

BRANCH BC15 ACTIVITIES REPORT
March 24th 2020 to March 7th 2021

In Remembrance – Larry Allen, Virginia Archibald, David Croft, Donald McLarty, Robert Kreitz, Wheeler Perry

March 24th, 2020 - Annual Branch Report was sent to national office.

March 27th, 2020 – Stephen Hryciuk Resigned – Contacted national office who review our by-laws and advised we could proceed with revising our appointed officers through an executive meeting and that it could be done through zoom.

March 30th, 2020 – Executive Meeting - Zoom

Board Members - appointed as follows: Deb Nilsen, President, Rose Bowker, VP, Marian Muir, Treasurer, Deb Tomlinson, Secretary, Marilyn Rayner, Senior's Liaison and Eileen Leinweber, Director at Large

Signing Authorities – President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary

National Office – advised of revised board appointments.

April 15th, 2020 – Executive Meeting - Zoom

Discussed welcome letter to new members, business cards, Hearing Life webinar postponed, AMM on hold, PRTC District Conference cancelled, NPSW June 10-15, Reach 338, branch boundaries, volunteer recognition, Christmas Lunch venue, Community Liaison Teams, By-laws review, laptop to be given to Deb T., the new secretary.

Note: All executive meetings include a president's report, a VP report, a treasurer's report, a senior's liaison report, and a website update. The info from these reports will be spoken about during the AGM by the directors responsible for them.

May 28th, 2020 – Virtual Meeting with Senior Minister Deb Schulte

Rose, Marian, Deb N and Marilyn attended. Ms. Schulte answered questions and advised on what the government is doing for seniors during the pandemic.

June 1st, 2020 – Executive Meeting - Zoom

Discussed the above items from April 15th meeting as well as the following:

E-blast to our members re: Supporting Your Members, National Office reminder about stay-at-home orders due to covid-19 and that our members are to do nothing that requires them to leave their home as a representative or on behalf of NAFR, NPSW – poster going out to our local Federal Government offices, Reach 338, no member meeting in June.

June 10th to 14th, 2020 – NPSW

Posters sent to local federal departments through by email, PG Matters article and banner ads

June 24th, 2020 – District Meeting – Zoom

The national president, CEO and Advocacy Rep were present along with our District Directors, Branch Service Coordinators, Branch Advocacy Program Coordinator and Presidents of the local branches. The main purpose of the meeting was to see how branches were doing and to let us know what was happening nationally and regionally with the association.

Sep 9th, 2020 – Executive Meeting – Zoom

Met to discuss ongoing items as noted above as well as to confirm that national has advised that there will be no face-to-face member meetings for the rest of the year.

Sept 25th, 2020 – Zoom Regional Meeting regarding Reach 338 and Upcoming Provincial Election

National providing toolkits for election, focusing on long term care and pharmacare. A letter will be drafted for us that we can send to the candidates. A webinar with the candidates is being set up as well. We have 8 candidates in our riding and will be sending out letters and the toolkit packages to the candidates.

Sept 25th, 2020 – Zoom Meeting – COSCO (Council of Senior Citizens Organization)

Speakers were: Dr. Pat Armstrong, Research Professor at York University, Anil Naidoo, National Union of Public and General Employees (which include employees who work in health care facilities) and Dr. Penny McCourt – Healthwell Educator and Consultant. The webinar focussed on the urgent need to deal with the protection and quality of life of our seniors and how to support long term care workers in long term care residences.

Sept 28th, 2020 – Zoom Meeting on Member Engagement Survey Results

Speakers: David Coletto – CEO of Abacus Data, Simon Coakley, NAFR CEO, Andrew McGillvray, NAFR Director of Communications, Marketing and Recruitment, and Jeff Wolfson, NAFR Recruitment.

David Coletto – CEO of Abacus Data: 90% of our members believe they good services for their fees and are satisfied with the communication from national office and their branches.

