

**National Association of Federal retirees (NAFR) York Branch**

**Twenty Fifth Annual General Meeting (AGM)- Hybrid (Zoom)**

**10:00 AM – 12:30 PM Tuesday April 18, 2023**

**Carrville Room, Richvale Community Centre**

**160 Avenue Rd. Richmond Hill, Ontario.**

- 1. Call to Order and Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Fred Conway who welcomed those present and those who had registered to attend on Zoom. There were 36 attendees in person, including 10 Board members and 15 members attending remotely on Zoom. In addition guest speakers NAFR President Roy Goodall and Hedi Modro NAFR health specialist made remote presentations during the meeting.

The President introduced the members of the Board.

Prior to the meeting the proposed Agenda and the Minutes of the 2022 AGM were supplied to members who had registered to attend the meeting. Additional copies along with the financial statements were handed out to those attending in person.
- 2. Review and Approval of the Agenda:** Approval moved by Dan Bandy, seconded by Louis Vigneault. Carried.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 AGM:** Approval moved by Dan Bandy, seconded by Doreen Moore. Carried.
- 4. President's Report:** President Fred Conway opened his remarks by reviewing the items to be discussed during the meeting. Referring to the position of President he outlined the role and responsibility when attending meetings at the National Office including the election of Officers pointing out NAFR has elected a new President and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has now been in his position for almost two years. Displaying a map of the NAFR Branches and Regions he explained the role played by Regional Directors. Turning to York Branch he noted the Branch is financially healthy with a membership of just under 1,000. Looking at the challenges ahead,

the Association is slowly recovering from COVID with a number of failing Branches, some closing, and a general shortage of volunteers. Fred stressed the importance of NAFR in ensuring the Association not become complacent as we enter the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

- 5. Bylaws:** Past President and Treasurer Tom Nichols outlined the history of the original 2015 Bylaws written in response to the Not for Profit legislation. In 2022 we made some changes to bring the Bylaws up to date and these were passed at the 2022 AGM. However, these Bylaws then required approval by the National Board and it had a number of concerns, most of which were resolved through further discussion. However three points need to be readdressed. First, we had changed the definition of our quorum from 2% of the membership with a minimum of 25 to being just 2% of the membership. The proposal is to revert the wording back to what was in the 2015 document which is:

### **8.5 Quorum**

At any Branch Annual, Special or General meeting, the quorum required to conduct business is 2% of the current Branch membership, but never less than 25 participants including one half of the Board of Directors.

The wording of 5.1.1 was deemed to be vague so it is proposed to change it from:

Old 5.1.1 The Branch Board of Directors will be comprised of 5 to 12 Directors. The three positions essential for the operation of the Branch are President, Treasurer and Secretary. For positions other than that of President, the Branch Board will assign Branch Board members or interested Branch members to roles such as Membership, Advocacy Lead, Event Coordinator, Webmaster and Equipment Manager as required.

To: 5.5.1 The Branch Board of Directors will be comprised of 5 to 12 Directors. The three positions essential for the operation of the Branch are President, Treasurer and Secretary. For positions other than that of President, the Branch Board will assign Branch Board members to roles

such as Membership, Advocacy Lead, Event Coordinator, Webmaster and Equipment Manager as required.

The third change dealt with financial signing rules. Under 9.2 the 2015 version had a section (a) which stated “both spouses may not hold signing authority”. It was proposed that we delete point (a) as the intent was covered in point (b) which states two persons in a family, domestic or business relationship may not hold signing authority.

Tom Nichols moved seconded by Marie MacPhee that these three changes be made as proposed. Carried.

There is one additional item under review. Under 6.5 in the 2015 version of the Bylaws it is stated that Board members (who are elected for a three year term) can serve an unlimited number of terms. The National Board was uncomfortable with this, however no recommendations were made so the wording remains unchanged at this time.

