



National Association of Federal Retirees  
Winnipeg & District Branch  
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Annual GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, April 12, 2016  
Lunch: Noon - Business Meeting 1:00 p.m.  
Army, Navy, & Air Force Veterans Branch 283, 3584 Portage Ave, Winnipeg, Manitoba

#### MINUTES

**Present:** Pat Jarrett, President; Cynthia Foreman, 1st Vice President; Lynne Belding, Secretary; Pam Proctor, Treasurer; Barb Smith-Molloy, Health Benefits Officer; Lucy Cummings, Nicky Compton, Lil Atamanchuk, Lucille Mahon, Jim Jarrett, Dorothy Watermulder, Directors

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Joe Sanderson, Prairie District Director, and John Bjore, Provincial Advocacy Officer

**Attendees: 189**

Meeting was called to order at 1:05

**1. Approval of Agenda** – Agenda was approved with two small corrections. Motion to approve was given by Mike McQuithan and seconded by Richard Catein.

**2. Introduction of “first-time attendees”**; There were 11 first time attendees.

- A moment of silence was held for those no longer with us.
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**3. Review of Minutes from the September 18, 2014 General Meeting** – no changes, Minutes approved as written.

**NOTE: ALL REPORTS WERE PROVIDED TO MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING WHAT FOLLOWS IS A SYNOPSIS OF THOSE REPORTS.**

**4. New Business:**

**President’s Report (Pat Jarrett)** – Pat’s report topics included:

- Information about Spring Newsletter. Pat expressed concern regarding how much interest our members have in receiving regular updates of Branch activities. Our winter newsletter was sent to 2664 members but only 1739 members opened the e-mail and of those only 843 clicked on the link to the newsletter. It would be helpful to know if we should continue to provide this service. We need to establish why the majority of members are not reading the newsletter. Pat also wondered if the newsletters that are sent via Canada Post are being read. This is a significant expense to the Branch.

- Pat suggested that if members do not want the newsletter mailed to let us know. If they do not want the newsletter via e-mail they should unsubscribe.
- Pat recently attended a webinar where she had input into the Risk Management Plan that was submitted to the National Board of Directors for consideration.
- Pat participated in a Branch and Communications conference call. The topic was how branches communicate with members i.e.; e-mail, websites, Sage, announcements, reports and Facebook. Sage is the only vehicle that reaches all members. The ongoing challenge is identifying whether members are reading and following up on what is being sent out. The national website was also discussed and they all agreed that it is a big improvement over the previous one. There is some tweaking to be done but they generally liked the format. Our Branch has not transitioned to the new look. Pat is optimistic that a new member of the board will take it on.
- There was an animated discussion about Sage by the presidents. Views of the effectiveness of this magazine in sharing Branch news were varied. The biggest concern was that meeting the deadline for submitting information to Sage was hard and not entirely conducive to informing our members of upcoming events in a timely way.
- Pat confirmed that she will be attending another webcast later this month to provide comments on the proposed 2017-2019 Strategic Plan.
- Plans are underway to attend the Annual Members Meeting in Ottawa in June. Pat will not be attending but Cynthia Foreman will be the Branch delegate and will be attending as Pat's proxy. We will also be sponsoring up to 3 board members to attend this as we have in the past.
- Pat confirmed that after the AGM and the election of new board members signatures will be updated at our financial institution.
- A training event is scheduled for the board later this month and in May Pat will be conducting an orientation session. In addition, the new board will be working on our operational plan for 2016-2017 using the approved budget forecast as our guide. In addition, roles and responsibilities will be further defined taking into account interests and expertise of board members and the needs of the board.
- Pat has been advised by Lynne Belding, Secretary, that she will not be seeking re-election next year. And she is prepared to provide mentoring to a member willing to take on this role. This is an important position in terms of keeping minutes of 3 general meetings, and 4 board meetings per year. In addition, Barb Smith-Molloy, our HBO, would also welcome someone to be mentored in her position. Anyone interested in knowing more about these opportunities should contact Pat.
- The board is exploring the feasibility of entering into Memorandum of Understandings with local businesses whereby our members could be eligible for discounts. Two of the board members are taking the lead on this project and at some point would appreciate having interested members as part of the committee.
- Pat confirmed that we have a new preferred partner. Good Life Fitness has been added and members now receive a discount. There are 280 clubs and up to 4 family members are eligible for the discount. Current members can switch to the corporate rate. Registration can be done on line.
- We will be participating in an upcoming Pre-retirement seminar next month at CFB Winnipeg.
- Pat will be attending the Prairie District Meeting in Saskatoon May 9 & 10. Cynthia Foreman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, will be accompanying Pat.
- This week (April 10-16) is National Volunteer Week and Pat took the opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who contribute their time and energy to the Branch.
- Pat gave a special thank you to Gerrit Westerhof who is leaving the board at the end of his term. He has been a great contributor and will be missed.

