

## **Draft Minutes**

### **National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR) York Branch**

### **Twenty Seventh Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Hybrid (Zoom)**

**10:00 AM – 12:15 PM Tuesday April 15, 2025**

**Aurora Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385**

**105 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora Ontario.**

- 1. Call to Order and Welcome:** The meeting was called to order by President Fred Conway who welcomed those in person and via Zoom. There were 37 members present including 9 Board members and 5 members on zoom. The President introduced the members of the Board and welcomed Yasmin Bhatia as a new member as of April 1, 2025. He mentioned the passing of Ed Millar, who had been a long time active Board member. Prior to the meeting copies of the proposed Agenda, the draft Minutes of the 2024 AGM and the Financial Statements were provided to those attending the meeting. The President outlined the guidelines for the meeting.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** Approval moved by **George Collins** seconded by **Dan Bandy**. Carried
- 3. Approval of the 2024 AGM Minutes:** Approval moved by Joseph Neu, seconded by Joe Vettese. Carried
- 4. President's Report:** President Fred Conway opened his remarks noting the Association has 170,000 members broken down into Districts and individual Branches. Ontario has two Districts. Although the Branches are financially healthy, turnout for meetings is low and volunteers are in short supply.  
**York Branch has moved to holding hybrid (Zoom) meetings for both Board and Members**

The National Office will hold the Association Annual Meeting (AMM) in June where NAFR York Branch will be represented by the President.

Annual dues have increased by 2%.

#### Branch Issues

Turnout at meetings is low with about 4% turnout common across all branches. This Board has some vacancies, and the President requested members to consider volunteering. Time commitment is about three to four hours a month and there are about eight Board meetings per year.

#### NAFR Issues

A Special Committee on the Association Strategic plan has been formed.

A number of Branches have folded. One case affecting York Branch is that the Oshawa Branch folded and the membership was re-assigned to Peterborough,

Toronto and York. These three Branches worked to organize a meeting in Oshawa but there was no interest

### Canada Issues

The Federal pensions will likely come under attack again. In addition there is discussion that pension funds should invest more heavily in Canada however, in the best interest of pensioners, the fund managers need to look for the best deals globally

NAFR and Federal elections in 2025. Members can access the Federal party platforms and advocate for retirees.

**5. Website:** Editor Frank Froude.

The web page is hosted by the National Office. Members can access the York Branch site and retrieve information including Branch newsletter, Sage, NAFR newsletters, reports and minutes of meetings.

**6. Treasurers Report:** Treasurer John MacPhee informed the members of procedures being implemented to safeguard the Branch bank account. Two signatures are required on every cheque and four signatures for account changes.

The Branch is permitted to keep only one year of expenses in the Branch account with any excess remitted to the National Office.

The Reserves Template for 2025 totaling \$6,100.00 was presented and discussed. John MacPhee moved that the Reserves Template be accepted as presented seconded by Joseph Neu. Carried.

### YORK BRANCH RESERVES MOTIONS 2025



Name & Amount	Define (To be used for)	Timeline (To be used when)	Justify Amount	Spending authority
Reserve equity - Advocacy \$2000	To support the advocacy goals of the Association in support of Pension and Benefits	In run up to a called Federal or provincial election	Advocacy in support of a federal election  \$900 Hall rental \$500 <u>advertizement</u> \$600 refreshments	Board may spend up to \$2000 per year for this activity
Reserve equity - Equipment \$1600	To replace sound, av equipment and meeting support aids such as banners	Replace 1 wireless mike in 2027 Replace projector in 2026	Mike \$800 Projector \$800	Board may replace equipment as planned or required
Reserve equity - Training \$2500	To support training for new Board members and to send a second person to the AMM for training purposes	Meeting rooms as required and training expenses A second person to attend AMM 2026	Meeting rooms and training expenses \$1000 second person to attend AMM \$1500	Board may authorize a second person to attend the AMM and fund training as required.

The reviewed Financial Statements for the year 2024 showing a Net Loss of \$1,226.77 were presented. John MacPhee moved that the Financial Statements be accepted as presented. Fred Conway seconded. Carried.

The Budget for the year 2025 was presented. John MacPhee moved that the 2025 budget be accepted as presented, seconded by Vasdev Sawhney. Carried. Michael Yee has been the Reviewer of York Branch finances for a number of years and has been great to work with carrying out the work promptly and efficiently. He has agreed to let his name stand as the financial Reviewer for 2025. John MacPhee moved that Michael Yee be appointed as the York Branch Reviewer for 2025 seconded by Tom Nichols. Carried.

7. **Election of President and Directors:** President Fred Conway, as nominations chair, noted the following Directors are up for re-election and have agreed to continue: Frank Froude and Vasdev Sawhney and joining as a new Director, Yasmin Bhatia. After calling three times for nominations from the floor, there were no other interested candidates and no objections and all 3 Directors were elected by acclamation. The Director positions are for a three year term. The President asked for volunteers who might be interested in advocacy. None were forthcoming. Outgoing President, Fred Conway, Called for nominations for President. The President is elected annually for a maximum of 4 terms. Keith Chang had agreed to allow his name to stand for the position of President. A biography of his work with the Federal Government was presented. As there were no other nominations, Keith Chang was elected by acclamation.
8. **New Business:** N/A
9. **Closure of Business Meeting** Fred Conway declared the business portion of the meeting closed and moved the meeting be adjourned.
10. **Guest Speaker:** Tom Nichols (Environment Canada - retired). Tom presented a comprehensive and informative slide show on "What is climate and impacts of climate change". A question and answer session followed.

Yasmin Bhatia  
Recording Secretary