



Branch BC 04  
Monthly News Update  
April, 2020

*Hello, fellow BC04 Branch Members;*

### **NOTES FROM THE BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING**

The Branch Annual Meeting went ahead as planned on March 12th, just a few days before Public Health officials began prohibiting public gatherings. We were already aware of the contagion concerns so diners were seated fewer to a table than is generally the case and we were careful to avoid hugging and back-slapping, and the handshake was replaced by the elbow-bump.

The meeting allowed us to conduct the legal business of the branch: the annual branch report, financial review and budget, and the election of a new board. Bernd Hirsekorn stepped away from the president's podium after four illustrious and energetic years as party-planner –in-chief. Bernd believes that if you create an occasion to celebrate, you can use that focus to build a strong organization, which becomes in itself a reason to celebrate. BC04 received a "Branch Excellence" award for the party we threw to mark the branch's 40th anniversary in 2018.

Ian Blake, Branch Services Co-ordinator for Western BC/Yukon, conducted marginally democratic elections which resulted in the acclamation of the 2020 board:

President: Ian Spence

Vice-President: Ilene Fika

Secretary: Timothy Knight

Treasurer: Thelma Graham

Directors: Stuart Wilson (Communications)  
Joy Hennen (Membership Marketing)  
Katherine Kettler (Volunteer Engagement, Events)  
Steve Sawchuk (Membership Administration)  
Rocky Rockwell (Health Benefits)  
Sharon Riches (Director-at-large)

Past President: Bernd Hirsekorn

Two Director positions (a.k.a. "opportunities") remain open.

We look forward to continuing to serve through the challenges ahead.

## Upcoming Events...er, cancellations...

“Let’s do Lunch” . The event scheduled for March 19th, with Charles Louth event was cancelled. We hope for a return engagement as soon as possible.

“You and Your Survivors” Workshop. This event, too, tentatively scheduled for April 15th, is postponed until further notice. Please keep an eye on the emails you receive from Federal Retirees national. The Association plans to roll out an updated *You and Your Survivors* planning document in the coming weeks. (Maybe in the next few weeks you will find an afternoon with time on your hands...)

Meet & Chat 2 –3:30 p.m. first Thursday of each month at Ricky’s, King George Highway, South Surrey. These events are on hold for now.

The BC/Yukon District meeting at the end of May at the RCMP Pacific Regional Training Centre has been cancelled. This meeting, an annual event for several years now, brings together volunteers from the 15 BC Branches, the District Directors, and staff from National Office for training and development. It may be re-scheduled for the fall.

And the national Annual Meeting of Members scheduled for June 9-11 in Gatineau is “under review”.

Keep an eye on the Branch web-site [nafrfraservalleywest.ca](http://nafrfraservalleywest.ca) for updates on Branch events.

**Branch General Meeting and Barbecue**—We are holding our breath and hoping for a return to relative normalcy by then, i.e. **July 16th, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Peace Arch Park** Catered by Henry’s Outdoor BBQ. Registration required (to reserve the bird). RSVP by July 9, 2020. Contact Katherine Kettler, 778-995-6136, or [kettlerk@gmail.com](mailto:kettlerk@gmail.com)

## How to contact your Branch

President	<b>Ian</b> Spence	(604)753-7845	spence.ian@telus.net
Vice President	<b>Ilene</b> Fika	(604) 372-1109	
Treasurer	<b>Thelma</b> Graham	604 309-2538	graham_tm@msn.com
Secretary	<b>Timothy</b> Knight		nafrsecretary@gmail.com
Director Health & Benefits (HBO )	<b>Glen (Rocky)</b> Rockwell		grockwell@shaw.ca
Director Membership Administration	<b>Steve</b> Sawchuk	604 574-2939	s.sawchuk@shaw.ca
Director Communications	<b>Stuart</b> Wilson	604 542-1560	s.k.wilson@shaw.ca
Director Membership Marketing	<b>Joy</b> Hennen	604 856-0310	joyJ@shaw.ca
Director Volunteer Engagement	<b>Katherine</b> Kettler	778 995-6136	kettlerk@gmail.com
Director	<b>Sharon</b> Riches	604 946-2434	slriches@me.com

**Changed your e-mail address, your Home address? Phone number(s)?** Please advise **Steve**. (You should also update your profile on [www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca): click on the Login tab to setup and update your profile... or just call Steve!)

## In Memoriam

Federal Retirees’ national magazine, SAGE, has an “In Memoriam” section to honour recently deceased members by listing their name and Branch. To have the name of your loved one included in the “In Memoriam” section, please contact **Steve Sawchuk** in writing (by mail or email). Please note that SAGE is published quarterly and branch submissions are required several weeks in advance. If you would like to post a memory piece or photo on the Branch web-site, please contact **Ian Spence**.

The **Safe Seniors, Strong Communities** program connects seniors who find themselves stranded at home and needing help with getting groceries, prescriptions, meal preparation, laundry, etc. with willing volunteers.

Call 2-1-1 or visit <http://www.bc211.ca>

There are lots of resources out there. If you need help finding what you need, call a board member or send an email to [info@nafrfraservalleywest.ca](mailto:info@nafrfraservalleywest.ca)

**Stay safe. Please take care of each other and your neighbours.**

*Ian Spence* President, BC04