

NAFR Alberta – Edmonton Branch (AB17)

2016 Annual General Membership Meetings (GMMs)

List of Meeting Minutes

- 1) [May 4, 2016](#)
- 2) [September 7, 2016](#)
- 3) [December 7, 2016](#)

2016-05-04 Annual Members Meeting

National Association of Federal Retirees – AB17 – Edmonton Branch

Minutes to the General Membership Meeting – May 4, 2016

Royal Canadian Legion, Kingsway Branch – 14339 – 50th Street, Edmonton, Alberta

Present: 77 members and Board Members: Brian Emdin, Dave Riffel, Ross Gillespie, Lillian June, Clay Kolstad, Delbert Dahl, Heather-Anne Elliott-Martin, Rick Brick, Judy Tracz, Mahir Mansi, and Joan Brick. Also in attendance were the following four guests: Honourable Lori Sigurdson – Minister of Seniors and Housing, Timothy Chu – Minister Sigurdson’s Press Secretary, Roy Goodall – District Director, and Luella Webber who provided CART (Realtime STENOvations) for deaf/hard of hearing members.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Brian Emdin at 6:05 p.m.

Opening Remarks: Brian Emdin welcomed everyone and then asked for a moment of silence to honour deceased members, as well as a moment of silence for all those affected by the fires in Fort McMurray. Brian asked for grace to be given following which the meal was served.

Guest Speakers: During coffee/dessert, the following presentations were provided.

Lori Sigurdson Minister of Seniors and Housing: Lori spoke to a series of initiatives she will be focusing on for Seniors regarding availability of housing, updating of available housing in the province, as well as a program to update homes which are owned by Seniors that will allow them to remain in same, etc.

She then opened the floor to questions. There were a number of questions regarding the priorities of the recently elected provincial government and their need to work closely with the even more recently elected federal government. Finally, there were a number of concerns expressed in regard to ageism and the need for government to help ensure that every consideration possible be given to spouses being able to reside together when extended care is required by one or both family members.

Roy Goodall District Director: Roy addressed the challenges that have been faced by the National Board of Directors and the Association due to resignations of senior officials in 2015. Roy also spoke to the various issues that will be raised at the upcoming National Annual Member’s Meeting. He addressed the importance of diversity on the National Board. Roy then opened the floor to questions.

President Brian Emdin thanked both speakers on behalf of the Association Branch members for their remarks and willingness to respond to questions.

Approval of Agenda: Brian asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda. Treasurer's Report was added to the agenda, he sought approval for the agenda as amended. Approval of the amended agenda was moved by Bill Lundquist and seconded by Rick Brick.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Brian next asked if there were any errors or amendments to the minutes from the December 2, 2015 General Membership Meeting. There were none noted after review so there was a request for approval of those minutes. Approval of the published minutes was moved by Clay Kolstad and seconded by Mahir Mansi. The motion was approved unanimously.

Clay Kolstad Treasurer: The Audited financial statements for 2015 showing earnings of \$9,847.25 were presented. There was a request for approval of the Audited financial statements, moved by Clay Kolstad and seconded by Joan Brick. The motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report: President Brian Emdin stated that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your President of the Edmonton Branch of the Association for the past four years. He mentioned that this would be his final meeting as the President. Brian did a survey among the members present regarding afternoon meetings. There was strong support for a lunch meeting in September.

Elections for Branch Executive Positions – Elections were held for executive board positions and the results are listed below. All positions were elected by acclamation.

- President – Ross Gillespie
- 1st Vice President – Rick Brick
- 2nd Vice President – Dave Riffel
- Secretary – Joan Brick
- Treasurer – Clay Kolstad

Door Prizes: The door prizes were won by Sylvia Kennedy and Brian Emdin. Bert Moors and Priscilla Lajeunesse split the 50/50 draw.

Volunteers: President Ross Gillespie spoke to the importance of volunteers to the association and encouraged members to come forward if they wanted to explore the possibility of helping out the Association either on a one time or on-going basis.

Adjournment: President Ross Gillespie adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next general members meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2016 in the afternoon.

2016-09-07 Fall General Membership Meeting and Trade Fair Minutes

National Association of Federal Retirees – AB17 – Edmonton Branch

Minutes to the General Membership Meeting – Sep 7, 2016

Royal Canadian Legion, Kingsway Branch – 14339 – 50th Street, Edmonton, Alberta

Present: 180 members and Board Members: Brian Emdin APO/AB, Dave Riffel BSC, Ross Gillespie, Lillian June, Clay Kolstad, Delbert Dahl, Heather-Anne Elliott-Martin, Rick Brick, Judy Tracz, Mahir Mansi, and Joan Brick. Also in attendance was the following guests: Simon Coakeley CEO/NAFR and Luella Webber who provided CART (Communications Access Realtime Translation) for deaf/hard of hearing members.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Ross Gillespie at 12:45 p.m.

