

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – 26th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
National Association of Federal Retirees – Outaouais Branch
Tecumseh Golf Club, Gatineau, April 20th 2017

Board Members:

Pierre Laflamme, President
Odette Simard, 1st Vice-president
Claude Tremblay, Treasurer
Donald Déry, Secretary and Agent for health benefits
Gérard Goyette, Board member
Gaston Fortin, Board member
Josée Laurin, Board member
Murielle Allain, Board member

1. Welcome from the President

The President, Pierre Laflamme welcomed members and introduced the Board members. He emphasized the presence of the President of the Board of ANRF, M. Jean-Guy Soulière and the Director General of the Association, M. Simon Coakeley who would later respond to questions on all matters of interest to the members.

2. Attendance and Opening of the Meeting

The President opened the Branch AGM and confirmed there was a quorum with 65 attendees registered, the minimum required being 50.

Mrs. Francine Frappier proposed that the meeting be declared open, seconded by Mrs. Anne Patricia Gareau Lebeau. Adopted unanimously.

Mrs. Odette Simard proposed Pierre Laflamme as Chair of the meeting and Donald Déry as Secretary, seconded by M. Gérard Goyette. Adopted unanimously.

3. Reading and Adoption of the Agenda

M. Pierre Laflamme read the agenda and asked if there were any changes to be made. No changes were proposed. M. Goyette proposed that the agenda be adopted as written. Seconded by Mme Josée Laurin. Adopted unanimously.

4. Reading and Adoption of the Minutes of the 2016 AGM

It was proposed by M. Bonin to add to the first sentence on page 4 after “Questions about insurance of members” the clarification “of members of the Board of directors.”

Mme Francine Frappier proposed the adoption of the minutes of the 2016 AGM with the proposed modification. Seconded by M. Bonin. Adopted unanimously.

5. Reading and Adoption of the Minutes of the Extraordinary 2016 AGM.

M. Laflamme asked if there were questions or comments on the minutes. M. Roger Bérubé proposed the adoption of the minutes of the Extraordinary AGM without changes. Seconded by M. Guy Gaumont. Adopted unanimously.

6. Reading and Adoption of a Minor Change to the 2016 Administrative Regulations

The proposed change relates to the posting of the “Notice of AGM Meeting” on the Section’s web site from 21 to 60 days prior to the meeting. M. Marc-André Rousseau proposed adoption of the change. Seconded by Mme Claire Naper. Adopted unanimously.

7. Members Question Period for the President and Director General of the Association

Summary of the main questions asked, the answers and the information presented

- The case before the Federal Court regarding the extended health care insurance plan is well underway. Lawyers for both parties (government and ANRF) have presented their arguments to the court.
- C-27: Meeting with members of parliament to present the concerns of the membership. At the end of May, all proposed legislations that have not been enacted will be abandoned. This is what the ANRF expects.
- M. Soulière, President of ANRF, invited all members present to encourage other retired civil servants as well as federal government workers who are not yet retired to join the Association. He offered his total support in this initiative, as needed.
- M. Coakley, Director General of the ANRF presented his academic credentials and his very diverse experience in management of large companies and government negotiations. He has been Director General since 16 May 2016.
- The ANRF is working to operationalise its strategic plan. Activities with the Canadian Medical Association allowed it to work on concerns with regard to senior citizens.
- The Association's building was recently inaugurated in the presence of the son of M. Claude Edwards, after whom the building is named.
- In the past, Johnson Insurance could not sell insurance products in Quebec because of provincial legislation. Having recently received its licence to operate in Quebec, it is probable that new offers of insurance will be made by Johnson to Association members in Quebec without sub-contracting it to La Capitale.
- M. Cousineau asked for the position of ANRF on Bill C-27. M. Soulière has met with staff in the office of Minister Morneau. He explained that C-27 does not affect the pensions of government workers or of retirees from the federal government but more those in government organisations. See the issue of SAGE on this subject. ANRF sees

C-27 as the first step of a modification of our own pension plans. The Association is part of a coalition of 19 bodies which together object to changes in our pension plans by the government. For now, M. Soulière does not believe that the government will dare to put C-27 in an omnibus bill because the Supreme Court has already guaranteed protection of pension funds by the federal government. There is enough money to pay pensions until 2075. M. Goyette emphasized that the Association should negotiate with the new organisation which will be created to protect our pension funds. M. Soulière said that the association must remain visible. All the members of the government must be met at least once by a representative of the ANRF. All public service retirees ought to be members of the Association because it is by numbers that we have political pressure.

