

**General Meeting Minutes
Sarnia, ON
February 19, 2019**

Branch Web site <http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater>

Present -

President - Christopher Hawksworth
Past President - Gloria Cayea
Treasurer - Diane Kerr
Outreach Coordinator - Pat Mason
IT and Web Site Coordinator - Doug Kerr
Secretary - Bob Jackson
Member at Large - Murray Lester

Regrets -

Director of Membership - Bill Mason
Vice President - Earnie MacDougall
Member at Large - Diana Wright
Member at Large - Georgina MacIssac

President Christopher Hawksworth opened the meeting at 12:10.

Chris advised the Branch recently gained four new members, two of whom were in attendance - Lori Clancy and Shawn Barker.

Chris hi-lited the importance of the up-coming Annual General Meeting taking place April 14 in Petrolia. As always the Branch needs and invites interested members to fill Board vacancies.

Chris noted the Branch's annual bowling outing took place in January. Additional events are being planned, including a cruise on the Duc d'Orleans, tentatively scheduled for June 24, and possibly a golf tournament late in the summer. Details to follow when available.

Chris reminded the meeting National keeps members updated through e-mail notices and member input and comments are often solicited.

Members are invited to reply directly to these e-mails or pass their comments through any board member.

Chris said grace and members enjoyed lunch provided by the Sarnia Legion.

Following lunch the meeting resumed with **Gloria Cayea** introducing the guest speakers, **Margaret Bell, Andrew Bolter, Arlene Patterson.** The speakers represent a collaboration between Navigating Senior Care Lambton (NSCL) and Community Legal Assistance Sarnia (CLAS).

"NSCL is a grass roots citizens' organization that has the goal of promoting health care, social engagement, , health literacy and the capacity of seniors and their family caregivers to navigate hospitals, long term care facilities, and local community support services to share their knowledge."

"CLAS is an independent not for profit Community Legal Clinic ... with a ... mandate to assist low income residents in Sarnia-Lambton with their legal and Justice needs and provide support in accessing government programs ... CLAS is very involved with issues arising for low income seniors as they look to find and access safe, affordable, appropriate housing, community supports and health care"

The collaboration arose from an Ontario provincial grant which was used to reach out across Lambton County to "provide a vehicle for seniors and their care givers, with lived experience, of local health care and housing issues to share their knowledge and experiences"

The guest speakers gave an interesting and concerning presentation on issues surrounding senior care in Lambton County, and summarized the outreach report, quoted above, entitled "Hearing our Voices".

Anyone requiring further information or experiencing issues with senior care is invited to contact CLAS at telephone number 519-332-8055. While CLAS may not be able to directly deal with seniors whose income exceed a defined maximum, CLAS may be able to provide helpful referrals and contact information.

Following a Q and A session with our guest speakers the meeting adjourned at 1350.