Opening Remarks: Ross Gillespie welcomed everyone and stated it was nice to see a significantly larger turnout than the last few meetings. Doreen Morton was recognized as a National Life Member, Lillian June and Bill Karpo were also recognized as Branch Life Members for the many years of service both have given in support of the Branch. Simon Coakeley CEO/NAFR was also introduced to the members. Ross asked for a moment of silence in memory of those members who have left us since our last meeting, including Doreen O'Hara who passed away on the 7th of May and was also a National Life Member. Grace was given by Rick Brick, at which time the meal was served.

Approval of Agenda: Ross asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda. Approval of the agenda was moved by Rick Brick and seconded by Mahir Mansi, and unanimously approved.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Ross next asked if there were any errors or amendments to the minutes from the May 4, 2016 Annual Members Meeting. There were none noted after review so there was a request for approval of those minutes. Approval of the published minutes was moved by Joan Brick and seconded by Clay Kolstad, and unanimously approved.

President's Report: Ross made mention of the levels of participation within the organization. Brian Emdin is our past president but now has the role of PAO/AB (Program Advocacy Officer) within our District. Dave Riffel is also a past president and currently our second Vice-President, as well as BSC/AB (Branch Services Coordinator). The Association's new National Vice-President is Roy Goodall, who is a member of the Calgary branch. The new structure of the organization now has a Prairies District comprised of Alberta, Saskatchewan, & Manitoba. The two Directors responsible for the District are Anne Ashcroft/Saskatoon and Joe Sanderson/Winnipeg. Alberta now has a recently appointed Seniors' Advocate, Dr. Sheree Kwong See, whose office is open. We are partnering with

the Canadian Medical Association to hold a Health Accord Town Hall meeting in Edmonton on November 8th at the Kingsway Legion, Brian Emdin is organizing the event. Effective January 1st, the National Association will be implementing a new fee structure; Single membership \$46.76 or \$3.98 month, Double membership \$62.04 or \$5.17 month. There are questionnaires at each table, we would appreciate feedback on activities that will encourage members and potential members to participate in our meetings. We would also appreciate members becoming Board Members or assisting on a project basis.

Guest Speaker: Simon Coakeley, CEO, NAFR. Simon was appointed to this position as a representative of the organization on the May 16th, 2016 and our branch is grateful for his attendance to our general membership meeting as this is his first official branch visit. He has been a member of the national association since 2003 as an associate member. He made mention of the start of the operational implementation of the 2017 – 2019 Strategic Plan which will be presented to the National Board in September. He also stressed the importance of the Health Accord Town Halls across Canada, and Seniors' need to ensure that their needs are being met.

Branch Bylaws: Dave Riffel as chairperson of the Bylaws Committee for the Alberta/Edmonton AB17 Branch, I hereby give due notice of motion that the Branch is in the process of drafting new bylaws to conform with the National bylaws of our Association. The "Draft" Bylaws will be posted on our website in early November, and at the December 7th General Membership Meeting will be put to the membership for adoption.

Trade Show: The exhibitors at the trade show seemed very well received by the members.

Door Prizes: The first door prize which was a travel blanket from Johnson's Insurance was won by Virginia Howell. The next door prize was a battery charger which was won by John Doree. Nexus Travel donated silk scarves which were won by Betty Ann Sharp and Carol Sayre respectively. Goodlife Fitness donated a T-Shirt and Water Bottle which were won by Ronald Rickman. The (2) two 50/50 draws were won by John Doree and Jon Bennett respectively.

Canada's 150th Anniversary Celebration: Our Branch is looking at partnering with the Kingsway Legion in planning this event. If you would like to participate as an organizer or have suggestions, please contact one of our Board members or the Entertainment chairperson for the Kingsway Legion.

New Members: Vivian Mattia and Valerie Symborski became members at this meeting, Ross thanked them both for joining our organization.

Adjournment: President Ross Gillespie adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next general members meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2016 in the afternoon.

2016-12-07 Winter General Membership Meeting Minutes

National Association of Federal Retirees – AB17 – Edmonton Branch

Minutes to the General Membership Meeting – Dec 7, 2016

Royal Canadian Legion, Kingsway Branch – 14339 – 50th Street, Edmonton, Alberta

Present: 149 members and Board Members: Brian Emdin PAO/AB, Ross Gillespie, Lillian June, Clay Kolstad, Delbert Dahl, Heather-Anne Elliott-Martin, Rick Brick, Judy Tracz, Mahir Mansi, Joan Brick, and Linda Phillips. Also in attendance was the following guest: Luella Webber who provided CART (Communications Access Realtime Translation) for deaf/hard of hearing members.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Ross Gillespie at 12:45 p.m.