- There are 180,000 public service retirees in Canada and half of these do not belong to the Association.
- M. Robert Leduc asked the Association to intervene concerning the amount of \$2,500 paid to the executor of an estate in order to defray funeral costs. This amount has not been indexed to inflation since 1996. In real terms, the amount is \$5,000 but it is taxable. The object would be to increase the payment to \$5,000 and make it non-taxable. M. Soulière replied that this is already a goal of the ANRF. The work is already underway in Québec but so far without results. The Quebec Branch is also taking action in this regard. A resolution on this matter was adopted at the Association's 2016 AGM.
- Mrs Theresa Rollin asked what the Association can do to stop the increases in cost of health insurance. M. Soulière said that the government portrayed us as "fat cats". Our lawyers argued against this mistaken perception. For female retirees, the average pension is between \$23,000 and \$24,000 before tax. The ANRF continues to fight for health insurance premiums to be paid 25% by the retiree and 75% by the government. The Conservative government decided that plan costs will be paid 50% by each party. That is why the ANRF is in Federal Court.
- M. Bonin underlined the problem of access to housing. For example, staying at Chartwell is not possible for most federal retirees. The ANRF is associated with the Canadian Medical Association to press for an increase in government expenditures on home health care. The pension plan is the best in financial terms and for health needs. The affinity program provides reductions on different goods and services such as Medoc, Goodlife, Johnson, Via Rail, etc.
- An attendee stated that Medoc insurance coverage does not vary with province of residence. Insurance exclusions need to be clarified.
- M. Savoie spoke of the importance of having partners in Canada who can join ANRF in its political actions undertaken with the government.
- M. Soulière closed this information session by saying that the board of the ANRF-Outaouais worked very well with the national office. The national office provides good

service and we should not hesitate to make use of it. The Outaouais Branch is a model branch.

Return to the agenda.

8. Presentation of Financial Statements for the Period Ending December 31st 2016

M. Claude Tremblay presented the financial statements and gave the floor to M. Marc-André Monette (CPA/CA) of the firm Monette Fortin Inc. M Monette presented the results of an examination of the 2016 financial statements. The not-for-profit organisation was terminated and the new organisation began 1 June 2016. M. Monette presented the results of the two financial statements.

M. Gaston Fortin proposed adoption of the financial statements. Seconded by M. Guy Gaumont. Adopted unanimously.

9. Nomination of Examiners

M. Tremblay suggested that Monette Fortin Inc be retained to examine financial statements for 2017. Proposed by M. Robert Leduc. Seconded by M. Goyette. Adopted unanimously.

10. 2017 Budget and 2018 Forecast

M. Tremblay explained that the 2016 budget contained a large surplus which will be used in the next fiscal year. A new administrative contract staff person will be hired to support the President and the Board in the execution of their mandate and projects. A question was asked about the cost of service from Bell Canada and Vidéotron as well as an item on protection of rights. Answers were given. *Note from translator: THE MINUTES SHOULD BE CLEARER ON THESE POINTS.*

M. Michel Gaudreau proposed adoption of the 2017-18 budget. Seconded by M. Roger Bérubé. Adopted Unanimously.

11. Election of Board Members

M. Goyette proposed M. Ghislain Dussault as President of the election. Seconded by Mme Frappier. Adopted Unanimously.

M. Dussault stated that there are eleven positions on the board. Currently, eight of these are filled. This year, three members will continue for another year and five members are at the end of their term on the Board.

M. Dussault made a list of the candidates and asked if they wished to continue for another mandate. M. Goyette, M. Déry, M. Laflamme and M. Tremblay agreed to continue. M. Fortin declined to do so. These four Board members were elected by acclamation.

M. Bonin proposed Mme Louise Lebel, seconded by M. Bérubé. Mme Lebel accepted the nomination and was also elected by acclamation.

12. Annual report of the Branch

M. Laflamme presented the list of projects and activities on which the Board worked during the year.

In the spirit of being environmentally friendly, Mme Line Lapointe suggested that the Association collect the plastic covers of the annual reports that were not used.

Mme Sylvie-Anne Gaudreau, president of “l'Association québécoise des retraités des secteurs publics et parapublics (AQRP)” said she was impressed with the excellent organisation of the meeting.

M. Bonin suggested spending less time on administrative matters and more on presenting the activities of the Board.

Mme Gisèle Tassé-Goodman, president of FADOQ for the Outaouais region informed the membership of the setting up of the “Golden age for the Outaouais”. Anyone 50 years and older can register at this university without specific academic requirements. There will be courses which start in September and will be offered in the regions of the Outaouais. She invited all members to participate at a plenary meeting Friday 21 April 2017 at 13:30 at Campus 3, Gatineau: 196 rue Notre-Dame (formerly St Jean-Marie Vianney church).

13. Closing of the meeting

M. Pierre Cousineau proposed the meeting be concluded. Seconded by M. Pierre Leduc. Adopted Unanimously.