

BLUEWATER BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, SARNIA, ONTARIO

April 16, 2024

Present: President Lawrie Lachapelle

Treasurer Mairin Ring

Membership Bill Mason

Outreach Coordinator Pat Mason

IT and Website Coordinator Doug Kerr

Member at Large Murray Lester

President Lawrie opened the meeting welcoming everyone, including guest Director Ted Young. A moment of silence was held for members who have passed.

Lunch.

Approval of the minutes of AGM 2023- motion made by Bob Jackson for approval, seconded by Murray Lester. No discussion, all in favor. Motion carried.

Presidents Report:

Lawrie offered his thanks to Branch Board members and volunteers for their assistance and support. It was commented that Bluewater Branch need volunteers to fill the vacant positions. Lawrie also stated that he is resigning as President for health reasons but hopes he will be able to support the branch in the future.

Treasurers Report:

Mairin reported Bluewater Branch Reserves total \$5500.00 which was approved by the board. The reviewed Financial Statement for the year 2023 showed a loss of \$95.19. The approved budget for 2024 showing an estimated loss of \$1646.00 was presented.

Approved reviewer for fiscal year was Peter Thompson, who also agreed to audit the books for 2024. Motion moved to accept treasurers report by Bill Mason, seconded by Doug Kerr.

Membership Report:

Bill thanked everyone for attending. Bill commented that 3 new members have joined. The Bluewater Branch now has 518 members.

Bill reminded members, as of Nov. 1, 2024, Sun Life is no longer administering the Pensioners Dental Services Plan. Canada Life is taking over as the carrier. It is recommended that each member's information be up to date before Nov. 1, 2024. Canada Life has capped the dispensing fee off at \$8.00. Any dispensing fee over \$8.00 will be the member's expense.

Vision- Maximum payout is \$400.00 and takes effect on January 2, 2025. Coverage will be for 2 years instead of 1 year.

More information on the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) can be found on the NAFR National Web Site at <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/news-views/news-listings/pshcp-renewal>.

Outreach Coordinator:

Pat thanked all her callers for all their efforts in contacting members for meetings, and any social events we had.

It and Website Coordinator:

Doug stressed that the website contains endless valuable information about Bluewater Branch, and NAFR in general. Take a few minutes and just browse the website to see just what NAFR has to offer.

Advocacy:

Unfortunately, no information is available at this time.

Secretary:

Vacant position.

Branch Elections: Conducted by Ted Young, Director, District of Ontario.

President: Lawrie announced he is stepping down as president. No interest from the members to fill this position.

Vice President: Currently vacant. No interest from members to fill this position.

Membership: Bill Mason accepted this position for another term. All in favor.

Bluewater Branch is very much in Limbo right now. No President, no Vice President and no Secretary. Ted Young gave a brief review of another branch in the same state as Bluewater Branch. They decided to have revolving Presidents until finally one member stepped up to the plate. That branch is now thriving.

There are a few options Bluewater Branch can do:

1. Rotation of Presidents.
2. Satellite Status to another branch eg. London or Windsor- this allows us to keep our own branch separate and functioning.
3. Merge with another Branch- this would be a dissolution of the Bluewater Branch and complete immersion with the other branch eg. London or Windsor

Lionel Raymond, the Governance Officer at the National Office, can assist the branch executive in determining the next steps.

In response to a question from the floor, Ted indicated that anyone interested in volunteering for a role on the board, there is information (roles and responsibilities of each position) on the NAFR website in the VIP Portal.

Report on National Status and Initiatives: Ted Young

1. Special Committee on Association Structure- this committee is conducting an analysis of the current organizational structure and will make recommendations for same. Topics will include the number of branches (currently 79), and voting structure (e.g. should each member have a vote or each branch? Large branches such as Ottawa, with 37,000 members can have an oversized influence). A report from the committee is expected by December 2025.

2. Ted noted that the association now has 170,000 members nationally and is still growing.

3. Annual Members Meeting (AMM) is being held in Gatineau Quebec at the Lac-Leamy Hotel on June 18 and 19, 2024.

4. New Strategic Plan- the National Office is embarking on a new 3-year Strategic Plan- it is expected to be in place by year end. A complete Advocacy Audit is being undertaken and should be completed by Fall. The National Website is to be updated and completed by year end.

5. The Branch Infrastructure Reserve Allocation Committee (BIRAC) approves funding of branches which are unable to fund their regular annual activities from the funding they receive from National Office. Information is on the website.

6. An Ontario district meeting is taking place next week; no one from Bluewater Branch is scheduled to attend. The Ontario District representative on the Committee is Fiona Price-she is available to provide assistance.

Ted Young thanked Lawrie for all his efforts in running the Bluewater Branch. Adjournment of Meeting moved by Murray Lester and seconded by Bob Jackson.