114.83; for net earnings of $428.63; Branch net assets total $9,652.19 with a corresponding total equity of the same amount. Our revenues are a little ahead of budget.

-The chequing account is at $6,357.96. We have one term deposit at $3,000 which will mature as of Apr 25, 2024.

-Our Branch total reserves are at $6,100.00. The breakdown is $1,200 for Recruitment & Communications, $500 for Advocacy, $900 for IT and Equipment, $3100 for Training and Succession Planning, and $400 for Special Events which we will be using for the 60th Anniversary celebration on Oct. 18th.

**Motion to approve:** Steve Hryciuk

**Seconded:** Ben Wiebe

**Motion carried.**

**Advocacy:**

-In June our Branch recognized NPSW. Electronic thank-you messages were sent to all the Federal offices. In addition, Rose, Cameron and DebT dropped off chocolates and information packages to each office which was very well received.

-The 60th Anniversary and RCMP 150th celebration will be at the Brunswick Senior Center on Oct 18th in the lower level. We will be setting up at 9:00 am. Coffee is from 10 to 12, and then take down from 12 to 12:30. There is a volunteer sign up sheet on the table by the entrance or contact us by email or phone if you can help.

**Membership:**

-There are presently 380 members in our jurisdiction.

-Rose discussed DDS payment, which is having membership dues come directly from your pension cheque. Please contact the Branch or National Office if you require any assistance setting this up.

-The phoning committee is Marilyn Hinton and Rose.

-Rose referred to posters that are on the entrance table. There are 2 posters that have QR codes on them that a member can scan to either sign up for the National newsletters or to join as a member.

-On Sept 18th members would have received an email from National Office which is a letter campaign that features the priorities of NAFR that is currently being directed to political parties. The email is a request to members to do their part by issuing a letter to their local MP. This letter is super easy to do. There is a link in the email in which you input your address information, and then a letter is generated by National Office on your behalf to your local MP (determined by postal code). You will also receive an email with a copy of your letter that was sent.

**DIRECTOR REPORTS**

**Web Report:**

-Ben Wiebe and Cameron Sutherland are our webmasters.

-Ben demonstrated how to access the Branch website and noted specific areas, such as where to see current Branch events, the Branch calendar, and where to access reports for any upcoming meetings. He noted that the Branch AGM information stays on for a year.

-Communicating with our members is important, and it appears that email is the most effective for most members attending this meeting.

**Seniors Liaison Report:**

-Rose noted that the Oct 18th Celebration will be advertised in the PGCOS newsletter.

Marilyn Hinton gave us an update on some activities of the PGCOS (250-564-5888).

-The Meals on Wheels program is underway for anyone who needs meals delivered.

-A service is also provided for grocery ordering and delivery. Orders are done on Wed with pick up and delivery on Thurs. The groceries come from Save On Foods.

-House cleaning is accessible on a subsidized rate depending on income and is for 2 hrs every 2 weeks.

-The Golden Age Social will take place Mon Oct 2nd at 2:00 pm. This event is hosted by the PGCOS and various other organizations. The City of PG donates the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre for the event.

-Marilyn passed out some contact information for Outreach Support Services from AWAC (Association Advocating with Women and Community). This organization has

trained counselors and may be contacted for people in distress rather than calling 911 if appropriate. They are available for wellness checks. Food and clothing may also be dropped off at their office.

**AWAC – 250-562-6262 – 144 George St., Prince George, B.C. V2L 1P9**

-The Friends of the Library will be having a book sale on Oct 14th, 2023 at the Prince George Public Library. Books can be donated.

-A member noted that the Hart Pioneer Centre also has a Meals on Wheels program for which the meal cost is $10.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A reminder of the 60th Anniversary and RCMP 150th Celebration on Oct 18, 2023, commencing at 10:00 am (9:00 am setup) at the Brunswick Street Senior Activity Centre.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Door Prizes were drawn.

**Next Meeting Date:** The Christmas Lunch will take place on Monday Dec 11th, 2023 at 1:00 pm at D’Lanos Family Restaurant. An update and more information will be sent by email prior to the event.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:30 pm**

**Branch email:** [princegeorgebranch@federalretirees.ca](mailto:princegeorgebranch@federalretirees.ca)

**Branch website:** [federalretirees.ca/princegeorge](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Felink.clickdimensions.com%2Fc%2F7%%2Fffh4OHzdpMhzaD7l_8HDbg&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfb9fc88ba3dc43a6f4d108da43199678%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637896074438372544%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=b7THZ0aNm8j9oKg%2FNCWfgFNKRiNgAhgaW85pl0YmNNg%3D&reserved=0)