

BC09 BOD MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2024

We acknowledge that this meeting is taking place on the Traditional Lands of the Lekwungen-speaking Peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

Location: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 292,
411 Gorge Road East, Victoria, B.C.

Time: 9:30 a.m.

In Attendance: Patricia Francis, Jennifer Furry, Erika Kanczula, Elizabeth (Libby) MacRae, David Stinson, Gordon Usipiuk, J. Ray Webber, Benny Wong

Regrets: Jim Dallimore,

Quorum: Yes

Approval of Agenda:

M/ Ray S/ David Carried

Approval of Minutes: June 4, 2024, meeting

M/ David S/ Ray Carried

1. REPORTS

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Libby

The following issues were covered in the June, July and August 2024 Bulletins to Branches:

- A. The Strategic plan is now a 33-page document. It is long because approximately 14 pages outline how we got from where we were in 2008 until now. The last 19 pages or so contain the strategic tactics and the ongoing tasks, when enacted by the Board, CEO and the branches, lead to achieving the goals of the strategic plan. The strategic plan, with its three goals, nine objectives and five values, is detailed on one page. The revised document, reviewed at the National Board August retreat, will be returned to branches for further consultation and then presented at next year's annual meeting of members.
- B. There have been three meetings of the Special Committee on Association Structure. Three sub-committees have been formed to consider: services expected by members, branch size and the district concept. A consultant is working with the Board, the committee and many Branch presidents.
- C. The Board's "Building a Stronger Association: 2025 to 2035", once approved, will be circulated to Branches.
- D. The Board is developing a three-tiered framework, guidance and rules for advocacy at the national, district and branch levels. In this way, provincial and local advocacy issues can be supported in addition to that at a national level. This year there are three provincial elections: B.C., New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.
- E. The Mega Recruitment Drive will be launched on September 3rd.

The transition of the Pensioner's Dental Services Plan to Canada Life is set to take place Nov. 1, 2024. Canada Life will complete the initial positive enrolment for as many PDSP members as possible.

There was a bulletin issued on July 9 about "Red Wireless" a Rogers Authorized Dealer and Preferred Partner of Federal Retirees

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: Erika

Our second quarter dues and fees are only \$100 less than first quarter. Our only expenses are the cost of BOD and members meetings. Our profit at end of June is approximately \$13,000. We have 15 unpaid memberships which the National Office will follow up on. In addition, there are 826 members who do not have email addresses. Paula Gilmore is no longer with the NO. Her replacement is not known at this time. We have not had any interest credited to our account which Erika is following up on with NO.

3. ADVOCACY: Gordon/Libby

Nothing to report at this time except to restate that at a branch level we are limited as to what advocacy we can do. It has been suggested that we do a letter writing program. There is no firm plan for advocacy at the federal level.

4. HEALTH BENEFITS: David

PDSP is starting November 1st. Many members have had an email advising that they have been positively enrolled. It was suggested that our phone number be pointed out perhaps at our townhall and again in the Sage magazine so members know where they should call if they have questions. If you have a claim without a Drug Identification Number (DIN) identifier, there are forms online to have your doctor fill out. However, if you are making a drug claim for a medication which does not have a DIN, the online system may not work, so be prepared to complete the claim on paper and send it in under a covering letter with the prescription and a letter from the doctor saying what the drug is and what its uses are. There may be forms available on the Canada Life website for this doctor's message.

5. MEMBERSHIP: Ray

There has been some feedback received after receiving email blasts. It would seem that even if the member is female, the email goes to the male member of the household. Discussion was held regarding how to get the word out about our association especially to attract younger members – Libby will follow up.

6. RECRUITMENT: All

We still have one director position vacant.

7. SPEAKERS PROGRAM: Patricia

Patricia has confirmed the Victoria Police Choir for our December meeting. They will provide a quartet for \$600. For January, Caregivers of BC is booked. Some suggestions for future speakers: the new Seniors Advocate, one of the police departments to talk to us about scams; several different funeral/cremation specialists. Will also raise this question at our townhalls.

8. PREFERRED PARTNER PROGRAM: Gordon

Gordon is still working through to see how the local preferred partner program is working. He has had a few partners drop off. It was asked if the shops have a decal depicting that they are a preferred partner. Most do not want the decals. It is the intention to list them in the Sage once they have been confirmed. Gordon will also speak to this at the October townhall.

9. WEBSITE: Gordon

Website is up to date. He suggested he place the draft AGM minutes on the site which was approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Board Roles and Responsibilities/Skills Matrix – Board Gap analysis

Nothing has been done to this point, but Libby hopes to have something done by next AGM.

B. Membership Engagement Survey

Further to the May minutes, the survey needs to be further reviewed and a plan developed to address areas for improvement; presentation for the Sept. 10 townhall to assist in this regard.

C. September 10, 2024, General meeting.

All encouraged to ask about their areas of interest, e.g.; Patricia to ask about what guest speakers they would like to hear. It was also suggested that we ask if the venue is satisfactory and if there is anyone who would like to serve on a special committee to review locations. Refreshments will be requested/provided. Vouchers for lunch will be provided. Agenda will be developed over next week.

D. Business Cards

New business cards will be ordered for those who would like them.

E. Name Tags

New name tags will be provided to all Board members.

F. Meeting Venue Options

It was decided that we would revisit the work done last year about finding a new venue. It was recommended that a committee be stood up to review.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Advocacy Provincial Town Hall: September 19 or 26

There is going to be a zoom townhall for all BC members hosted by the NO, if NO receives enough interest from the political parties.

B. Regional Meeting

Libby has sent an email to find out when and where the regional meeting will be held but it is expected to be in October. (Note: In Nanaimo at the Quality Inn Tuesday October 22)

C. Audio-visual equipment

It was pointed out that we need to keep in mind that some of the rooms at Legion do not have a screen or the screen is square and our presentations are rectangular and thus the presentations are not clear on the screen.

D. Eventbrite

It was decided that we do not need Eventbrite for our general meetings. Erika has the account information for Eventbrite.

E. BC Yukon/Treasurers Network

Libby forwarded email to Erika from the Treasurer, Vancouver Branch.

F. Branch by-law review

This is to be carried forward to later meeting.

G. University of Victoria NAFR Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch Scholarship

At the 50th Anniversary of NAFR, the Victoria Branch provided \$25,000 for a scholarship at UVIC which is administered by UVIC in honour of our founder, Fred Whitehouse.

Libby sent the Endowment Fund Report on July 16, 2024.

H. Sage

Submissions are due Sept. 24, In Members Homes Dec. 2- 11, Date Range for Events Dec. 3-March 12. Libby will start work on our submission.

I. Storage Locker

Gordon got a new lock for the storage locker and got 5 keys cut which are number stamped. Gordon has developed a register for signing out of the keys. Gordon and Patricia each signed out a key and Erika has requested a key.

4. ROUNDTABLE:

We have been asked to put up a poster from Orderly Affairs at the September 10 General Meeting: "Aging Isn't for Wimps".

It was requested that a brief report on the AMM be given. Libby mentioned that one of the main topics that was addressed was the need to be civil to each other. Another large portion of the meeting was dedicated to the strategic plan which was discussed over two days. Aside from the topics discussed during the meeting, several other benefits were noted. One was that we were able to further our relationships within our district and indeed across Canada. Also, it was good to meet the NO staff.

UPCOMING BOD MEETING: October 1, 2024

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: September 10, 2024

ADJOURNMENT:

M/ Ray S/ Patricia Carried at 11:57 am