

Minutes
Cornwall and District Branch (ON 54)
Branch Annual Member's Meeting (BAM)
Held on 9 May 2024
At the Cornwall Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion

The call to order was issued at 10:40 am.

1. The Secretary, Anne-Marie Griffin, declared we had a quorum as the number of members present exceeded the numbers necessary based on our Branch By-Laws. Thirty-nine members were present for the meeting along with 6 non-member guests.
2. The President, Veronica Britton, welcomed Marvin Plumadore, the President of the Royal Canadian Legion Cornwall Branch to say a few words and he offered a Land Acknowledgement.
3. The President requested a moment of silence for our deceased members.
4. The President welcomed all members and thanked them for coming. The President then introduced the Branch Board Directors and our guests, Carol Grieco, Ontario District Director, Fiona Price, our Branch Service Coordinator and Nikki Dignard, today's guest speaker.
5. The members were asked to approve the agenda. Motioned by Leo Lehtiniemi and seconded by Francoise Barrow. Motion was approved.
6. The President advised that one minor change was needed to the minutes of the Branch Annual Meeting of 19 April 2023 before approval. Acceptance of these minutes with mentioned change was requested. Moved by Ginette Wedemire and seconded by Lise Poirier. Motion was approved.
7. President's Report. The President provided advance copies of the upcoming Sage Magazine Branch Report. She explained that the Board has worked diligently to include an update in Sage in an attempt to reach all our members, particularly those without email/internet access. The President outlined some of last year's successes, such as the 60th Anniversary event held in Casselman October 2023, our work on Advocacy, increased communication with our members and the Remembrance Day Wreath program. She advised that our Branch, as well as other branches involved, have withdrawn from the Ottawa/St-Lawrence/Nunavut Agreement. Doing so solidified our position within the Ontario District and strengthened our relationship with the Ottawa Branch. The President explained that three Board members resigned last year either due to health reasons or moving out of our Branch catchment area. She reported we had just returned from attending the Ontario District Meeting and would also be attending the National AMM in June.

8. Acting Vice-President's Report. The Acting Vice-President, Claude Bourget, started by reflecting on his positive learning curve and appreciation of his Board colleagues since joining the group 12 months ago. He then proceeded to focus on the critical importance of Advocacy, the leadership role played by the National Office in this area, and our Branch success during the past year in reaching out and engaging with the three local Federal members of Parliament, as per the national Reach 338 initiative. The need to champion/promote the Association's interests at every level of government is evergreen and will continue to be an important role for our Branch. Attendees were reminded of the current four strategic advocacy-related priorities, concluding with the importance of caregivers as a pivotal role in the Canadian health care environment, specific changes the Association is advocating for, and fact the month of May has been designated as Caregiver Appreciation Month.

9. Secretary's Report. The Secretary advised that effective today, our Branch membership stands at 2264 active members (which is an increase of 142 active members since last the BAM), 9 members passed away since our last BAM and we have 50 active members listed as lost contact. The Secretary explained her role with membership and keeping our database up to date and emphasized the importance of advising the Branch of all changes to their contact information. The Secretary then explained her role as the Web Editor for the Branch Web page. She listed all the updates that were done in the last year and the new links created. She encouraged everyone to visit our Web page. The Secretary then advised the members of the Remembrance Day Wreaths that were sponsored by our Branch in 2023 and invited anyone associated with a Legion to advise us if they could help with the 2024 Remembrance Day campaign. The Secretary advised the members in attendance, they would be receiving an Event Survey in the next few weeks.

10. Financial Report. The Treasurer, Veronica Britton, explained the details and estimated cost of the Branch Banking Initiative (BBI) services we received from the National Office Finance team and invited questions. She then walked through the provided Financial Statement for 2023, the Reserves Template for the year ending 31 December 2023 and the 2024 Budget proposal.

2023 Reserves Template totalling \$ 27,200.00 was presented (attached).

Reviewed Financial Statements for the year 2023 showing Earnings of \$497.46 were tabled. It was moved by Nikki Dignard and seconded by Mike McKinnon, they be accepted as presented. The motion was approved.

The 2024 budget showing estimated operating costs of \$11,600.00 was tabled. It was moved by Nikki Dignard and seconded by Claude Naud to receive the Budget for 2024. The motion was approved.

11. The President requested a volunteer to be the Reviewer for the year 2024 and Nikki Dignard volunteered for this position.

12. Election of Officers

Carol Grieco, Fiona Price and Nikki Dignard opened the elections. They all provided the membership with a short biography of their volunteer services with the National Association.

Carol Grieco advised that one nomination for President had been received and invited nominations from the floor. None were received and Veronica Britton was acclaimed President.

Carol Grieco invited nominations from the floor for the Vice-President position and none were received. Claude Bourget agreed to continue to fill the role and was elected as Vice-President.

Carol Grieco invited nominations from the floor for the Treasurer position and none were received. Veronica Britton will remain the Treasurer for the term of office ending in 2025.

Peter McBride and Rainer Pethke volunteered to join the Board as Directors and were welcomed.

13. Volunteer Recognition. The President presented Lise Poirier with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her support to the Branch.

14. The President motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Rick Beaupre. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm.

15. Our guest speaker was Nikki Dignard. The topic was The Canada Dental Care Plan (CDCP) – What You Need To Know. The presentation was well received by all in attendance.

16. Lunch was provided by the Legion staff and enjoyed by all.

Veronica Britton – President

Anne-Marie Griffin - Secretary

Date

Date