6. **Guest Speaker NAFR President Roy Goodall:** Mr. Goodall interrupted his travel to speak to the meeting remotely. After being introduced by Branch President Fred Conway Mr. Goodall spoke about the changes to NAFR which have occurred over the past 60 years. The Association has 79 branches plus the National Office and an annual budget of \$8.7M and 1,000 volunteers across the country. Four new directors will be elected in September with the Branch presidents as the voice of the members. Mr. Goodall spoke to the upcoming change on July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023 when Canada Life will replace Sun Life as the health care provider. He emphasized the need for members to complete the Positive Enrollment prior to the end of June. Following a survey of Branches, motions were initiated to ensure sufficient funds were provided to Branches, Branch infrastructure funding was approved for recruiting etc. Advocacy on ageism and diversity to meet government requirement among positions being filled is being worked on. The number of members dropped during COVID to 165,329 but have since rebounded to 168,337. Goals to meet the Strategic Plan include equitable pay for caregivers. The Public Service Dental Plan (PSDP) is up for renewal this year and the National Office will survey members to determine what

should be included in the plan. There will be a review process two years after the start of the new plan. Costs will be contained as the Government will not put any more money into the plan. President Fred Conway thanked Mr. Goodall for taking the time to speak to the Branch.

- 7. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tom Nichols presented the York Branch Reserve template showing \$2,000 for Advocacy, \$2,200 for Equipment and \$2,500 for training for a total of \$6,700 as indicated in the attached table. Tom Nichols moved approval of the Reserve Template, seconded by Joseph Neu. Carried.

Tom Nichols reminded the members that Michael Yee had reviewed the Branch Finances for 2022 and found them in order. Tom thanked Michael for his efforts and prompt attention to them. Tom Nichols then presented the 2022 York Branch Financial Statements showing a loss of \$3,985.34. Unable to retain more than the three year expenditure average, a total of \$2,226.79 will be returned to the National Office in 2023. Tom Nichols moved that the Financial Statements be accepted as presented, seconded by Joseph Neu. Carried. Tom Nichols then presented the Budget for 2023 which conservatively showed \$6,600 of revenue with expenses of \$6,367. Tom Nichols moved approval of the 2023 Budget, seconded by Joseph Neu. Carried. Tom Nichols moved, seconded by Joe Vettese that Michael Yee be appointed as the York Branch Reviewer for 2023. Carried.

- 8. Election of President and Director's for 2023.** Past President Tom Nichols acted as nominations chair. The three year terms for Linda Laffree and Fred Conway are up and both agreed to let their name stand for reelection. Tom Nichols's term is also up but wishes to step away from the Board at this time. Tom Nichols made three appeals to the floor for nominations of Board members. Receiving none, Tom Nichols moved that Linda Laffree and Fred Conway be approved as acclaimed. The position of President is up for election annually. Fred Conway does not wish to continue as President. Tom Nichols made three appeals to the floor for nominations for President. Receiving none the Board will have to determine

how to structure itself to move forward with nine Board members but without a named President.

**9. New Business:** Nil.

**10 Door Prize Draw:** Joseph Goldstein attending on Zoom won the door prize.

**11 Guest Speaker:** Speaking remotely Heidi Modro a health specialist with NAFR spoke to the changes which can be expected with the change to Canada Life as the supplier of health care. Stressing that all members should ensure they have completed the Positive Enrollment prior to the end of June. The plan will be in place for 4 years (2027). Improvements mentioned include Mental Health, Prescriptions and Physio Therapy. The amount for glasses will change to \$400/year, Hearing Aids \$1,500 and massage \$500/year. Coverage for hospital stays, travel insurance, diabetic equipment and foot care will change. Low income persons will have greater access. Claims can be made to Sun Life up until June 30 with Canada Life taking over claims on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Some costs having gone up 15 times is forcing cost containment methods especially with drugs so that generic drugs will be supplied unless the patient has some reaction to the components. Reducing refill fees will require prescriptions be ordered to cover three months' supply. The telephone number to obtain additional information from Canada Life is: 1-855-415-4414. The website is [www.canadalife.ca/pshcp](http://www.canadalife.ca/pshcp). The address is Canada Life, PO Box 6025 Station Main, Winnipeg Manitoba, R3C 1V3. President Fred Conway thanked Heidi for her presentation.

**12. Adjournment:** Moved by Vasdev Sawhney, seconded by Frank Froude.