

NAFR York Branch Meeting (Zoom Video Conference)

09:30 AM – 12:15 PM Tuesday January 4, 2022

Present: Fred Conway, President; Tom Nichols, Past President/Treasurer; Ken Ackles, Vice President; Linda Laffree, Membership; Marie MacPhee, Events; Frank Froude, Web Editor; Sharon Carson, Advocacy; Vasdev Sawhney, Sharon Paris, Directors-at-Large; Ed Millar, Recording Secretary.

Regrets: Giuseppe (Joe) Vettese, Director-at-Large.

1. Review and Approval of the Agenda: Add under item 3(a) Insurance, 3(b) SAGE, Item 7(a) Esprit-de-Core, 7(b) SAGE, 7(c) Nominations Committee. Approval moved by Vasdev, seconded by Marie.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of Nov. 2, 2021: Approval moved by Sharon Carson, seconded by Frank.

3. Actions Items from the Minutes.

(a) Equipment Storage, Insurance: Nil report on storage. Tom stated insurance would reimburse the depreciated value of any equipment if lost (\$400). The Branch address now listed with NAFR for this purpose is his address, as the equipment is stored there. Meetings covered by NAFR insurance however for the in person AGM and FMM meetings the timing is such that as a precaution York Branch utilizes the Richmond Hill insurance.

(b) SAGE: Fred reported no items had been received so no insert was planned. Tom indicated the Finances would be voted on at the AGM and that specific wording was required for the motion which he would obtain from National Office.

4. Reports:

(a) President: Fred reviewed the items since the previous meeting including the Bulletins2Branches, the plan for 2022 focusing on the AGM and the two district meetings with the emphasis on the upcoming Provincial election. The Long Term Care (LTC) issue is now more defined. Branch spending around Branch entertainment remains a problem. Fred noted that the Bulletin2Branches contained a statement on NAFR's mission, which he felt indicative of "mission drift". **Action:** Fred to draft a message to NAFR President on behalf of York Branch

BOD cc'd to Ontario Branch presidents, stating that NAFR's mission is the defense of federal retiree benefits – all else is secondary. Message to be circulated to BOD members for comment before sending.

(b) Treasurer: Prior to the meeting Tom circulated the financial statements. Two cheques are outstanding and the payment to CHATS for providing a speaker not resolved. \$4,310.79 estimated amount to be transferred to the National Office although that may change in the next two weeks before the books are closed. There was a brief discussion on capital items which may be required for hybrid meetings. Sharon Carson moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Marie. Added note from Tom... Before we offer this, we need to do a dry run of a hybrid meeting.. I've been thinking about the complications of amplifying the sound in the auditorium, showing the screen with all participants as well as having a few cameras, speakers and microphones in the same room. We will need a few people to turn on and off microphones and muting the volumes on the separate cameras and perhaps one person on a "host" computer to handle questions etc. I think it is doable but it needs to be trialed.

(c) Membership: Prior to the meeting Linda provided a breakdown of the membership currently at 943 active members, an increase of 2. Lost contacts remain at 25. Linda tabled a draft welcome letter to be sent to new members and requested members provide comments.

(d) Web Site: Frank reported uploading in the correct format had been completed. The most recent data appears at top of page when site opened. Three pictures on the site will be revised each quarter and Marie will update changes to upcoming events. After a discussion on posting pictures of Legion buildings Sharon Carson moved seconded by Linda that photos of Legion buildings, three each quarter, within the York Branch boundaries be posted on the site.

5. Branch Bylaw Review: After a brief discussion it was decided that a separate meeting be held at 9:00 AM January 18 to review the Branch Bylaws. Tom to circulate the current Bylaws for review prior to the meeting. An email blast to members and posting of the Bylaws on the web site will be done prior to the AGM.

6. York Branch Meetings – 2022: Fred noted the current plan is to use the Richmond Hill facility as part of a hybrid meeting with refreshments but no lunch. Jean-Guy Souliere was suggested as one speaker and Tom offered to determine if Andre Pickard author of Neglected No More might make a presentation. The subject was tabled to the March meeting when holding in-person or virtual meetings was clearer.

7. New Business:

(a) Esprit de Corps Ad: Fred explained the Hamilton Branch had proposed Branch input and funding of \$1,000 each toward placing an ad in the magazine which targets military and ex-military as a recruiting tool. There was general support but not at the requested level. Sharon Carson moved, seconded by Tom that York Branch offer \$500.00 for 2022.

(b) SAGE: The President initiated a discussion on the use of SAGE and in particular the Branch insert as a means of communicating with members. As a periodical the lead times don't always work. Tom felt the Branch should produce at least two inserts to ensure that members have core Branch information at their disposal, such as contacts. **Action:** Fred to prepare a short Branch insert by the Jan 7 deadline for the Winter SAGE.

(c) Nominations Committee: As past president Tom to head up committee although Fred felt all members should participate. Members whose terms are ending this year should indicate to Tom if they plan to continue on the Board.

8. Trends and Concerns Review:

(a) Recruitment and Retention: See 7(a) above.

9. Next Board Meeting: 09:30 Tuesday March 1, 2022

10. Adjournment: Moved by Sharon Carson, seconded by Marie.