

Executive Meeting
Hi-Way Bowl Sarnia
January 31, 2017

Branch web site <http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater>

Note: action items are *in bold italic*

Present -

President - Gloria Cayea
Treasurer - Diane Kerr
Director of Membership - Bill Mason
Outreach Coordinator - Pat Mason
Program Coordinator - Mary Ann Burgess
Health Benefits Officer - Earnie MacDougall
IT and Web Site Coordinator - Doug Kerr
Secretary - VP - Bob Jackson
Member at Large - Diana Wright
Member at Large - Murray Lester

Absent -

Member at Large - Georgina MacIssac

Following the successful Branch sponsored 10 pin Bowling Tournament, Gloria opened the meeting at 1:30 pm.

The first item on the agenda was Bill C-27, an Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act. Gloria pointed out NAFR national office does not support the Bill as written, and intends to lobby the government accordingly. NAFR HQ has indicated Branches may send letters to, and visit, local MPs expressing NAFR's opposition. Following discussion, it was agreed that **a petition will be made available for signing at our next General Meeting. In addition, copies of a form letter will be available for members who wish to write their local MP directly.** Members will be reminded that letters addressed to MPs do not require postage.

A post mortem of the 10 pin Bowling Tournament followed. It was agreed that the event was a general success. Despite the end of January timing and weather, 26 people attended and there

were only 2 no-shows. The Branch spent \$50 on the event, and recouped \$28 by way of a 50/50 draw.

A speaker has been chosen for the February General Meeting. David Cayea will speak about ongoing work to develop cancer drugs using tobacco leaves. This work may eventually lead to cheaper cancer-fighting drugs.

Bill provided a membership update. 16 new members joined in 2016. **There are 6 long standing delinquent accounts to be removed from the membership rolls.** While most members pay via pension cheque deductions, 36 letters were sent out for 2017 renewals. Of these, 20 paid National Office directly and 14 paid the Branch directly. Two accounts are still outstanding.

Earnie reported nominees for 'Volunteer of the Year' recognition have been received, and that he and Georgina will vet the volunteers prior to the next Executive meeting. **Earnie is to check with National Office whether 'Volunteer of the Year' travel costs to Ottawa will be covered by HQ or by the Branch.**

Mary Ann distributed the itinerary for the proposed Rum Runners Tour Branch event. In order to proceed, we need a minimum of 40 confirmed participants. The deadline for the providing the bus company with the final passenger count is May 24, 2017. **Mary Ann is to submit a promotional budget for the tour (i.e. door prizes, etc) to Diane. Mary Ann volunteered Earnie to write an info item promoting the tour for use on the Branch website.**

A general discussion followed whether the Branch should consider recognition of the Canada's 150'th birthday, perhaps in the form of subsidizing something - perhaps at the Christmas general meeting - for the benefit of the membership. **This item was left for future consideration.**

Pat reported the callers are doing well. She reiterated the need to keep her informed of changes affecting members (i.e. address changes, moves to nursing homes, long term illness, etc) in order to keep the callers' lists up-to-date. There was a discussion whether the Branch should recognize deceased members by way of a posting on the website, or a sympathy

card, or etc. Given privacy considerations and the logistical difficulty of timely notification, the Branch would likely not be able to consistently recognize each occasion. Thus no further action is contemplated at this time.

Doug reported that training for the National e-mail program will be forthcoming.

Diane presented the Treasure's report. She distributed the 2017 budget and invited comments and/or suggested amendments. She noted we are currently forecasting a modest surplus (and thus the general discussion re Canada 150 above).

There being no further items tabled, the meeting adjourned at 3 pm, January 31, 2017.