Simon Coakley – NAFR CEO: a survey was sent out to members and he had a good response. One of the survey results was that the retirement seminars were what prompted members to join.

Andrew McGillvray – NAFR Director of Communications, Marketing and Recruitment

We lost a lot of members due to covid as medoc benefits are one of the main reasons our members join NAFR.

Jeff Wolfson, NAFR Recruitment:

Mega Recruitment Drive, Win Back Campaign, compiling information about why members leave NAFR, NAFR will have a virtual retirement booth set up for an on line event in Ottawa, Jean-Guy, NAFR president, presented a webinar at a Gov't. Charitable campaign event and a webinar with

the Association of Professional Executives about retirees and NAFR was done. 500 people attended so another session is being set up.

Oct 13th, 2020 – Zoom Meeting with MP Todd Doherty- Cariboo Prince George Riding

Discussed our concerns regarding long term and home care and the need for national standards. Mr. Doherty advised that he had spoken to the house during the throne speech regarding this issue and keyed in on the mental health aspect of seniors. They are working on policies around these issues.

Oct 16th, 2020 – Zoom Meeting – BC Election

(NDP Anne Kang, Liberal Mary Polak, Green Annameike) set up jointly with NAFR (Leslie Gaudette) and COSCO (Sheila Pither). Discussed long-term care, home care and pharmacare and what each party's platform is regarding plans for seniors and what they will do regarding these issues should they be elected.

Oct 17th, 2020 – Letters sent to BC election candidates running in our local branch areas (8 ridings)

One of MLAs, John Rustad, replied to our letter and asked for input regarding how other countries operate their long term care and home care for seniors. National office did some research for us and sent their results to our VP, Rose, who has passed them on to Mr. Rustad.

Oct 19th, 2020 – Zoom Meeting – CPP

Speakers were Heather Munroe-Blum – CPP Board Chair and Mark Machin – CEO of CPP, Sara Perkins – Manager of External Affairs and John Graham – Sr. Director of Global Investing. State of CPP is good, is sustainable for the next 75 years, 10.7% nominal return over the last 10 years. Fund is well diversified.

Nov 2nd, 2020 – Zoom Meeting with Bob Zimmer - Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies Riding

Discussed long-term care, home care and pharmacare and what each party's platform is regarding plans for seniors and what they will do regarding these issues should they be elected. He agrees that a national standard would be good and stated that we need the provinces to agree with a national standard and that the federal government should be providing leadership.

Nov 4th, 2020 – Zoom Meeting with Taylor Bachrach – Skeena-Bulkley Valley Riding

Discussed long-term care, home care and pharmacare and what each party's platform is regarding plans for seniors and what they will do regarding these issues should they be elected. He is a new MP and is learning the ropes. He supports a national standard. He also said that his party supports one of our other initiatives – pharmacare – and that their goal is to have affordable pharmacare for all Canadians.

Nov 11th, 2020 - Wreath for Remembrance Day

Nov 16th, 2020 – Meet the Candidates Virtual Meeting

Six candidates vying for two openings for a seat as a national director on the national board. This was an opportunity for the presidents to meet the candidates before a vote is taken on who

will be appointed. The voting and appointments will be made at the virtual AMM taking place on Dec 2nd.

Dec 2nd, 2020 – AMM Virtual Meeting

- Three by-laws were amended.
- 5 year strategic plan was reviewed.
- National Office is working on hosting pre-retirement seminars with Global Affairs Canada to provide on-line, virtual services to present the information.
- Funding for Sage has been received again for the coming year.
- F/S, budgets and projections were presented.

Elections for 5 national board director positions. Brian Strongman was re-elected for BC. Others elected are Connie Kehler for Prairies/NWT, Daniel Brunet for Ottawa/Nunavut, Jacques Lambert for Quebec and Megan Williams for Atlantic.

- Overall, we are in a good position professionally and financially. We will be notified when face to face meetings can resume.
- Discussions are taking place about extending the Reach 338 initiative to include MLAs
- Video of the AMM is posted on the national website for members to view.

