

# **National Association of Federal Retirees**

## **Winnipeg and District Branch Newsletter**

**Winter 2019**

### **Presidents' Message**

Greetings and a belated Happy New Year. I cannot believe how quickly time seems to be going as it seems just yesterday that we were preparing for the fall activities and events and now we are well into 2019. I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter as my intent was to have it out early in February but due to some personal circumstances it didn't happen.

I am happy to announce that Connie Kehler has joined our Board to take over the role of Website and Social Media. Connie has assumed the role that was held by Louise Jutras for several years. I would like to thank Louise for her dedication, creativity and hard work in developing and creating our website as well as her commitment and willingness to help other Branches in our District to develop and/or expand their on-line presence. Louise, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for everything.

### **Indexing 2019**

I hope you are all enjoying the 2019 increase to our pensions of 2.2% which was announced late in 2018 and was applied to our pension payments in January 2019. Let's keep working together and advocating for the safety and security of our pension and indexing payments.

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM) – April 15, 2019**

#### **Motions**

At the AGM this year we will be putting forward some financial motions including a multi-year motion concerning the Branch Defense of Benefit reserve fund. The motion will propose a three (3) year plan to remit to the national office a total of \$20,000 (\$10,000 in year 1 (2019); \$5,000 in year 2 (2020) and \$5,000 in year 3 (2021)). This money will help defer some of the costs associated with the National Advocacy campaign focused on the 2019 federal election and the appeal of the Public Service Health Care Plan federal court decision and other initiatives on behalf of the Association.

#### **Board of Director Positions and Elections**

We have several members of the Board of Directors for our Branch that will be vacating their positions on the Board. If you are interested in sitting on the Board, please contact the Branch email address or one of the current Board members to discuss this opportunity. We have an excellent mentoring and education process so don't be shy. It's a great opportunity to connect with fellow retirees, meet new people and get involved in issues that matter to us. Elections will be held at the end of the AGM business meeting.

## **New Venue – AGM only**

Over the past year, some members have expressed interest in holding our meetings in a more central location. We have researched several properties and have decided to hold our Annual General Meeting at the **Masonic Memorial Temple** which is fully accessible, has plenty of parking, great bus service and is cost effective.

We are changing the location (on a one time test basis) to the Masonic Memorial Temple to determine if the facility will meet the needs for our members. The facility is now being catered by WOW Hospitality which manages some of the following restaurants - 529 Wellington, Carne, Prairies Edge, Aussie Rules and Celebrations. We hope everyone will be pleased with the change! We look forward to your feedback.

**Event:** Annual General Meeting - April 15, 2019

**Location:** Masonic Memorial Temple, 420 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg

**Doors open:** 11:30 a.m.

**Lunch Buffet:** noon (free for members)

**Business Meeting:** 12:30 p.m.

**Guest Speaker:** Danielle Martins, Collette Travel

**Members must register by email at [nafwrpg@mymts.net](mailto:nafwrpg@mymts.net) or by calling the branch **204-989-2061** no later than April 8, 2019.**

The Masonic Memorial Centre is located on the SE corner of Corydon & Osborne, which is affectionately called Confusion or Crazy Corner by most Winnipeggers.

### **Lunch**

The lunch is free for all members. If you have any food restrictions to your diet, please advise when registering so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

### **Transportation/parking details**

If you are driving it is recommended that you share the ride however, there is a fairly large parking lot adjacent to the building, as well as across the street by Burger King and Dollarama.

If you are using the Winnipeg Transit go to <https://winnipegtransit.com/en/navigo> to receive information on schedules from your home.

## **Upcoming branch events**

### **Speaker Series**

Our next Speakers Group is being held on 7 May 2019 at Eastern Star ,525 Cathcart, Winnipeg. Presenters are:

Dr Kim Wiebe on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

Brian McMillan presents on downsizing. His presentation covers downsizing options, and associated services.

Eva Stephens delivers a presentation on lipids and cholesterol.

We will be sending out an invitation with details on how and when to register in early April so please stay tuned.

## **Golf 2019**

### **Mark your calendars and get your clubs ready!**

We are pleased to advise the 2019 Golf Tournament will again be held at **Scotswood Links in Elm Creek on Tuesday, 13 August, 2019.**

There will be a few exciting changes this year, so start watching the website for additional information and registration details later spring.

## **Advocacy**

Over the past year Gerry Jennings who holds a dual role of Advocacy Programs Officer for Manitoba and our Branch Advocacy Director has been busy meeting with most of the federal members of parliament elected to represent the Winnipeg and District area. He has had many successful meetings with the members of parliament from all political parties and has ensured that they are aware of our issues and concerns. With the help of Paula Nygaard, they have also met with several members of the Manitoba legislature.

The upcoming federal election in 2019 will be our primary advocacy initiative this year. Gerry, as well as our board and other volunteers will be working hard to ensure that issues that matter most to federal retirees and seniors in general are well understood by all candidates.

The Association's election priorities are:

Retirement Income Security  
National Seniors Strategy  
Pharmacare

As you can see from the information below, the National Office has already started the preparation for the election. We are a non-partisan organization and therefore will be interacting and advocating with candidates from all major parties.

## **Federal Election 2019 – Message sent out by the National Office and reprinted here**

The next federal election is slated for October 21, 2019. For Federal Retirees, the election will be an exciting opportunity to advance our advocacy goals and to continue to build our grassroots network of advocates. And if done well – with a consistent message carried by members, volunteers, staff and supporters – our 2019 election campaign strategy will set the stage for our work with the next Parliament.

On February 20, Federal Retirees, along with eight other seniors-focused organizations,

launched our federal election advocacy campaign. We kicked things off with a lobby day on Parliament Hill and a reception with Senators and Members of Parliament co-hosted with the Minister of Seniors, Filomena Tassi. With this launch, Federal Retirees has outlined its priorities for the upcoming election.

In early May, branches will receive a package that includes an overview of each of these issues as well as a variety of tools to help you and your branch get started in planning your advocacy activities for the upcoming election. We will also send you hard copies of some of these materials in the mail.

2019 is poised to be a demanding year, yet also exciting and full of possibility. While the political field will always shift, presenting new challenges, one thing is for certain – we could not do this work without the strength, dedication and enthusiasm of our branches, volunteers and members. Thank you in advance for your support.

### **Branch website and Facebook page**

Our Branch has re-launched our Facebook page. Please follow our page at the following location.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/federalretireeswpg/> or search @federalretireeswpg in Facebook “Pages”

Also, remember to visit our Branch website to keep up to date on Branch activities including special events and discounts offered by True North Sports and Entertainment.

**Branch Website:** <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Manitoba/Winnipeg-and-District>