



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)  
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:  
Wednesday, April 3, 2024  
Masonic Memorial Temple

### MINUTES

Present: Ceci O'Flaherty, Lionel Guerard, Gwen Schentag, Donna Dobson, Paula Nygaard, Colleen Link, Eveline Beriault, Don McKay, Louise Jutras, Eldron Thuen

Regrets: Cynthia Foreman

Attendees: 191

Meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda: Addition of Advocacy Program Officer Report under Reports. Seeing no other additions or changes to the agenda, the agenda is approved.

2. A moment of silence was held for those no longer with us.

Number of new members in attendance: 18

Number of attendees not yet members: 1

3. Review of Minutes from the November 22, 2023 General Meeting: Removal of the word Annual in Heading. Seeing no other changes or amendments the minutes were declared approved.

4. President's Report (Ceci O'Flaherty): This is my final President's report!  
At the last meeting, I shared with you that I was going on my first Collette vacation and would tell you all about it at this meeting. The experience was a "trip of a lifetime" and I would highly recommend a Collette tour for anyone who wants to sit back, relax and let someone else do all the planning. As an aside, there will be a representative from Collette travel doing a presentation on April 17 at the Gates on Roblin. There is a sign-up sheet here for anyone interested in attending.

There is a new preferred partner in Portage la Prairie, Bill's Sticky Fingers will give you 15% off with a show of your membership card.

We have a huge attendance today! We'd like to remind you that if you register to attend one of our meetings and find later you are unable to attend, please let us know. At the last meeting we had to pay an additional approximately \$600 for those people who did not show up. The new board will be looking at options to mitigate this going forward.

We will be changing our email address in the near future. Please watch for an eblast regarding the change sometime this Spring.

On a more personal note, thank you for having the faith in me to support me as President for the past six years. I have certainly been fortunate to work with many engaged, active volunteers who value our pensions and benefits. It really does take a village. I am fearful that after the next federal election there may again be a move to change our current pension and benefit structure to help reduce the deficit that the country is facing due to covid spending. Please stay engaged and aware of what's happening.

What's next for me: I will continue to be a part of the Branch Infrastructure Reserve Fund Allocation Committee which reviews all applications for funds through the Branch Infrastructure Reserve Fund; Minimum Branch Funding Pilot Project; and the three year Recurring Funding Pilot Project. I am also joining the committee struck to look at the organization of the Association including branch size, structure, and geographic area. This committee will hold it's first meeting in April and needs to report back to Presidents at the Annual Meeting of Members in June 2025. I will also be staying on the board in the non-voting capacity of Past-President for a one-year term.

For the 50/50 draw this meeting we are supporting the CNIB guide dog program. The program was established in 2017 and is comprised of volunteers to raise and train guide dogs exclusively for people with sight loss. Financial support of the program means CNIB guide dogs can be raised, trained and matched with Canadians with sight loss to help them achieve more freedom and independence.

Before I turn the microphone over to Gwen Schentag to report the financial information, I wanted to let you know that since both Gwen and I are leaving our positions after this meeting, we requested that the Financial Officer at National Office review all our financial transactions starting with the final balances in 2022 and all our 2023 transactions to ensure that all the financial information was recorded accurately. In addition to this, we had a local review of engagement done with both Gwen and I in attendance.

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5. Financial Statements (Gwen Schentag): The financial statements were included with the meeting documents. As there were no questions, Gwen Schentag moved that the 2023 Financial Statements of the National Association of Federal Retirees Winnipeg & District Branch, as reviewed by the Financial Review Committee, and showing earnings of \$2,165.44 be accepted. Seconded by Paula Nygaard. Passed.

Gwen Schentag moved that the 2024 Draft Budget showing a loss of \$20,250 be approved. Seconded by Lionel Guerard. Passed.

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6. New Business: Financial Reports: The reserves template showing total reserves of \$96,000 was discussed. There were no questions.

Denise Galbraith conducted the financial review of engagement on March 27, 2024.

Gwen would like to acknowledge and thank Naomi Ashton for all her hard work as Director, Membership over the past few years. Gwen has been looking after the Membership portfolio as well as Treasurer for the past several months and will be moving to the Speakers' Series with the new board.

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7. Reports: Branch Services Officer (Paula Nygaard): Paula thanked all members for their support over the past year as well as Ceci, Gwen, Colleen, Cynthia and Donna for their roles on the board.

A District Directors' meeting will be held in Saskatoon in May. We will be able to send the President as well as 1-3 observers. The new board will be holding an Orientation and Planning Session for 1-2 days April 23 or 24. They will also choose new meeting dates for 2024 at that time.

The Golf Tournament will be held August 14 at the Selkirk Golf Course.

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8. Advocacy Program Officer (Glenn Armstrong): The four priorities of Advocacy are: Retirement Income Security, National Seniors Strategy, Veteran Well-being, and Pharmacare. A few updates: Bill C-319 to

increase the OAS payments by 10% for the 65 to 74 crowd, has been referred without amendment by Committee back to the House. Bill C-64, Pharmacare Act has received first reading. The Government of Canada has announced the new Canada Dental Care Plan. We do not yet know enough about the linkages to our Pensioners Dental Services Plan (PDSP). Be careful that you do not opt out of the PDSP, as you cannot rejoin the plan later. PDSP will be transitioned over to Canada Life as of November 1, 2024. Public Service Health Care Plan/Canada Life has greatly reduced wait times for the call centre. For the International Travelers in the group, MSH International is back on track following a critical cyber attack on their computer systems. Manitoba budget day was yesterday and we are still working on the impacts. Our advocacy priorities include continuing to build linkages to the new government in Manitoba and preparing for the next federal election by meeting with incumbent MP's between now and Christmas.

9. Before we hold elections, we would like to acknowledge retiring board members:  
Ceci O'Flaherty (President), Cynthia Foreman (APO), Donna Dobson (Secretary), Colleen Link (Communications).

The following were elected by acclamation:

Glen Armstrong, Branch Advocacy Liaison  
Eldron Thuen, Membership  
Eveline Beriault, Treasurer  
Don McKay, Secretary  
Paula Nygaard, Vice President  
Gwen Schentag, Social Events  
Lionel Guerard, President

10. The winner of our 50/50 draw was Debbie Shade. Congratulations. We raised \$685 so \$342.50 was shared by Debbie and the CNIB guide dogs.

*Meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m. Moved by Ray Kashuba, seconded by Diane Rennicks.*

Next Meeting

To Be Determined

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ceci O'Flaherty, President

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Dobson, Secretary

Date