

Branch Board Meeting Minutes
Nick's Restaurant, Sarnia
February 6, 2018

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

Note: decision and action items are *in bold italic*

Present -

President - Gloria Cayea
Outreach Coordinator - Pat Mason
Program Coordinator - Mary Ann Burgess
Director of Membership - Bill Mason
Health Benefits Officer - Earnie MacDougall
IT and Web Site Coordinator - Doug Kerr
Secretary - VP - Robert Jackson
Member at Large. - Georgina MacIssac
Member at Large - Murray Lester

Absent -

Treasurer - Diane Kerr
Member at Large - Diana Wright

Gloria opened the meeting at 12:00 pm with the following agenda items:

- Treasurer's Report
- Bowling Report
- Membership
- Events
- CRM - Dynamics 365
- AGM

Gloria attempted to have the Sarnia Police Community Liaison Officer as our next General Meeting guest speaker. However the officer has a scheduling conflict and can only make his presentation at 1130 that day. After a brief discussion it was decided the General Meeting will start at the usual

time with a different speaker. To this end **Gloria will contact the local OPP Community Service Officer.**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Doug noted the Branch's current bank balance and reminded the Board that two auditors will be required for the year-end audited financial statement.

Earnie and Georgina brought forward the nominee for the Branch's 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award. The Board unanimously endorsed the nominee and the member will be recognized at the next Annual General Meeting.

Pat reported on the Branch's Fun Bowl which was held January 23 at the Hi-Way Bowl, Sarnia. 24 people attended the fun event and the overall cost to the Branch was approximately \$15. After two years of the same venue and similar formats, **consideration is being given to changing next year's fun January event.**

Bill reported the Branch currently has 539 members. National Office continues to transfer members out of the Branch based on their postal codes. Due to privacy concerns National Office will not provide Bluewater Branch with contact information. We therefore can't contact the members to discuss their Branch preference.

Bill also found that problems continue getting the National database (CRM - Dynamics 365) to accept updated/amended information.

Bill noted that difficulties in attracting recent retirees continue. For a start Treasury Board will not supply NAFR with contact information for those currently retiring.

A discussion followed on increasing the Branch's outreach. National Office will be providing Branches with a recruitment display kit by the end of February. The Branch will want to contact local Legions, Air Force Clubs, Navy Clubs, etc for permission to display the kit at strategic times. **Earnie**

undertook to report on recruitment best practices used by a Saskatchewan branch

Mary Ann presented the Board with two options for this June's annual day trip. The chosen option is a trip to the St Jacobs Farmers' Market including a ride on the Waterloo Central Railway to Elmira, lunch at the Elmira Golf Club, shopping time in St Jacobs Village and a guided (Step-on Guide) tour of Mennonite Country. Cost of the event is \$80 or \$81 depending on menu choice. After discussion the Board decided that participants are responsible for the full cost of the event (i.e. the Branch will not offset or otherwise subsidize member participation). **Mary Ann will arrange sign-up sheets to be circulated at the next General Meeting.**

There was a discussion whether using Great Canadian Holidays and Coaches for the June day trip put the Branch in a conflict situation with NAFR Preferred Partners. **Bill undertook to check and after the meeting confirmed no conflicts exist.**

Mary Ann reported that Hessenland is currently closed so arrangements for the October 2018 General Meeting can't be completed at this time. With respect to the September 2018 Goderich meeting, at this point the preferred venue is St Peter's Catholic Church. Their charges appear less than those offered by the Legion. **Details to follow.**

Doug indicated that there are some issues with the new National database (CRM - Dynamics 365). Bill's comments above also refer. Doug hasn't fully explored the revised CRM however to date his issues are being resolved as they arise.

Gloria led the discussion on this year's Annual General Meeting at Wallaceburg. The cost per meal is now \$12.99 + 13% HST and fee. Gloria pointed out the entire Board including its three elected positions (Treasurer, Director of Membership, and Vice-President) expires in April. Gloria requested

Board members make their intentions known with respect to, as applicable, standing for re-election or serving the Board again.

The meeting adjourned at 1330 hours.