

Branch Board Meeting Minutes
Nick's Restaurant, Sarnia
October 3, 2017

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

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

Present -

President - Gloria Cayea
Treasurer - Diane Kerr
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
Member at Large. - Diana Wright

Gloria opened the meeting at 12:00 pm. Gloria had three agenda items:

- A discussion of the Goderich meeting's cost
- Approval of costs for the next meeting
- Establish dates for 2018 meetings

Gloria stated the cost of the September Goderich meeting was substantially higher than anticipated (\$15/meal planned versus \$16.95 actual). As a result the Branch subsidy of the event was greater. A general discussion ensued on how to best prevent similar cost overruns at future events. The consensus was to **require venues to provide a written estimate inclusive of all costs, i.e. room rental, meal cost, gratuities and tax.** In the event gratuities is not included in the written estimate, members attending will be requested to "pass the hat" to collect tips. Gloria called for a vote, seconded by the Secretary, to approve the above. **Motion carried.**

Gloria then lead a discussion on the costs of the next meeting, to be held at MacPherson's Restaurant, Grand Bend. The main course menu choices are Lasagna or Shepard's Pie. Meals will be served with a roll, salad, choice of tea or coffee, and dessert. The cost per meal (including tax) is \$23.75. If the cost does not include gratuity then we will rely on the "pass the hat" method to cover it.

After discussion a motion was introduced by the Secretary, seconded by the Director of Membership, that **members attending will pay \$15, with the Branch offsetting the remainder of the event's cost. "Pass the hat" will be used if the cost estimate provided by the restaurant does not include gratuity.**

Gloria then had the meeting determine the **dates for 2018 meetings and events:**

- January 23, 2018 - Branch Bowling Tournament
- February 06, 2018 - Board Meeting
- February 21, 2018 - Branch General Meeting, Sarnia
- March 27, 2018 - Board meeting
- April 18, 2018 - Annual General Meeting, Wallaceburg
- September 04, 2018 - Board Meeting
- September 19, 2018 - Branch General Meeting, Goderich
- October 02, 2018 - Board Meeting
- October 17, 2018 - Branch General Meeting, Grand Bend
- November 06, 2018 - Board Meeting
- November 21, 2018 - Branch Christmas General Meeting, Sarnia

Mary Ann asked if we can consider sites where rent is charged? The consensus was yes, **reasonable rental costs should not be a deterrent in choosing a suitable venue.**

Gloria concluded by hi-lighting the profile of member Bob Stennet on our Branch website. It is a good example of how interesting it can be to better know our members. Gloria sug-

gested we should add other worthy members' profiles.

Georgina recommended, and the Board agreed, that **members nominating persons for recognition under the Branch Volunteer Award be limited to one nominee per member.**

Georgina and Earnie recommended that **a motion be put forward to the membership at a General Meeting allowing current members of the Branch Board to be nominated for the Branch Volunteer Award.** This was accepted by the Board.

Diana asked if there was interest in having the same musical group we had last year at this year's Christmas General Meeting. After brief discussion it was **agreed that Diana would arrange for the group to attend, at a cost \$150 plus three meals.**

Earnie asked should the **Bluewater Branch submit the required data to be considered for the Branch of the Year award?** The consensus of the Board was yes.

Doug asked if the chair could provide an agenda in advance of Board Meetings? The answer was yes. **Gloria will provide an agenda in advance of Board meetings.**

The meeting then adjourned at 1:45 pm on a motion by the Secretary seconded by Murray Lester.