

**Minutes – Executive Committee Meeting
Duncan and District Branch – National Association of Federal Retirees
Held at Crofton Senior Centre
On Thursday 7th March 2024**

Present: Bronwen Cossey, George Cossey, Rick Devlieger, Karin Laurie, Kathy Pringle, Greg Taylor.

Absent: Drew Bodaly, Dee Dohm

Meeting was called to order by Rick Devlieger at 2:05 pm

1. Previous Minutes:

M/S/C (Bronwen/Paul) that the minutes of 29th November 2023 be accepted as distributed.

2. Reports

2.1 Treasurer's Report:

Current bank balance is \$4,722.81.

Bronwen presented the reviewed statements for 2023.

Bronwen noted that we ended the year in a better financial position than anticipated.

Following the NO webinars, Bronwen emailed NO regarding the allocation of expenses for 2023 and it appears that we are mostly OK.

M/S/C (Bronwen/Karin) that the report be accepted as presented.

3. Committee Reports

3.1 Membership report from George:

The branch membership is now 927.

3.2 Advocacy report from Greg:

Greg reported on contacts he has had with other branches on the island, specifically a Zoom meeting with Victoria and an upcoming Zoom meeting with Nanaimo in April.

He is hoping that there will be a meeting for all VI branches to discuss similar issues for the upcoming provincial election. He hopes to receive policy issues from NO in the summer and thinks this will be good practice for the federal election due in 2025.

Renata, our provincial advocacy officer has been helpful in coordinating meetings with MLAs.

He confirmed that the Labour Day picnic which we attend in Ladysmith with the Nanaimo branch is an excellent opportunity to see local MLAs.

He attended a webinar with Canadian Medical Association but felt that the issues were slanted towards increased privatization rather than increasing funding for public healthcare.

Greg will be asking for volunteers to assist with advocacy for the upcoming provincial election.

He is aware that we have to proceed with due caution when holding townhalls

George will give Greg the contact details for the BC Teachers Association with whom we did the last townhall for a federal election.

3.3 Member Services:

No reports

3.4 Program Coordinator:

Kathy is concerned that the Ramada may not be available in the future and we may need to find an alternate meeting location. Several suggestions were made and this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

- 3.5 Communication/Website/Sage:
Rick will be looking after the website on the national site and preparing Sage inserts.

Old Business

- 4.1 Old printer:
Bronwen will be donating the old branch printer as she and George have purchased a new one which is a colour laser printer. The branch will be paying for supplies, ink and paper.

New Business:

- 4.1 Budget:
Bronwen presented a tentative budget for consideration and discussion based on last year's financial statement.
M/S/C (Bronwen/Greg) the budget be accepted for presentation at the upcoming AGM.
- 4.2 Reserves:
As we have no excess fund for 2023, we have no need to reserve funds. A reserve template showing no reserves will be submitted to NO.
- 4.3 Agenda Items for AGM:
The only additional item suggested for the agenda was to put in a link to the video on Ageism now available on YouTube.
- 4.4 District Meeting – 6 to 8 May 2024 in Abbotsford:
Agenda items for this meeting will be restructuring, governance and recruitment of members. Rick will be attending as BSC and George and possibly Paul and/or Greg will attend as branch representatives. Bronwen may attend as an observer or representative.
- 4.5 Seniors Aging Well Expo:
We have received no information about whether this will be held in 2024. George contacted Volunteer Cowichan and was advised that no decision has been made. NB: If this goes ahead in June 2024, Bronwen and George will be out of the country 28th May until 15th July. and will give the branch display items and swag to another Executive member.
- 4.7 Dental Plan:
T4A slips issued for 2023 should show (box 15) whether or not a person is eligible to join a dental plan. Rick noted that there was a CTV news item on Thursday discussing eligibility for the plan. If you were never a member of the Pensions Dental Plan or were a member and opted out before 11th December 2023 and meet all the other eligibility requirements, you may be eligible to apply. There was a discussion about the shortage of available dentist in this area. Eligibility criteria is found at:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan/qualify.html>
- 4.8 Picnic:
This event will be held on SSI for 2024 and Drew will host the event and make arrangements. There was a discussion about past location with the SSI museum and the Lions Club facility being possible options. This would require purchase of platters similar to what we had for the 60th Anniversary at the Cowichan Lawn Bowling Club last year.
- 4.9 Relocation Services Group:
We have received an email from this group asking to be 'advertised' to our members. As this group already advertises in Sage and is on the national website, we will not be sending information to our branch members.
- 4.10 Other Business:
Rick noted that the branch could send a representative to AMM from the branch as he will be attending as BSC.

Kathy will invite Firesmart speakers to join us for lunch at the AGM – please advise Bronwen the number.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm,

Next meeting: 1st August and 21st November at 2 pm – Crofton Senior Centre