



Annual General Meeting
Thursday March 12, 2020
Newlands Golf and Country Club,
Langley BC

MINUTES

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by Branch President Bernd Hirsekorn, with 55 people present including 47 members of the Branch, thereby exceeding the quorum of 35.
- A minute of silence was observed for our departed members.

Bernd welcomed our guests and new members, including Ken Moyes, Dale Collins, Yasmin Colberg, Gerald Newman, and Doug Hamilton, and welcomed first time AGM attendees: Elspeth Bird, Elizabeth Harold and Dianne Brown.

- Board members present included: Bernd Hirsekorn, Ian Spence, Ilene Fika, Thelma Graham, Katherine Kettler, Rocky Rockwell, Joy Hennen, and Sharon Riches
- Bernd conveyed regrets from: Stuart Wilson and Steve Sawchuk who were unable to attend

1. The **agenda** for the meeting was approved. **MSC Bernd Hirsekorn/Rocky Rockwell**

2. Approval of AGM **Minutes** held March 14, 2019 **MSC Ilene Fika/Sandi Britton-Lougheed**

3. **Branch President's and Directors' Reports:** **Bernd Hirsekorn**

- Bernd presented highlights from the 2019 Annual Reports received from the Board of Directors. Very proud of our Branch activities and accomplishments and believes our motto "Yes We Can!" captures the enthusiastic involvement of our volunteers.
- 2019 Election Year: Advocacy initiatives included the candidates' "meet and greet" at the annual barbecue, 2 election townhalls organized with the Langley Seniors Resource Centre under the leadership of Leslie Gaudette, mailouts to all candidates and meetings with individual candidates
- Recruitment in 2020 will remain a high priority...
We are working hard to connect with current employees in Public Service and RCMP.
John Aldag assisted us in making contacts with the BC Federal Council (senior department executives); Ian Spence and Bernd Hirsekorn made a presentation to that group of on 27 Feb 2020. We were well received in addressing issues that current employees had not yet considered and we hope this leads to Federal Retirees' participation in pre-retirement seminars.
- The Health & Benefits position is currently filled by Rocky Rockwell who informs and responds to member enquiries as needed.
- Membership Administration is managed by Steve Sawchuk and he was pleased to report that our

membership increased by 4% to 2,276 members with the majority living in Surrey and Langley.

- Our Director for Branch Membership Marketing, Joy Hennen, completed several positive outreach activities with PSAC and local RCMP detachments.
- Branch Communications is efficiently coordinated through Stuart Wilson's expertise. Our website is updated regularly to provide members with current information on all NAFR initiatives both local and National. We have changed our Branch emails, Monthly updates and Quarterly Newsletters for distribution through the National Office but we still use "Mail Chimp" to inform our members about time sensitive events/issues. *More information is contained within the Communications report.*
- Ian Spence addressed group about Advocacy initiatives in 2019 (*see the Advocacy Report for more details*)
 - The Federal Retirees identified 4 priorities to be addressed in our conversations with politicians during the election: Income security in retirement, Pharmacare, Improved well-being for Veterans and their families and a comprehensive seniors' strategy.
- We invited candidates to our BBQ and got 10 out and we had a good exchange. Our volunteers participated in 2 townhalls, information tables at 2 Labour Day events and canvassed in various areas. We are still looking for volunteers in White Rock and Surrey to help us be more active in those municipalities in the future.

Ian then called on **Leslie Gaudette** (APO) BC/Yukon to address the membership about Advocacy issues for the province of BC. She stated that the Fraser Valley West Branch undertook an active role during the election year:

- Lunar New Year celebrations: Thanks to contacts through Ian Spence, we partnered with the Vancouver Branch to spread the word about the Federal Retirees.
- Reach 338 – Federal Retirees will make local connections with MPs in areas to promote an understanding of NAFR goals: In BC for 2020, as a province, we have been assigned 14 MPs to contact; 2 of which are in our Branch and which will receive priority support from the National Office. We have another 5 ridings whose MPs we can also visit. Please see Ian to volunteer to meet with MPs and get the word out about Federal Retirees. Materials for Reach 338 will be out shortly.
- In the Fall of 2021 – Provincial election initiatives going forward, recruitment and retention and advocacy. Lots of opportunities for you to get involved!
- Bernd thanked Katherine Kettler, the Director for Branch Events and Volunteer Engagement for her hard work in these areas (*see reports for details*)
- Bernd introduced long-time member Bernie Grinstead and advised attendees that a very interesting article about Bernie is published in this issue of SAGE.

4. Branch Financial Reports: (see BC04 2019 Branch Report Appendices) Ian Spence

- Branch Finances was a team-effort this year due to changing volunteers and absences, but with help from National Office, Ian was able to balance the books and complete the year-end reports.
 - Along with the finance team, **Verna Sandison** reviewed the year-end Branch financial reports. We balanced/reconciled in CRM (the National financial system) and our Bank statements.

