

**National Association of Federal Retirees
Fredericton and District Branch (NB62)
BOD Meeting – Wednesday, June 5th, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.
Hazen Park Centre, 2nd Floor Boardroom, Oromocto**

PRESENT

Elliot Keizer, Cyril Theriault, Denise Blanchard, Andrew Gunter, Mike McCormick, Norm Sheen, Rae Hopper, Ian Culligan, Evans Estabrooks, John Richards, Chris Goddard, Elise Young, Gary Barfitt and Dorma Grant, Provincial Advocacy Officer.

ABSENT – N/A

1. WELCOME

Elliott Keizer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended:

- a. 6.a) Branch Advocacy Program (Chalmers ER) moved under 4.a) Business from the minutes.
- b. 6.b) Q&A 2019 Federal Elections moved under 4.b) Business from the minutes.
- c. Add 6.d) Storage – John
- d. Add 6.e) Event photos – Elliott
- e. Add 6.f) Bill Ferguson – Elliott

Moved by Andrew

Seconded by Ray

CARRIED

3. MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 10TH, 2019

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as amended:

Under 5a) Finance: remove 3rd paragraph – Computer training

Moved by Ian

Seconded by Denise

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES

a) Branch Advocacy Program (Chalmers ER) – Elliott and John

Elliott reminded us of the four national priorities that we are asked to promote: retirement income security; national seniors' strategy; support for veterans and their families and Pharmacare.

Discussion followed and the Directors expressed their view on this. Where are those priorities come from? Dorma Grant mentioned that they are from the Advocacy team. John feels that Pharmacare is not an issue for federal public servants and that our advocacy may not be of interest to our members. Can we advocate without being partisan? Why trying to advocate to all Canadians? If we have an All Candidates meeting, National would probably want us to ask questions regarding those four priorities. Secure retirement for all Canadians; are we going to advocate for more groups?

The Board questioned the broadness of these advocacy priorities for the elections.

Chalmers ER – Daily Gleaner article:

John emailed and provided the board with an article written by three ER doctors regarding the state of medicine practiced in the Chalmers ER.

Would it be an issue for our branch to work on since it affects our local members?

There is a possibility for our branch to advocate for improvements to this issue. Our advocacy would be:

- increase our branch's and NAFR's local visibility
- aid in our drive to increase membership
- help us recruit more volunteers from our existing membership
- show that our organization is directly addressing major issues impacting our local membership
- increase our visibility and credibility among the key decision-makers in the province
- increase our visibility and credibility within NAFR
- help change an unacceptable situation

Questions were raised: What are the issues? Are we allowed as a branch to advocate something that National already does? How many people from our membership does it affect? Is this worth our time?

Motion by John that we pursue as an advocacy issue and draw-up an advocacy plan for consideration of the board. Seconded by Cyril **CARRIED**

b) Q&A 2019 Federal Elections – Elliott

Elliott was asked from National Office to sit on a panel at the National meeting. The panel is highlighting the recent work we did in the Provincial Elections 2018 and what lessons can be applied to this year Federal elections. Someone from PEI and Alberta will also be on the panel. Need lots of support from National and they said that they will support us financially. Need to decide if we do it for New Brunswick, in conjunction with other branches or as a stand alone for NB62.

Decision was made that if we were doing this that we do it for NB62 and local candidates in Fredericton. Chris suggested that we invite one board member from other branches. Would ask various parties to appoint one NB representant.

John: what's in it for us? As a local branch, it is important that we reflect our values. He is not sure if we would get more engagement from our members.

Decision was made to hold a Q&A session.

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 13 at 12p.m. Location to be determined.

c) Board of Directors duties and responsibilities – Cyril

By the time we meet again in September 4th, we will have something on each of the positions and a good start on the calendar.

d) Communications Committee Terms of Reference – Chris and Mike

Brought forward at the last meeting and approved. It is a big undertaking without help. Elliott proposed to cut this job to something manageable. Chris can no longer take the lead on this. Rae agreed to go on the committee to help. Mike asked to be added as an admin on our Facebook page. Elliott ask if anyone else would help.

e) Spring Meeting Report – Elliott

John, Cyril, Dorma, Andrew, Evans and Elliott attended. Went through the proposals for the National meeting. Treasurers got training.