Dec 7th, 2020 – Executive Meeting – Zoom

Discussed ongoing items, unfinished business, setting up AGM and rest of meetings in 2021, audit of 2020 financial statements, updates to website.

Dec 15th, 2020 – Zoom – Regional District Meeting

Discussed surplus funds and reserves. May have excess amounts in reserves due to covid. Usually, we use the last 3 years to determine our average, but we have been given one time permission to use 2017, 2018 and 2019 as these years are more representative of a normal year's expenses.

Honorariums may be used when paying non-members for services rendered to your branch. This would include paying for the services of a Guest Speaker or a qualified local citizen to audit the branch financials.

Membership Retention: Nationally the organization has lost a lot of members, some due to MEDIC travel restrictions. The "Win Back" campaign has helped to re-enrol some our members. There was an issue with email being blocked by Telus. National has sent lists to the branches of those with blocked emails and we have been contacting members on the list provided to us. Most were not aware their email had been blocked.

Face to face Meeting: National has extended the prohibition of face-to-face meetings until at least July 2021. June AMM will therefore be done by zoom. The district is exploring having a face-to-face meeting in the fall of 2021 but that will dependant on the conditions and limitations in place at that time.

Supplemental Branch Funding: There were no applications due to the circumstances this year.

Communication Events for Regular Members (Webinar/Seminar): Leslie mentioned it's been difficult with the lack of meeting/gatherings to keep members up to date on advocacy activities. National office provided some examples of zoom/webinar events and Leslie was looking for feedback from the branches on the interest of providing these types of events. It was mentioned that some people are feeling "zoom exhaustion" and wondered if people were becoming less interested in these types of events.

Advocacy Update: Provincial Election Follow-up – congratulation letters to elected MLAs have gone out by some branches. National Office is considering adapting the briefing book for the Federal MPs for Provincial MLAs. It is anticipated that there will be follow up with provincial governments on LTD, Pharmacare and strategies for community healthcare.

Reach 338 Status: Meetings with MPs have been taking place through zoom. Note: Our branch completed our 3 MP meetings (Todd Doherty, Bob Zimmer and Taylor Bachrach)

Feb 18th, 2020 – Zoom Webinar on Reserves

Discussed what qualifies as a reserve, how to set up a reserve, and how reserves affect the branch financials. Basically, reserves can provide funding for unforeseen or extraordinary expenditures such as volunteer training, succession planning, equipment replacement, special events, etc. Cannot be set up for ordinary expenses we incur every year.

A walkthrough of how to set up a reserve and set up a reserve template was done.

Mar 1st, 2020 – Executive Meeting – Zoom

Other items of Note

You and Your Survivors booklet will be printed and given to us at the June 2021 AMM at a cost of \$5.00 each. We need to decide on how many we will order.

Marian and Deb N. completed a survey on reserves.

Recruitment brochures can be ordered, or you can find it on the VIP portal under Recruitment & Member Services, Recruitment Resources.

Sage reports are saved in the VIP portal under Communications & Marketing, Branch Reports

2021 Sage deadlines are Jan 8th for the spring edition, Apr 6 for the summer edition, Jul 8 for the fall edition and Oct 6 for the winter edition.

Blocked members – Rose has a list. National office is working on the telus blocked ones hoping that they can unblock them all through their office. We will be notified if they are able to do this.

Reminder that members can sign up for automatic monthly payment of dues from their pension cheques and receive 25% off the first-year dues.

There will be no membership dues increase this year.

Arlene Krueger asked me to let our members know that there is a possible federal election coming this year and that it's important that we all vote. She also asked that I let you know that there will be jobs available for working the election and they will be available on the Elections Canada website once an election is called.

National office is working on a Branch Banking pilot project where all banking for branches will be done through the national bank. Local branches will have petty cash only. This is due to some branches being told by their local bank that their signing authority means they are accepting personal liability for the bank account.