**Board Reports**

**AGM - October 9, 2024**

**President’s Report – Chris Auger**

Good morning everyone and thank you for being here today. Since our last meeting in May which was very well attended, Leo and I went to the National Office AMM in Gatineau. Here is a summary of the meeting. The meeting was 2 days in duration versus the usual 3 days.

* At the start on the first day, there was an issue with the translation equipment which delayed everything by 45 minutes.
* Once fixed, the CEO presented his report and 2023 Membership Engagement Survey Results Presentation, then the President’s Report followed by the Annual 2023 Financial Statements and then lunch.
* After lunch, the Presidents’ Forum breakout sessions began. This year’s topic was the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 and for Branch Presidents across the country to provide critical feedback on issues that will help shape the Asssociation’s direction on important matters. There was a lot of feedback provided by all.
* The day ended with Remarks by HearingLife Canada and a reception sponsored by them.
* The second day began with the Presidents’ Forum Debrief presented by the facilitators. It was a disappointing debrief, and did not reflect the feedback provided by the participants. Then there was election to the Board of Director, Approval of the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 which was not approved. The Committee that was put in place for the Strategic Plan and the Branch Presidents were too far apart on this subject. Therefore, the Strategic Plan was sent back to the Committee to be revised. Branches will be kept informed as to the progress. Then the first part of the Proposals Session began until lunch.
* After lunch the second part of the Proposals Session followed by the President’s Closing Remarks and adjournment of the 2024 AMM.
* The Keynote Address was presented by then the Minister of Labour and Seniors, the Honourable Seamus O’Regan Jr., MP (Steve MacKinnon, MP riding of Gatineau). You can read more about it in the last edition of SAGE.
* Finally, we had the Volunteer Recognition Cocktail Reception Awards Ceremony and the Association Banquet sponsored by belairdirect (formerly Johnson Insurance). See edition of SAGE for details.

What is next until the end of the year for the branch? This fall’s Ontario District Meeting (ODM) (October 22 & 23) will be packed with important issues.

* Advocacy will be on the table. As you know, we will be having federal elections in the fall of 2025 if not sooner and possibly provincial elections too. Anthony Pizzino, CEO will be speaking on Strategies for meeting MP’s, MPP’s on how to present our Priorities.
* We will be getting an update on the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 by Roy Goodall, President NAFR
* There will be am Onboarding/Orientation Presentation for Branch Presidents.
* On the second day, we are continuing discussions on the Strategic Plan 2024-2027.
* Presentation and discussion with the Special Committee on Association Structure.
* Branch Concerns & Round Table and adjournment.

Again, we will attend the “My Transition Seminars” (Updated SCAN) that will take place on Nov 5, 6 and 7. Kathy, Director of Recruitment and Engagement will speak more on this.

On Nov 6, we will have an in-person meeting that will take place at the Library in Barrie. This is a regular meeting and will focus on discussing and hopefully finalizing our budget for the Year 2025.

On Nov 20, a Branch Recruitment event via Zoom will take place. Kathy will give you more info.

**Web Content Editor’s Report – Chris Auger**

Not much activities on the branch website. Please check for new messages under Branch President’s Message or Announcements tabs. If there is a particular information you would like to see on the branch website, please let us know.

**Vice President – Leo Brooks**

1. NAFR AMM. Since our last Annual membership meeting, I attended the National Association Annual Membership Meeting with our President on June 18-19, 2024. This was two-day affair held in held in Gatineau, Quebec. Representatives for all the branches across the country were in attendance. There was the President and CEO’s reports, 2023 Annual Financial Statements, President’s Forum breakout sessions, Governance report, proposals, Strategic Plan and President’s Closing Remarks.
2. Upcoming ON District Mtg. I will also be attending the upcoming ON District Mtg on Oct 22/23 with our President. The mtg is open to all Branches in ON and will be held in Toronto.
3. Remembrance Day Wreath. The Huronia Branch will be contributing a Wreath for the Remembrance Day memorial service in Barrie. I was going to lay the wreath on our behalf but since I will not be available, we are looking for a retired member to volunteer to lay our wreath

**Director Advocacy – Leo Brooks**

1. MPs Riding Offices. As Director Advocacy I have been actively supporting NAFR Nat’l objectives by visiting MP Riding Offices in our catchment area along with our President.
2. If there is a federal and provincial election called, my plan is to visit each of the incumbent and prospective MPs and MPPs riding offices in our catchment area as well as sending them letters to emphasize NAFR’s core objectives and perhaps participating in political forums in Barrie as we have done in the past.
3. Military Transition Seminar. In the Spring our President and I participated in the Military Transition Seminar at CFB Borden’s Officers’ Mess on May 28-29. This was the result of my successfully advocating For the NAFR Huronia Branch to participate. This was something we had not done for a while and are happy to report that we are now being called upon to do so. Participating provides us with the opportunity tor recruit new members and to advocate about benefits associated with becoming a member of the NAFR and the Huronia Branch. An MTS will also be conducted on Nov 7th and we have once again been invited to participate. Kathy Rupnow our Director Recruiting will be attending. We are also proud of the fact that this Transition Seminar will also include civilians from the Public Service – something we advocated for and has been incorporated.
4. NAFR Changes in Advocacy Emphasis Coming. At its October meeting, the board will review and agree upon a three-tier advocacy concept that will lay the foundation for national advocacy under the guidance of the national office, provincial advocacy under the guidance of the district directors and local/municipal advocacy under the leadership of the branches. After the concept paper is approved, the board will work on the rules, processes and procedures for each level.
5. National advocacy will probably continue as it has for the past five years.
6. Provincial advocacy will introduce new processes and procedures that will ensure that, where national and provincial advocacy overlap, provincial advocacy will not conflict with national advocacy. Collaboration and coordination will be important. One, perhaps the most important, example being long-term care, which has been on the national agenda for several years but must be advanced under district leadership because the issues can only be changed within each province.

