

**Minutes**  
**Cornwall and District Branch (ON 54)**  
**Branch Annual Member's Meeting (AMM)**  
**Held on 19 April 2023**  
**At the Cornwall Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion**

The call to order was issued at 10:05 am.

1. The Acting President, Jim McLennan, declared we had a quorum as the number of members present exceeded the numbers required based on our Branch By-Laws. Thirty-seven members were present for the meeting.
2. The Acting President welcomed all members and thanked them for coming. He introduced the Board Executive and our guest, Carol Grieco, Ontario District Director.
3. The Acting President requested a moment of silence for our deceased members.
4. The Secretary, Anne-Marie Griffin, offered a Land Acknowledgement.
5. The members were given a copy of the minutes of the Branch Annual Meeting of 21 September 2022. Acceptance of these minutes was requested. Moved by Pat Di Rico and seconded by Ron Bonneville. Motion was approved.
6. President's Report. The Acting President thanked the Board Executive for their considerable effort since the last members meeting in September 2022. He thanked our past President, Andre Tetrault, who resigned in February 2023 for personal reasons, for his contribution. He then advised the membership that he also needed to resign at the end of this meeting for health reasons. The Acting President noted that the last 6 months were spent mostly on orientation, monthly meetings, getting the branch affairs in order, and advocacy research before our lead, Glenn Rampton, left to pursue another commitment. He reported that the Branch had enrolled in the Branch Banking Initiative (BBI) in September 2022, a fee-based service to engage the National Office Finance team to act as our bank and bookkeeper. This has reduced the administrative burden on the Treasurer. Postcards and electronic Season's Greetings were sent to members last December. The Acting President noted that we still have 355 members that we communicate with via Canada Post. The process is very time consuming and expensive, and he is hoping more members will provide the Branch with their email addresses in order to help defray the ongoing cost.

7. Secretary's Report. The secretary advised that effective 19 April 2023, our Branch membership stood at 2139 active members. She explained that one of her duties is the Web Editor for the Branch Website; it has been a steep learning curve, but she has made progress in keeping the content up to date, and plans to add more links soon, ie: information on advocacy, and seniors/veterans supports. The Secretary advised that another of her duties is to update Branch member information in the National Database. She noted that everyone in attendance was given a handout on how they can access their personal profiles, and maintain their own personal information, or contact her for assistance. The Secretary also mentioned that another of the hand-outs provided was a brief outline of the new Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) and she recommended that members access the PSHCP website and become familiar with their entitlements. Another of her projects will be to draft a comprehensive Survey. Knowing full well surveys have been attempted in the past, she believes it is important to reach out again to gain a better understanding of the needs and wants of our diverse and geographically dispersed membership.
8. Financial Report. The Treasurer, Veronica Britton, spoke to the details and estimated cost of the BBI service, and invited questions. She then walked through the provided financial statements for 2022, the Reserves Template for the year ending 31 December 2022 and the 2023 Budget proposal.

2022 Reserves Template totalling \$ 28,200.00 was presented (attached).

Reviewed Financial Statements for the year 2022 showing Earnings of \$6,282.79, were tabled. It was moved by Veronica Britton and seconded by Diane Lafontaine, they be accepted as presented. The motion was approved.

The 2023 budget showing estimated operating costs of \$9,700.00 was tabled. It was moved by Veronica Britton and seconded by Claude Poitras, to receive the Budget for 2023. The motion was approved.

9. Guest: Carol Grieco, our District Director, briefly outlined her role as one of the two District Directors servicing Ontario, as well as her responsibilities as a member of the National Board of Directors. She explained that the Cornwall & District Branch is part of the larger Ontario District of 20 some branches, as well a party to the Ottawa, St-Lawrence-Nunavut regional agreement, which is currently under review. She also advised that we have a newly appointed Advocacy Program Officer (APO), Sheila Ducarme, who unfortunately couldn't join us today. The District Director reinforced the importance of members continuing to engage to help keep the Branch viable.
10. Carol Grieco opened the elections and encouraged participation. Leo Lehtiniemi, our Election Chair explained the vacant positions of President and Vice-President. He noted the importance of our Branch having a fully staffed Board of Directors.

The Elections Chair then advised that one nomination for President had been received and invited nominations from the floor. None were offered, and Veronica Britton was elected President to complete the former President’s term of office ending in 2024.

He then advised that one nomination for Vice-President had been received, and invited nominations from the floor. None were offered and Peter McBride was elected Vice-President to complete the former Vice-President’s term of office ending in 2025.

Directors at Large – Patrick Di Rico and Claude Bourget volunteered to join the team as Directors at Large and were welcomed.

Carol Grieco then explained that since Veronica Britton had now been elected President, there would be a need for a new Treasurer. She explained that an interim appointment could be made but a formal election will need to be undertaken at next year’s annual meeting. George Rousselle volunteered to assist with the Treasurer duties, and was welcomed.

The Acting President requested a volunteer to be the Reviewer of the Financial Report for the year 2023, and Monique Gray volunteered for this position.

11. The President asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motioned by Leo Lehtiniemi and seconded by Diane Lafontaine. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.
12. Light refreshments were provided by the Legion staff, and enjoyed by all.
13. Our guest speaker was Veronica Britton. The topic was Aging In Place. Veronica explained the need to be prepared and distributed two versions of the “Plan Now to Age in Place – Checklist”; one that could be completed on-line and the other a hard-copy for those who weren’t able to access the electronic version. A number of short videos supporting the Aging In Place Toolkit were then presented and discussed. The presentation ended with the viewing of a Ted Talk by Ashton Applewhite titled “Let’s End Ageism”. The presentation was well received by all in attendance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Veronica Britton – President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne-Marie Griffin - Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date