5. REPORTS

a) Finance – John

John presented his report (see attachment).

Moved by John that his report be accepted; Seconded by Cyril

CARRIED

b) Special Events – Gary

The last information session was well received. Gary asked that a reminder be sent one week before the session to the members.

Fall Information Session: November 5th – Subject: Self-Care; Presenter: Corey Ferguson, Program Coordinator, Canadian Mental Health Association of New Brunswick.

Fall Dinner: October 22nd. Executive met after the Spring meeting and agree to change location. Attendance seem to be dropping and it might be due to the location.

Possible locations were presented:

New Maryland location: \$37.21/plate – buffet.

Ramada Inn: \$33.04/plate for a buffet.

Fredericton Inn: \$42.32/plated or \$43.64 for a buffet.

Kingswood: \$35.79/plated.

Lowest cost is the Ramada Inn. The room is included as are the podium, microphone and screen. Included in the cost would be \$50.00 for the bar which would not be charged if our members spent at least \$200.00 at the bar.

Gary need approval from the Board that we go with Ramada and that we subsidized \$13/plate.

John proposed that we subsidize at \$15/plate. Cost for members: \$19/members - \$25/non-members and at the door. Those numbers are good for this fiscal year and the next one.

Motion by Gary that his report be accepted

Seconded by: John

CARRIED

c) Membership Growth Report – Evans

Evans presented his report (see attached document). Denise will send Elliott's letter and the document "Why you should join us" to Alex Charette to be email to our members.

Moved by Evans

Seconded by Rae

CARRIED

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Preferred Partners Program Committee – Elliott

As a result of Evan's poll at the Spring meeting, changes are needed.

Cyril mentioned legal services. He will approach firms that provide family law and real estate. Would like help with this. Cyril will prepare an e-blast to be sent to our members to recruit the help and put an announcement in Sage. A couple of partners would have to be dropped because they are not used.

b) Fee Increase Proposal AMM – Elliott

Elliott sent Evans's comments and send it to all branches.

Responses: Newfoundland, Saint-John, Ottawa and other branches in Ontario and Quebec do not want any increase. Karen McGregor does not oppose as long as a portion comes back to members. National Office should be looking at some of the employers we lost such as Air Traffic Controllers, Post Office. Lorraine in Saint John agree with Evans's comments.

Membership recruitment will be more difficult with a fee increase.

Robert Giroux of the Ottawa Branch sent the following proposal and asked if Elliott will present it: we wish to make an amendment that Part a) there should be no fee increase in 2020; Part b) the National Office engage in A-based review of all expenditures and revenues and that the work be done by an independent consultant and the results send to all the branches”.

Elliott moved to substitute for the pending resolution the following:

“Be it resolved that the annual members fees for 2020 be kept the same as the 2019 annual member’s fees and further be resolved that the board conduct with an independent third party and A-based review pertaining to Head Office revenues and expenditures”.

John asked if Elliott can put in a motion that they established a committee (or a president) to oversee the process.

The Board is supportive of Elliott being involved in the presentation of a motion opposing a fee increase and of an A-base review.

c) Training - Chris

Not date yet; probably early October. Training will be on Excel and One Drive. It will be an all-day training on a Saturday. Still waiting for Office 365 training. Denise will check with Laurie Muise for the availability of a boardroom at Hazen Park Centre.

d) Storage – John

John proposed that we rent a small storage facility to store the documentation that is taking too much place in some of the Director’s houses. He will bring a proposal in September. The Board agreed that we rent storage.

e) Photos – Elliott

Elliott asked that if we have any pictures from our events to sent them to Chris to be published on our website.

f) Bill Ferguson – Elliott

Elliott got a call from Bill Ferguson. He is a former Head of Human Resources Development and later joined HRDC and retired in 2004. He received an Honorary Doctorate degree by the Université de Moncton and he got coverage in the French newspapers.

He asked if we covered what happened in the lives of our members. Publishing the success of our members? Could it be published on Facebook? Elliott will send the information to Denise.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 4th, 2019 – 5:00 PM
2nd Floor Boardroom, Hazen Park Centre, Oromocto**

Recorded by: _____
Denise Blanchard, Admin Director

Approved by: _____
Elliott Keizer, President