- The board will continue to review ways that we can improve services to our members and Pat encouraged all members to offer suggestions that will assist us in these efforts.
- Pat wished everyone continued good health and a safe and happy summer.

**Committee Reports and Financial Report (Year End Balance Sheet)**

- **Membership report** was provided by Dorothy Watermulder. We have 2000 double memberships, 2271 single memberships for a total of 4,271 memberships representing 6270 active members.
- **Caring Committee report** provided by Lucille Mahon. Condolences offered to all members and families who have recently lost loved ones. We sent 6 sympathy cards and 1 get well card since the last meeting. Lucille also arranged to have flowers sent to Nicky Compton after her stay in the hospital.

**Health Benefits Officer report** provided to all members by Barb Smith-Molloy included the following:

- Information on Medoc Travel Insurance Question and Answer section.
- Update on oral and injectable vitamins and minerals
- Information on Sodium

**Luncheon Committee report** provided by Lucille Mahon (copy provided to members)

- At that time there were 142 members registered. Members had until April 4 to respond.
- Notice sent to Free Press Billboard.

**Suggestion Committee Report** (copy given to members) provided by Nicky Compton included:

- ERIK, Driver Safety and Wellness and Yoga well attended
- Currently working on May 17 activities. Invitations will be sent out
- We have engaged a local theatre company to present a 15 minute play entitled “Is it Wednesday Yet?” about Alzheimer’s/Dementia
- Fehr-Way tours will be in after lunch to provide information on their 1 day out of city tours.
- A tour of the English gardens in Assiniboine Park was explored but the cost per person of \$16.00 is too much for the Branch to absorb.
- Carpet bowling is under review. We have found a location at the Weston Community Club. There is no fee during the day but there is a fee of \$20 at night. We have not yet determined how many members are interested.
- The annual golf tournament is scheduled for august. Jim Jarrett will be providing additional information.
- During our General Meeting in September, 2016 we are planning on having the Snowbirds representative provide you with a presentation on travel to the US.

**Golf Report:** provided by Jim Jarrett included the following information:

- Location and date Scotswood Links (Elm Creek), Tuesday, August 9, 2016.
- Fee of \$60 will include green fees, cart, prizes and BBQ steak. For those just coming for the BBQ it will be \$25.
- Format will be the same as last year, best ball with a shotgun starting at 10 AM.
- Players wishing to be paired together must clearly indicate this.
- We are looking at a maximum of 27 foursomes (108 players)
- Information on prize categories was covered
- Jim is looking for volunteers.
- Information regarding payment of fees and deadlines provided

### **Financial Reports:**

Pam Proctor presented the Financial Statements for 2015 as prepared by Osborne Accounting, as well as the Budget Forecast for 2016.

The following motions were moved by Pam Proctor, seconded by Cynthia Foreman, and unanimously carried:

**MOTION: THAT THE 2015 FINANCIAL AUDIT REVIEW OF THE National Association of Federal Retirees (the Association) WINNIPEG AND DISTRICT BRANCH, AS PREPARED BY THE OSBORNE ACCOUNTING GROUP LLP BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.**

National Office has implemented a mandatory new financial system, and we are in the process of transitioning to it. The proposed budget has two columns - one with the ledger accounts used to date, and one with the new categories. It is the one with the new categories that you will be voting on.