4.1. Approval of Financial Statements for 2019:

Ian Spence

- Ian explained **Appendix A** of the 2019 Branch Report, and gave an overview of the financial

statements ending 31 Dec 2019 including Revenues, Expenses, Earnings/Loss and Balances showing net assets.

- Ian stated that our reviewed Branch financial statements for the year ending 31/12/2019 showed a loss of \$645.95.

Moved that the members assembled at this Annual Meeting receive and approve the Reviewed Financial Statements for the year 2019 showing a Net Loss of \$645.95

MSC Ian Spence/Joan Reynolds. Vote carried

4.2 Motion & voting to modify/establish Branch Reserved Equity Funds, Ian Spence including annual spending limits authorized.

- Ian explained the Statement Balances in ***Appendices B1 and B2*** of the 2019 Branch Report.
 - He then clarified what we are allowed to carry in unallocated reserves.

- Ian then explained ***Appendix C*** of the 2019 Branch Report - how the Allocated Reserves were derived and plans for expenditures in upcoming 5 years.

Moved that the members assembled at this Annual Meeting, confirm the Branch Reserved Equity Allocations made in 2019, with the additional detail provided in Appendix C, Fraser Valley West BC 04 Equity Reserves. MSC Ian Spence/Sharon Riches. Vote carried

4.3 Proposed 2020 Branch Operating Budget Ian Spence

- Ian highlighted the proposed budget in ***Appendix A*** of the 2019 Branch Report, indicating that this year is comparable to last year's budget.

Motion to Approve Proposed Operating Budget for 2020 MSC Ian Spence/Gaston du Paul. Vote carried

5. Motion for (Board) Authority to Appoint a Financial Reviewer for 2020 Bernd Hirsekorn Bernd moved that this motion be accepted/Joy Hennen seconded it and Vote Carried

6. Motion to Appoint Bank and Cheque Signing Officers for 2020 Bernd Hirsekorn Bernd moved that the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary be appointed as Bank Signing Officers for our Branch/Verna Sandison seconded the motion and Vote Carried.

7. Dismissal of the BC04 Board of Directors Bernd Hirsekorn

- At this point Bernd Hirsekorn conveyed, on behalf of the Branch members, a sincere Thank You to our Board of Directors for their valued contributions in aid of our Federal Retiree Association goals. Thanks to our Branch members for the opportunity to serve on the Board.
- We extend a tremendous 'Thank You' to Bernd Hirsekorn for providing his groundbreaking leadership and guidance as President for 4 years, VP and Communications Director for the previous 7 years. He will continue to serve the board in an advisory capacity as Past President.
- In accordance with our Branch Bylaws, Part 6.4, Bernd declared our 2019 Board of Directors dismissed and we proceeded with our Election of a new BC04 Board of Directors. He then turned the meeting over to Ian Blake as the Nominations Committee Chair.

8. Nomination and election of officers Ian Blake

Ian Blake, our current Branch's Services Coordinator, chaired the meeting for election of officers for the 2020-2021 Board of Directors. Officers/directors nominated by the nominations committee were introduced and asked if they accepted their nominations. Nominations from the floor were called three times for each position.

- ***Motion to elect Executive positions: Ian Blake***
Ian Spence to the position of President; Ilene Fika to the position of Vice-President; Thelma Graham to the position of Treasurer; and Timothy Knight to the position of Secretary.
MSC Ian Blake/Martha Fry. Vote carried

- **Election of Directors-At-Large:**

For the 8 positions of Director-at-Large, the following Branch members agreed to serve:

- (1) Steve Sawchuk,
- (2) Katherine Kettler,
- (3) Sharon Riches,
- (4) Joy Hennen,
- (5) Rocky Rockwell,
- (6) Stuart Wilson,
- (7)
- (8)

The Nominations Chair reported that Steve Sawchuk and Stuart Wilson had agreed in writing with their nominations. No other nominations were received from the floor for the two remaining vacant positions. Nominations from the floor were called three times for each position.

The elected officers were introduced and congratulated by the Branch Services Coordinator, Ian Blake. The branch officers/directors for 2020-2021 for the Fraser Valley West Branch comprise: the Signing Officers being President Ian Spence, Vice-President Ilene Fika, Treasurer Thelma Graham and Secretary Timothy Knight ; and the Directors-at-Large who will be assigned to specific portfolios at the first Board meeting to be held **23 April 2020**.

PRESIDENT	Ian Spence
VICE PRESIDENT	Ilene Fika
TREASURER	Thelma Graham
SECRETARY	Timothy Knight
PAST-PRESIDENT	Bernd Hirsekorn
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Steve Sawchuk
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Sharon Riches
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Katherine Kettler
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Joy Hennen
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Rocky (Glen) Rockwell
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Stuart Wilson

- Bernd Hirsekorn addressed the membership indicating that if anyone should wish to volunteer at a later date, they can be appointed to a position or just volunteer with our Board.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm followed by a delicious buffet lunch.

Signed on this day of ____ March, 2020 by:

Ian Spence, President

Ilene Fika, (outgoing) Secretary

