

Branch Report
Western Manitoba MB30 Branch
Annual General Meeting April 27, 2021

On behalf of the Western Manitoba Board of Directors, please accept our best wishes and we sincerely hope everyone is doing well. Hopefully, we will emerge from this pandemic with confidence to enjoy in-person meetings again and to partake in the social activities your Branch has planned. More importantly as retirees, we want to restore our social lives, visit family, friends and revive our travel plans.

I recently read an email that compared the present pandemic with the Spanish Flu pandemic that consumed the world from February 1918 to April 1920. We all know what happened after that epidemic was over – we had the Roaring 20's. People were spending money and partying.

The Branch's Board of Directors has been meeting through Zoom on a regular basis and tending to the business. We are pleased to inform you that your Branch is in good financial status.

The financial reports show we have accumulated a surplus and hence have some social events planned once in-person activities are allowed. We still plan on doing the 40th Anniversary Social. If you have any suggestions for upcoming meetings, guest speakers or social activities, please share them. We are always welcome to new ideas.

COVID required us to cancel the in-person AGM scheduled for last April 2020 as well as the two General meetings scheduled for October 2020 and January 2021. To maintain communication with the membership, we have been using "eblasts" ... newsletter emails that are sent to every member in our branch area with an email address. National Office is also doing their best to keep members up to date via email messages and posting information on their website.

While the federal government has been spending millions in support of covid relief, our Association has been monitoring any proposals of the federal parties which might impact our pensions, benefits, veterans, and senior care. Should they become aware of any policies which negatively affect retirees, they and us will be calling upon you to make our voices heard to ensure we are treated fairly. Consequently, you might be receiving email updates weekly, sometimes, daily from either the Branch or the Association.

We have nomination and perhaps elections to fill current vacancies on the board of directors. At this time, I would like to recognize our board members that have stepped down. In the future, when we can meet in person, we will thank them more formally.

Brett Turner our past president stepped aside in June 2020, and I volunteered to assume the role of President in an acting capacity.

Barry Caswell who was our Advocacy Liaison and his wife Dorothy Caswell who was a Board Director, both had to depart in September 2020 for personal reasons.

Our Treasurer, Linda Dueck resigned this past March. Linda was instrumental in ensuring that our Branch stay compliant with the "Not for Profit Act" by establishing the proper reserves and making sure that they were all used appropriately. Linda ensured all our financial reports were completed for this AGM. We recognize her dedication to ensuring our Branch adhered to not only accounting requirements but to the national regulations of our Association.

And sadly, Val Zoerb who organized and secured our meeting locations, has recently indicated she will be resigning after this meeting.

This means that our Branch is looking for a new directors. We need members to look after advocacy and other activities or projects. We are very open to accommodating arrangements with regard to terms in office and attending board meetings.

This past year we initiated and sent warm welcome email messages to new members and members transferring into our branch. We are mindful that of the 780 members of our branch, only half or approx. 350 members live in Brandon and we need to be resourceful to try and reach out to our rural members.

We also developed our own Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FederalRetireesWesternManitoba> .

Check it out and be sure to "Like" the Facebook pages to get regular updates.

In closing, thanks to my board for their support, please stay safe and follow the guidelines. We are all looking forward to getting back to normal.

Wendy Jarvin, President
Western Manitoba MB30 Branch