



National Association  
of Federal Retirees      Association nationale  
des retraités fédéraux  
**WINNIPEG & DISTRICT**

National Association of Federal Retirees  
Winnipeg & District Branch  
National Website: [www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca)  
Branch Website:  
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:  
Wednesday, April 12, 2023  
Masonic Memorial Temple

### MINUTES

Present: Ceci O'Flaherty, Lionel Guerard, Gwen Schentag, Donna Dobson, Cynthia Foreman, Naomi Ashton, Paula Nygaard, Colleen Link

Regrets: Glenn Schur

Attendees: 139

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Paula Nygaard motioned to accept the agenda as written. Charles Cameron seconded. Carried.
2. **A moment of silence** was held for those no longer with us.
3. **Introduction of "first-time attendees":**
  - One person attended that is eligible to join the association but is not a member.
  - Thirteen members attending for the first time were welcomed.
4. **Review of Minutes from the November 23, 2022 General Meeting:** Seeing no changes or amendments the minutes were declared approved.
5. **President's Report:** As I prepared for this meeting, I realized it means the start of my last year as President. As I am not eligible to stand again for another term, I will be chairing next year's AGM but then will hand over to the new President. If you, or someone you know, is thinking of a new challenge please put the name forward and spend a year working with the board.

We have had a very active year. The Board has worked hard on your behalf and we will continue to do so throughout the Spring. We managed to have three meetings in Winnipeg as well as one

#### **.5. President's Report (continued)**

Outreach in Gimli. All were very well attended and our attendance is growing at each successive meeting. Please encourage your friends to come out a meeting. After a few quiet years the Board found it a little hard to get going and connect with members so we held a Retreat at Hecla. We spent three days working on where we want to be strategically and completing an Operational Plan, assigning duties and priorities. During the Pandemic the government spent a lot of money and now will be working on ways of cutting costs and we are working very hard to protect our pensions and benefits and protect income for all seniors. We also hosted a very successful Golf tournament last August.

We contributed just over \$31,000 to the Defense of Benefits Reserve and the Branch Infrastructure Reserve Fund. I expect this will be the last contribution we will do to National Reserves for the foreseeable future as we intend to spend the membership money in support of the members for Winnipeg & District.

This year we will be holding two additional general meetings, one in September and one in November. We will be hosting the annual District Directors' meeting May 2-4. This will also coincide with our Celebrate Manitoba event on May 3. NAFR President Roy Goodall, CEO Anthony Pizzino, and our new CFO will be in attendance as well as Presidents and one observer from all branches in Prairies/NWT. This will be a good opportunity for you to speak to these people. We will be holding an Outreach meeting in October possibly in Selkirk. The golf tournament is scheduled for August 16, info on that will be out soon.

We will continue to take registrations for the Celebrate Manitoba/Manitoba 150, Branch 55, NAFR 60 anniversaries until April 23. We will have the venue at Celebrations to ourselves, come out and join us. We will be accepting cash or cheque only. Unfortunately, due to regulations within the Association we are unable to accept e-transfers.

We were hoping to hold a Speakers Series in May. Unfortunately, that will not be happening now but hope to restart in September.

A provincial election will be held before October 3. We will be doing some advocacy work, asking questions supportive of our priorities protecting seniors.

Membership in our branch has grown by 100 in the last year! Keep up the good work getting our name out there.

Yesterday, I received an email from Canada Life to sign up for positive enrollment. Watch for yours to arrive and be aware of the deadline date to apply.

- 6. Financial Statements:** Gwen presented the financial statements. No questions were asked. The financial review was completed by Pam Proctor and Denise Galbraith in the presence of Ceci O'Flaherty and Gwen Schentag.

#### **MOTIONS:**

1. Gwen Schentag moved that the 2022 Financial Statements of the National Association of Federal Retirees Winnipeg & District Branch, as reviewed by the Financial Review Committee, and showing a loss of (\$37,217.87) be accepted. Seconded by Jim Stevenson. Carried.

## **.6. Financial Statements (continued)**

### **MOTIONS (continued):**

2. Gwen Schentag moved that the 2023 Draft Budget showing a loss of (\$5,603.43) be approved. Seconded by Lionel Guerard. Carried.

## **7. Other Reports:**

**7.1 Report - Advocacy Program Officer (Cynthia Foreman):** Recently participated in a Zoom call regarding pensions. Did you know there are currently 243,000 public service retirees and 44,000 RCMP? The average retirement age in 1998 was 60; in 2021 it was 68 years with employees serving 42 years in the public service. The average public service pension is \$33,000. Those pensioners dealing with Phoenix issues are waiting up to seven years for their issues to be resolved. The Association is working hard to keep things moving.

There is an election coming up before October 3! Our three main priorities will be: an independent, non-partisan and legislated Seniors Advocate; Implementation and measurement of success of the Manitoba Seniors' Strategy; access to care involving supports and services to enable aging in place. At the District Directors' meeting we will have a panel about the seniors' strategy. If you have any input, please let Cynthia know. We will be running email, letter writing campaigns, a town hall/meet your candidates sessions as well prior to the election.

Federally, there will be two by-elections held this year. One in Winnipeg South Central and one in Portage-Lisgar. We will keep you informed of advocacy efforts once the elections have been called.

This is my last year as Advocacy Program Officer for Manitoba although I will continue to be the Director, Advocacy on the Winnipeg & District Board. There will be a call letter coming out in the next few weeks if you are interested in the position.

**7.2 Report - Business Services Coordinator (Paula Nygaard):** The BSC is responsible for training for all Manitoba branches. Currently working on the District Directors' meeting running May 2-4. Attendees will also be joining us at Celebrations where Hearing Life will also do a presentation. One of the two District Directors' for Prairies/NWT is stepping down. This would be a perfect opportunity for someone who wants to work at the National Level. The Winnipeg & District board members will be meeting on May 25 to orient new directors and work on planning for the upcoming year. The golf tournament will be held on August 16. If you would like to attend only the dinner, please sign up. If you are interested in volunteering at the tournament, please let Paula know.

## **8. Elections:**

Lionel led the election of new board members for a three-year term. Two members nominations were submitted in advance and were elected:

Director, Communications: Colleen Link

Director, Equipment & Materials: Glenn Schur

**.8. Elections (continued)**

Director, Social Media: Judy Oliver was nominated from the floor by Janice Crowell, seconded by Paula Nygaard. Elected.

Director, Recruitment: Vacant

Director, Events: Vacant

Director at Large: Louise Jutras was nominated from the floor by Cynthia Foreman, seconded by Ceci O’Flaherty. Elected

Thank you and welcome to the new board members.

**9. Adjournment:**

*Meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.*

**10. Next Meetings**

September 20,2023

November 22, 2023

**11. Signatures (original signed):**

\_\_\_\_\_

Donna Dobson, Secretary

Date

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Ceci O’Flaherty, President

Date

**12. Approval of Minutes:**

These Minutes of Meeting were approved on Wednesday 22 November 2023 at the NAFR WPG General Meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*end\*\*\*\*\*