

**National Association of Federal Retirees
Fredericton and District Branch (NB62)
BOD Meeting – Wednesday, June 6th, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.
Hazen Park Centre, 2nd Floor Boardroom, Oromocto**

PRESENT

Elliott Keizer, Cyril Theriault, Denise Blanchard, Ian Culligan, Chris Goddard, John Richards, Norm Sheen, Rae Hopper, Ian Culligan, Evans Estabrooks, Andrew Gunter, Gary Barfitt.
Mike McCormick attended as a guest.

ABSENT

1. WELCOME

Elliott Keizer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Agenda was approved as presented with the following additions:

- 6h) Planning Session – Elliott
- 6g) Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) Resolutions - Elliott

Moved by Cyril; Seconded by Rae

CARRIED

3. MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING of April 4th, 2018

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as circulated.

Moved by Cyril; Seconded by Ian

CARRIED

On the Spring Dinner of April 24th, we met and appointed the following Officers for the year: Cyril Theriault as Vice-President, Denise Blanchard as Admin Director, John Richard as Treasurer, Gary Barfitt as Special Events Director. Evans Estabrooks as Membership Growth Director.

4. BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES

a) Board of Directors duties and responsibilities - Cyril

Cyril distributed the following templates he received from Gail Currant: Volunteer Recruitment and Engagement Director, Branch Vice President, Branch President, Director of Membership Growth and Treasurer and Branch Advocacy Liaison. The Board will review them and submit their opinions for the next Board meeting on September 5th.

b) Freddy Plus Add - Elliott

To be discussed under 5c) Membership by Evans

5. REPORTS

a) Finance – John

Financial documents and draft copy of the minutes of our Spring meeting were sent on by May 15. Gil Farmer has agreed to review our book this year also.

Cyril added that the amendments to the By-Laws regarding finance and number of directors looks like they will be approved by National.

John reminded the Board that we use the Branch expense form to claim our expenses.

Moved by John that the Finance report be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Norm

CARRIED

b) Special Events - Gary

Gary asked that his email that is showing on the website (gbarfitt@yahoo.ca) be kept but that any communications within the Board be sent to gbarfitt@rogers.com.

- Fall Dinner: Tuesday, October 23rd. Gary will verify with St. Francis of Assisi if the price will remain the same. He contacted the Commercial Crime Section of the RCMP to provide a guest speaker for the dinner. Spoke with a constable who agreed to do a presentation on cybersecurity and counterfeit money.
- Information Session: September 25th or October 2nd depending on Barry Murray's availability. Gary will look for a location or another room at the Fredericton Inn with better sound. Chris suggested that the basement rooms have better sound; Gary will check with the Fredericton Inn. Elliott's concern was if Barry was willing to do it for 70 people; Gary will discuss this with him. If Barry decides for a smaller group, Gary will do the presentation for the other group using Barry's material.

Moved by Gary that the Special Events report be accepted as presented.

Seconded by John

CARRIED

c) Membership Growth- Evans

Since he became Membership Growth Director, Evans has recruited members Wayne Gunter, Mariet van Groenewoud and Trudy Dalton to serve on our Membership Committee.

- Freddy Plus: a poll was taken of members at the Spring Meeting to test the effectiveness of the Freddy Plus newspaper to advertise about our benefits and recruitment. It does not appear that our members read Freddy Plus. He proposed that we drop them when our contract expires at the end of June.

Recommendation by Evans that we stop advertising in Freddy Plus.

Moved by Evans; Seconded by Cyril

CARRIED

- There has been a change in member recruitment at National Office with Peter Atkinson leaving. The Client Services Supervisor Cynthia Ouellet is handling membership currently.
- Branches are being asked to start the process of prioritizing activities and eliminating non-essentials. Our National President also recommends micro volunteer activity and succession training. Evans is looking at ideas for membership recruitment. Since the recent declining memberships locally and nationally, our Branch goal needs to be lowered for the short term.
- Short-term proposals:
 - Member recruit a new member: Evans discussed an idea that members will be asked to approach a potential member to ask them to consider NAFR membership. Members will be asked to take membership applications and place at the top of each

application “referred by: their own name”. The member with the most referred applications will receive a small prize (possibly two small gift certificates of \$50-\$100) to be presented at the next Spring or Fall meeting.

- Purchase of a bilingual banner for a booth display to carry out booth display recruitment. Two banners can be purchased in Nova Scotia for about \$500. Discussion followed as to what we want to put on them.

Motion to mark-up the banners by Evans and the Membership Committee and circulate to the Board for comments. The Board will give up to \$600 to do it.

Moved by Evans; Seconded by Denise

CARRIED

- Letter template for surviving spouses: need to be adjusted to the branch needs. Letter is too long and needs to be shortened. John said that we need to be more organized. Elliott proposed that we could send a card with a small note. The Membership Committee will look at it and come back to us at our next planning session in September.

John proposed that instead of having a guest speaker we could for ask them for suggestions from the members who attends our Spring meeting.

Another suggestion is to conduct a small survey.

Moved by Evans that the Membership report be accepted as presented.

Seconded by John

CARRIED

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Candidates Meeting Proposal for the NB Election – Elliott

Elliott and Cyril participated on a call with Sayward Montague of National Office on Tuesday, May 29th. The purpose was to discuss the possibility of having an All Candidates Meeting in September prior to the NB election to be held on September 24th. The session would be held somewhere in the first two week of September after Labour Day.