**MOTION: THAT THE 2016 BUDGET FORECAST (using the new categories) BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

**MOTION: THAT OSBORNE ACCOUNTING GROUP LLP BE APPOINTED AS THE 2016 FINANCIAL AUDITORS OF THE "ASSOCIATION" WINNIPEG AND DISTRICT BRANCH.**

Withdrawals from this reserve may be made only to support initiatives to promote or protect significant pension or health benefits. All Branches have been asked if they can provide support to the National Reserve.

It is the view of your board of directors that it is at the national office where the bulk of the advocacy efforts take place on our behalf. Since we have managed to build up a significant amount in our Defence of Benefits reserve fund (\$100,000), we feel it is our responsibility and duty to support their efforts. Our current DOB reserve has not been used in several years.

**MOTION: THAT THE DEFENCE OF BENEFITS RESERVE UPPER LIMIT BE REDUCED TO \$70,000 AND THAT THE REDUCTION AMOUNT (\$30,000) BE REMITTED TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE DEFENCE OF BENEFITS RESERVE FUND.**

**5. Provincial Advocacy Officer, John Bjore** provided the following information:

- There will be national elections for president and vice-president. John will be running for national vice-president.
- Committee formed to revamp Advocacy Officer position will be become permanent.
- John will share the recommendations by this committee. They are recommending 3 PAO positions.
- John confirmed that they need a process to collect input from membership.
- The PAO will actively be doing advocacy.
- We require a fresh start and training in how to advocate.
- John confirmed that volunteers are essential to our advocacy activities.

- There is a proposed model entitled called Advocacy Program Officers which clearly defines their roles and support channels.
- The proposed cost is unchanged from previous model
- The District Director will appoint the Advocacy Officer. There is a tool coming out which allows us to indicate issues to be presented to elected officials.
- There is a public service Pension Advisory Committee.
- John was available for questions from the membership.

**6. Joe Sanderson, Prairie District Director, provided the following information:**

- Honour your Promise has been an expensive campaign and has cut into our national revenue. It is necessary to stay the course because the government is looking hard at our pension plans.
- Joe announced the appointment of Simon Coakeley as the new CEO, effective May 16, 2016.
- There are five three-year positions that will come up for election at the June 2016 AMM: directors from BC & Yukon, Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic districts, as well as for President. There is also a two year position to fill the vacancy of Vice-president.
- Joe indicated that there are two women seeking positions on the national board. To date, there is no female representation.
- National office staff will be moving to a new office in mid May as the old building has been sold.
- In the 2017 budget there will be a proposal at the AMM to approve a dues increase. There have only been 3 dues increases in the last 7 years.

**7. Elections:** Cynthia Foreman, Nomination Chair, presented a slate of candidates to the President in order to fill the seven (7) vacancies on the board.

Prior to the election, members were provided with short biographies of all the candidates for their review.

Nicky Compton made a motion to close nominations which was seconded by Arnie Ottenbrite. Motion carried.

The following members were elected by acclamation:

Ceci O'Flaherty, 2nd Vice President; Lucy Cummings, Director; Jim Jarrett, Director; Gerry Jennings, Director; Louise Jutras, Director Dorothy Watermulder, Director

Joe Sanderson administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected board and offered his congratulations.

Adjournment. 3:15p.m

SIGNATURES:

*Original Signed by Lynne Belding*

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Lynne Belding, Secretary

Date

*Original Signed by Pat Jarrett*

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Pat Jarrett, President

Date

**2016 Schedule of Meetings**

- Prairie District Conference (Saskatoon) May 9 & 10
- **BOD, September 8, 2016**
- **General Meeting, September 20, 2016**
- **Outreach in Gimli, October 4, 2016**
- **Winnipeg Training Conference, October 17-19, 2016**
- **BOD, November 3, 2016**
- **General Meeting, November 15, 2016**