Local or municipal advocacy will only deal with issues important to a branch or perhaps a couple of branches. Local advocacy can be an effective recruiting tool to attract members who are interested in local issues rather than either provincial or national advocacy efforts.

**Membership and Recruitment Report – Kathy Rupnow**

Hello everyone, my name is Kathy Rupnow.

Since our general meeting in the spring, I have continued to contact members every month that do not have their dues deducted from the source of their pension to let them know when their renewal is coming up. I contact new members to the Branch to welcome them. I may have emailed or spoken to a few here today.

I attend the Membership Recruitment Committee that meets every quarter to discuss best practices and information regarding recruitment. The last meeting was held on September 5th. The main discussion centered on the Mega Recruitment Drive.

The Drive is back, and this year, we have bigger prizes than ever before!

Refer a member to the Association for your chance to win one of nine great prizes, including the grand prizes —**$10,000 travel voucher and $5,000 cash each courtesy of Collette and belairdirect.**

The early-bird prize is a $1,000 prepaid credit card, courtesy of IRIS Advantage. The deadline to enter the early-bird draw is Oct. 31, so start getting your referrals in early and often!

There are no limits to the number of entries you can submit. The more people you refer, the more chances you’ll have to win.

Eager for details? You can learn more about [how the contest works](https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/node/1115/), [consult the official rules](https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/node/1085) and [submit your referrals right on our website](https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/members/mega-recruitment-drive/mrd-referral-form). Plus, if you know a prospective member who needs some convincing, be sure to share our [top 10 reasons to join](https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/node/1087/).

Wondering who is eligible for membership? Membership is open to active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and retired federally appointed judges, as well as their partners and survivors. For more information, [visit our How to become a member page](https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/members/how-to-become-a-member)!

Contest opened Sept. 3, 2024 and ends on Dec. 31, 2024. There are a total of nine prizes available to be won.

What does membership cost?

Membership costs just $55.92 per year ($4.66 per month) for an individual and $72.60) per year ($6.05 per month) for a couple. So the second membership is just $1.39 more per month.

The Huronia Branch attended a Volunteer Recruitment Fair at the Barrie Public Library on May 11th and a “My Transition Seminar” formerly known as SCAN at Base Borden on May 28th and 29th. There is another My Transition Seminar at Borden on November 7th that we will be attending.

We are holding a general membership ZOOM meeting on November 20th at 10:30 a.m. regarding Volunteer Recruitment and Succession Planning. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the membership more broadly about volunteer opportunities and our plans to fill roles that are vacant or soon to be vacant. We have a large geographical area that falls under the Huronia Branch and we hope to encourage members to volunteer for the Executive Committee knowing that they can serve even if they do not live in the Barrie area. Our meetings are taking place on ZOOM the majority of the time now so geography is not limiting participation.

Serving on the Board as an elected officer or director-at-large can be an exciting opportunity!

It is a chance to share your expertise and life experiences, add value in advancing the

Association’s goals and objectives, meet new people and make a difference. Volunteering is also good for your health! Speaking of health, the health of our Branch relies upon members getting involved and volunteering for open positions on the Executive.

We currently have an open position for Secretary and since I will be stepping down as the Director for Membership and Recruitment in May 2025 we need my replacement. If anyone is interested in either position, we could start the training process right away. We could also use some volunteers for short-term needs such as committees to help with planning and organizing events. If you are interested in any of these options, we can use your help! If you want to know more about what’s involved before you commit, please don’t hesitate to ask one of us.

Please save the date for our ZOOM meeting and an email reminder will be going out to everyone who has email on file as well. The email will include role descriptions and the qualifications that are required.

Questions?

Now, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a couple of our past volunteers who made a long term commitment of their time and expertise for our Branch. First, Jackie Akeson who volunteered as a Director for 12 years. Next, Dianne Michals who volunteered as our Secretary for 5 years. Please accept these certificates and pins in recognition of your service.

That’s all for my report! Thanks everyone!

**Director Communications – Mark Burchell**

As you know, we have members which do not have an email address, and to make sure no one is forgotten, we have a team of volunteers just for that. For the AGM 96 calls were made by 9 callers.  Average about 11 calls per caller.

The callers were Allen Atwell, Harry Austen, Wally Capsticks, Peter
Evans, Joan Gauthier, Bev Murphy, Monika Sargeant, Donna Wallace, and Susan
Wehling. Welcome Joan to the team - she made her first calls. Thank you for your time.

I hope everyone received their fall issue of the SAGE magazine with the
insert. The winter issue of SAGE magazine will be delivered from December 2 to 11.
There will not be an insert in the winter issue.

There is a sheet at each table to suggest speakers and topics, and another
sheet if you would like to volunteer.