Do we want to co-host?

Sayward said that she will check with Moncton and Saint John, but Elliott has not heard from her. She would also send some notes about how this might be done; have not received anything. Ontario held a session and it went very well. They invited all parties who had held a seat in the Legislature.

What kind of format? Possible co-sponsor such as NB Senior Citizens Federation; Coalition of Seniors for nursing home rights; Stepping Stone. Town Hall meeting format. Sayward said that Simon Coakley who is fluently bilingual would facilitate the session.

Focused on Health Care with 2-3 questions prepared in advanced. Possible partner should focus on Senior and health care. Make it as simple as possible.

National Office would take care of the logistic for recording and dissemination. Need to contact each political party to appoint a representative of their party from the Fredericton and Oromocto region.

We would like to do it with caution. Need to work it out and gauge the interest from Saint John and Moncton. Timing is an issue also.

Committee has been formed with Chris (as chair), Denise, Mike, John, Elliott and Ian to flush out some ideas.

Motion by Chris to have exploratory committee to come up with a format to be

approved by the Board by Tuesday, July 10. Seconded by Denise

CARRIED

b) Purchase of Folder Holders and Banner - Chris

Chris asked if we could purchase “folder holders” (brochure display case) for around \$10 +

taxes. The Board agree that we purchase them as needed.

c) Business Cards – Denise

Denise mentioned that we need to purchase business cards for our new BOD members (Andrew, Gary). Need to change the Branch email address on all card. Denise will order business cards for everyone-from Vistaprint.

d) District Meeting Report – Elliott, Cyril and Chris

Chris and Elliott attended the District meeting on April 25-27 along with Cyril as NB BSC. Chris talked to other branches to see what problems they are facing. He sent an email to them about computer training; every brought it up. He is working on a proposal and will send it around to everyone to have a look at it.

1. National Directors gave a rundown of all proposals in for consideration at the AMM in June:
 - Our proposal on Defined Benefit Defence received good support
 - Proposal from Montreal Branch which would ensure the split of membership fees would give at least 20% to the branches
 - Proposal to tighten up Regulation 5.5 concerning Preferred Partners (since withdrawn by the National Board)
2. Branch Health Survey: results of a questionnaire answered by Branch Presidents earlier this year. Lot of branches said it is difficult to recruit members. Of the 19 branches in the District, only 8 have more than 1,000 members.
3. Lot of interest in saving/helping struggling branches that are having problems in finding volunteers to run the branches.
4. Simon Coakley asked Elliot if we would host an all-candidates session focusing on senior's issues this fall prior to the provincial election. Elliott said that we will have to get more information before the board can make an informed decision.
5. Two training sessions of ½ day each. Very little of use in the Volunteer Recruitment session. The Members Recruitment session given by Peter Atkinson had some interesting content:
 - a. Lost 6,000 to 10,00 members annually; of these 25% died. For the rest, most say they do not have contact with their branch anymore, no longer need MEDOC and get no benefit from the preferred partners.
 - b. Forty per cent have MEDOC.
 - c. Pension recipients by postal code: more CF members than PS and RCMP combined in our Branch.
 - d. Telephone follow-up for non-renewals after being sent 5 renewal notices is working. Would amount to 60 calls per year.
 - e. Letter from the Orchard Valley Branch sent to survivors. Some branches like this idea but many are reluctant.
 - f. DND have agreed that we participate in Scan seminars; must be invited first.

e) Planning Session – Elliott

Nothing set-up yet. Every two years we have a planning session. We invite Regional Director, Advocacy Officer, Branch Service Coordinator and other that might be interested on being on the Board. To be held sometimes in September or early October. Need a facilitator but Gary will do it if nobody else will. We will find a date once we find a facilitator.

f) Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) Resolutions - John

- Branch Remittances from Membership Fees – Montreal

When we had our fees increase the split of the fee revenue between National Office and the branches was reduced. National say that they are going to a new fee strategy in 2019 so therefore this won't be able to go forward as it will be reviewed in 2019.

When there is a fee increase Montreal wants a discussion about it and National shuts them down and John does not agree with that. National wants the flexibility on how to use membership fees and giving people discounts; John has issue with that. His suggestion is to support Montreal and do no support the Board having flexibility to use the fees to give 18 months instead of 12 months for recruitment unless there is some flesh around it.

Elliott: review of the split of the fees – 20%. Branch should get a minimum of 20% and our branch gets 19%. It used to be up to 25% and we are going down.

- Board Authority to Adjust Fees for Recruitment and Retention – National Board of Directors

It needs to be very controlled and need more details. Basically, we are giving them “carte blanche” to monkey with the fees and we don't know what they are doing. John is against this.

- Campaign to Gain Reinstatement of Membership Invitation Mailout – Edmonton

At one time we used to be able to ask people to join through mailout to existing public service; this has stopped. They proposed that we use politicians for support to regain the mailout. National Office states that we should not involve politicians.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 5th, 2018 – 5:00 PM
2nd Floor Boardroom, Hazen Park Centre, Oromocto**

Recorded by: _____
Denise Blanchard, Admin Director

Approved by: _____
Elliott Keizer, President