



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members:

This is our first insert for our members in over a year. I am very pleased that we are once again able to share some information directly with each of you.

You will recall that at the last AMM meeting in Ottawa in June 2015, our new by-laws were approved for implementation by the National Board. As a result, our new executive board, elected at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April will be following the new by-laws. The executive board consists of a President (3 year term), Vice-President, Treasurer and Membership Chair (all 2 year terms). Other positions on the board will be appointed for 1 year terms.

Your board is there to help you. If you have any problems, ideas, or complaints, please get in touch with one of them.

Nationally, last year we lost the President, Vice-President, and Chief Executive Officer all within a short period of time. Debbie Bernhardt stepped in as acting CEO and has done an admirable job. The Board is presently interviewing for the position. Hopefully, after the AMM in June everything will be back to normal.

Following the decision by the last government to change the terms of our Public Service Health Care Plan, the National Executive launched a legal challenge before the Supreme Court citing that the government's decision was not legal. It is expected that this challenge will go forward in June of this year.

And finally, I would like to, once again, encourage all of our members to become involved with the Branch. We all have strengths and skills which can be utilized to make our Branch stronger and more efficient. Please consider volunteering some of your time.

Have a great summer.

Gloria Cayea,

President

Where to find us

FSNA Bluewater Branch (ON36)

PO Box 263, Sarnia, ON N7T 7H9

Telephone: 519-869-6326; **E-mail:** fsna.bluewater@gmail.com;

Web: www.federalretirees.ca/en/branches/ontario/bluewater

HEALTH BENEFITS OFFICER REPORT

Spring is here! It is a perfect time to clean out your medicine cabinet. Gather all your prescription medications, over the counter products, herbal products and supplements. Include your first aid creams, lotions, liquids and sprays. Put aside all expired products and take them to your local pharmacy who will dispose of them in an environmentally safe manner.

Hope everyone has enjoyed the mild winter. Stay safe and healthy.

Diane Kerr

Health Benefits Officer

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I am writing this the first week of March for our summer Sage magazine. It has been quite a winter here in South Western Ontario. I don't mean to sound like a weather reporter but for the information of the Snow Birds down south, winter didn't arrive until late February with one cold weekend. Now March has come in like a lion and given us all a significant snow fall and a cold weekend is supposed to follow. By the time the Snow Birds read this in June summer will be well on the way.

Members' renewal stickers were sent out in the winter version of Sage magazine and were located in a special insert in the center of the magazine.

The 2016 dues rates have increased by 4%. They are now \$39.84 for Singles and \$51.72 for Doubles. For those who have their dues deducted at source (DDS) no action is required.

For those who pay directly there are many options available now. They include:

1. Make a cheque payable to FSNA Bluewater Branch and mail it to the branch's post office box.
2. Go to the Associations web site (www.federalretirees.ca) click on "joining us" and select "renew your membership" and follow the instructions. Please note you will have to set up an account if you don't already have one to pay by credit card.
3. Call the National office at 1-855-304-4700 and tell them you wish to pay your 2016 dues. Have member number and credit card ready.
4. Make a cheque payable to "National Association of Federal Retirees" and mail it to the National Office. Be sure to include your membership number.
5. Visit the National office and pay the member dues personally.

For all those members who spent the winter in warmer climes have a safe trip back home and for those, like myself, who spent the winter at home, here's hoping spring is just around the corner.

Bill Mason

Membership Chairperson

CALLER CHAIRPERSON REPORT

If you are not being contacted about our events, either by phone or email, please let me know at “willpat.mason@sympatico.ca” or 519 869 8872.

Pat Mason.

Caller Chairperson

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please check our Bluewater Web Site for details and updates as the events approach (See below for how to access this information).

General Meetings and Luncheon dates:

- Sept 14, 2016 – Royal Canadian Legion, Goderich
- Oct 19, 2016 – Location TBD, Grand Bend area.
- Nov 23, 2016 – Royal Canadian Navel Association, Sarnia

The Branch is planning its first ever golf tournament. We know there are many members who enjoy the game of golf. We are planning to have a SCRAMBLE format so that both men and women can take part. Further details will be forthcoming. If you are interested please contact Dave Cayea at dcayea@cogeco.ca or 519-869-6326

Executive Meeting dates:

- Executive meetings generally happen one to two weeks before the General Meetings. If you are interested in attending, please contact Gloria Cayea at 519-869-6326 or dcayea@cogeco.ca to confirm dates and location.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By the time you read this, we will be halfway through another year. We will have had our Annual Membership Meeting. The Annual Audit will have been completed, and we will have a new budget ready for your approval. We are in good shape and we will continue to be.

For 2016, our budget has been adjusted, according to the guidance given by the executive and members. We have faced a few challenges in the last few years and have had to respond to increased costs. You have been terrific.

At the April Meeting in Wallaceburg, I expect you approved the budget for 2016, and passed a motion to accept our audited report for 2015. I appreciate the help I have had from Larry Stevens and Doug Kerr, and maybe others who I will thank when the time comes. I would be very glad to answer any of your questions about the finances of our Branch. I look forward to seeing you at the fall meetings.

Diana Wilson Wright

Treasurer

CONGRATULATIONS

The executive of Bluewater Branch would like to congratulate Larry Stevens, Gord and Jean Webb and Flo Kettle for being chosen the Branch volunteers of the year 2015.

Thank you for a job well done.

IN MEMORIAM

Our thoughts and condolences go out to the families and friends of members who have recently passed:

- Lorna Ehman of Sarnia
- Patricia MacDonald of Sarnia

WEB SITE and INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Our Branch's new Website is up and running and can be accessed at WWW.FEDERALRETIRES.CA/EN/BRANCHES/ONTARIO/BLUEWATER, or through the National web site at WWW.FEDERALRETIRES.CA/EN (click on <Branches> <Ontario> <Bluewater Branch>).

On the right side of our HOME page is a section "**Events & Webcasts**". Basic Information for the next two Branch Events appears here. More details re these Events can be retrieved by clicking the heading for the Event (i.e. "**General Meeting and Luncheon**"). To see the complete list of upcoming Branch Events click on "**Branch Events**" at the bottom of the Bluewater Branch box at the center bottom of our home page.

The left side of our HOME page has a box that includes sections on: "**Branch Executive**"; "**Executive Meetings**"; "**Membership Renewal Information**"; "**Newsletter**"; etc. Other information will be included, as appropriate, at different times. In the "**Past Branch Activities**" section I hope to post pictures and information about our past activities. I am always looking for content suggestion and pictures relevant to Branch activities and/or members.

Our new web site is a work-in-progress and we are always looking for content suggestion and pictures relevant to Branch activities and/or our members. Forward any suggestions/input to dkerr@cogeco.ca. Please confirm individuals in pictures are OK with having their pictures published, on our web site, in the public domain.

Doug Kerr

Website and IT support

BLUEWATER BRANCH EXECUTIVE

We will be electing a new Executive at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 20th, after this is submitted for publishing. An updated listing of our Executive can be found on our web site at:

WWW.FEDERALRETIRES.CA/EN/BRANCHES/ONTARIO/BLUEWATER under **Branch Executive**.