

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES WESTERN MANITOBA BRANCH MB30

General Members Meeting – Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Board of Directors Present: Wendy Jarvin, President; Brett Turner, Vice-President, Rae McBurney, Treasurer; Jane Brunet, Director; Brad Kelso, Director; Jim Doppler; Garnet Shearer, F of B; Terry Gunnlaugson, F of B. and Kenn Jarvin, F of B.

Regrets: Kathie King, Secretary; Val Zoerb, Director

***Meeting held in-person at Riverbank Discovery Center, Brandon, Manitoba* 49 Attendees.**

1. Welcome Remarks:

Wendy Jarvin began with some housekeeping remarks and advised that this meeting was a recruitment meeting as well as a General Meeting. Wendy gave a brief overview of the agenda and timeframe. Stated that copies of the agenda, financial statements and minutes were emailed to those members who registered. This approach is being taken by other nonprofit organizations in an attempt to lower expenses and save time and effort.

Welcomed new members and/or potential members, provided direction to the side table with recruitment items. Notepads were donated by Leach Printing. Wendy mentioned the NAFR Mega Recruitment drive and the prizes.

2. Call to Order: Quorum was met, and Wendy Jarvin called the meeting to order at 11:50 am.

3. Introductions: Board of Directors Members and Guest Speakers:

Wendy Jarvin introduced the Board of Directors and “Friends of the Board” (F of B.); Guest Speakers: Glenn Armstrong, Advocacy Program Officer for the Manitoba branches and Glen Jones and Collum Wilcox from the Central Manitoba branch.

4. Approval of the Agenda:

Bob Patrynuk moved approval of the agenda. Seconded by Rhonda Mathers. **CARRIED**

5. Approval of the Minutes of the General Meeting – January 30, 2024

Larry Weisgerber moved to approve. Seconded by Rhonda Mathers. **CARRIED**

6. Treasurer’s Report:

Rae McBurney presented financial reports: balance sheet, indicating branch investments and reserves, and income statement showing expenses to date. Rae moved to accept the report, seconded by Terry Gunnlaugson. **CARRIED**

7. Branch Report: Wendy Jarvin reviewed NAFR’s Vision and Mission Statements. Even though we are federal retirees, our association values apply to all Canadians, and many of the advocacy work we execute is for all Canadian seniors and retirees. Our branch currently has 742 members.

Branch Activities:

- a. **Branch conferences:** Wendy explained she attends 3 conferences during the year, the Prairie District (16 branches from AB, SK and MB); the Annual Membership Meeting in Ottawa (77 branches from across Canada) and the MB Regional conference (4 branches). Future possible guest speakers may include the Canada Pension Investment Board and Arbor Memorial, our preferred partner.
- b. **Recruitment:** Our branch has 4 feeders (employment places with potential members): the Agriculture Canada Research Station, CFB Shilo, Parks Canada at RMNP and Canadian Border Services. We have plans and reserve funds for recruitment activities at the feeders. We also want to know what the perks entice potential members.

National Public Service Week: We thank member Blair English for assisting our visit to the Agriculture Research Station on June 13th to offer ice cream, dixie cups to employees. We were so warmly received and welcomed back next year. "Free ice cream is gold."

Shilo Symposium October 23rd: We thank Jim Doppler, our director, for organizing the branch's presence at this event so we can display our information. This recruitment event was the first of its kind and was open to the public.

- c. **Veterans Week:** This annual activity supports legion branches in our area by donating and reserving wreaths for Remembrance Day services. We strive to be present at their local services by arranging for a member to give the wreath on behalf of our branch of the National Association of Federal Retirees. With the addition of Virden Legion, we will support 10 legions in our area in 2024.

8. Advocacy Update presented by Glenn Armstrong, Manitoba Advocacy Programs Officer

Glenn discussed:

- a. the 4 Advocacy priorities: (1) retirement income security, not only for us but for our all-retired Canadians. (2) a national senior's strategy. (3) veterans' wellbeing and (4) a national Pharmacare program.
- b. a bill before the house Bill C3 19 to increase old age security payments for the 65 to 74-year-old crowd. The 75 plus crowd already got their increase in 2022.
- c. the Pharmacare Act Bill C 64 has been passed by the House of Commons and it's in the Senate.
- d. the Canadian Dental Plan is implemented for low income for people who are not covered by other plans. Our national office reminds us that if you are a member of the pensioners dental service plan, do not leave that plan because you will not qualify for this dental plan.
- e. the independent senior's advocate will be passed this November according to the premier's video on National Senior's Day.
- f. by October 25th, 2025, we will have a federal election. In preparation for that election, we need to pull together a small advocacy team in each of the branches to prepare to do town halls. We will have between 39 and 95 days, to secure volunteers and organize and get town halls up and running.
- g. Pensioners dental service plan transfer to Canada Life. Ensure you have done the positive enrollment.
- h. Canada Life has an app you can download onto your smartphone.

9. Lunch: The meeting broke for lunch as supplied by Joe Beeverz.

**10. Guest Speakers: Fraud and Scam Prevention, Glen Jones and Colin Wilcox,
Central Manitoba Branch**

Colin provided a background of how Glen and himself got involved in delivering the presentations to 13 different senior complexes in Portage, also in Carmen and Morden. And they plan to reach out to more seniors. They are *determined to bring out a message to help people*. Colin stated “We're going to continue doing this. If I can save a senior from getting ripped off, or getting taken advantage of, then we're going to do it.” Their discussion included:

- a. providing information about the tactics used by scammers, particularly those that operate through digital means such as phones and emails.
- b. impersonating Canadian Revenue Agency CRA agents.
- c. grandparent and romance scams, fake websites and apps
- d. ransomware, taking control of your computer and fake support services.
- e. concluded that nobody can prevent you from being scammed or defrauded except You.

10. Adjournment: Brett Turner moved that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 2:14 pm.