Opening Remarks: Ross Gillespie welcomed everyone and stated it was nice to see a large turnout. Ross introduced Linda Phillips and welcomed her to the Board, Louella Webber was also introduced as a guest who provides CART services for deaf/hard of hearing members. Ross also acknowledged National Life Member Doreen Morton, and Branch Life Members, Lillian June, Bill Karpo, & Tom Charchuk. Ross asked for a moment of silence in memory of those members who have left us since our last meeting. Ross introduced the Sturgeon Unity Singers who performed prior to the meal and meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Ross confirmed there were no additions or amendments to the agenda. Approval of the agenda was moved by Rick Brick and seconded by Clay Kolstad, and unanimously approved.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Ross next asked if there were any errors or amendments to the minutes from the September 7, 2016 General Membership Meeting. There were none noted following review. Approval of the minutes as published was moved by Joan Brick and seconded by Heather-Anne Elliott-Martin, and unanimously approved.

President's Report: Ross discussed the Grey Matters Conference which was held in Grande Prairie on September 20th & 21st for Seniors, Seniors Groups, and Organizations serving Seniors. Topics included health, recreation, seniors driving and alternate transportation options, Encore Employment services, Elder abuse, LGBTQ community moving into senior's accommodations, End of Life options, using Social Media, provincial financial support for seniors, etc. Presentations by Margaret Trudeau on Mental Health, and Maria Campbell who is an aboriginal elder, author, & researcher about her struggles and successes in life.

On September 22nd, a meeting for members & prospective members of the National Association of Federal Retirees in the Grande Prairie area was held. It was well attended and provided our members with an update on national, regional, & branch activities including the Preferred Partners Fair held as part the Edmonton General Members meeting on September 7th. Our first Vice-President has been nominated by our board to fill the role of District Director for the Prairies/Northwest Territories region of NAFR. The election will take place at the National Annual Members Meeting in Ottawa, which will be held in June 2017.

Reserve Fund for Canada 150 Celebration: Be it resolved that: Edmonton Branch Number 17 establish a reserve fund in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) to cover the estimated cost of holding a Canada Day event to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Approval for the reserve fund was moved by Brian Emdin and seconded by Rick Brick, and unanimously approved. Details of the event and a budget will be presented at the Annual Members Meeting on the 03 May 2017.

PAO Report: On 8th November 2016, a Town Hall meeting was held reference the Provincial/Federal Health Care Accord. Panelists were Dr. Ernest Schuster, Dr. Sheree Kwong See, and Noel Summerville. Health Care system currently does not meet the needs of older citizens. Patients are unable to afford their medications, extreme delays for long-term care, and not enough support to remain in their homes. All levels of government actively work together for the health of Canadians. This is a critical opportunity to address gaps in seniors' care, home care services need to be expanded and better support provided to informal caregivers. Many senior patients remain in hospital beds which put them at risk of infection, plus taking them away from family and friends has a negative impact on their health. Additional health care funding should be transferred to provinces and territories based on the proportion of seniors. Ageism refers to systematic stereotyping and discrimination against older adults/people as a group. Mental health is also a priority, Canada does need a national dementia strategy, including appropriate and quality care for persons with dementia. Loneliness and social isolation are also a risk factor for older people. This impact should include female, indigenous, and senior health care considerations. The presentations by the panelists were well received and there was a very active question and answer period.

Branch Bylaws: Be it resolved that: the Edmonton Branch No. 17 adopt the bylaws as described in the Notice of Motion given at the September 7, 2016 General Membership Meeting and as presented on the branch website www.nafredm.ca (formerly www.fsnaedm.ca). Approval of the Bylaws motion was moved by Rick Brick and seconded by Linda Phillips, and unanimously approved.

Health Benefit Officer Report: For the period January 20, 2016 – December 6, 2016 there were a total of eight inquiries received. Five of the contacts were in relation to the recent insert in the SAGE magazine about Hospital Benefits coverage. Two conversations were regarding coverage for the

purchase of medical support equipment. With regards to the final request, a message was left for the member but nothing has been heard back from them as yet.

Effective immediately, all paper PHSCP claim forms for reimbursement must be sent to the following address: Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, P.O. Box 6192 Stn CV, Montreal QC, H3C 4R2.

After 31 March 2017, claims not sent to the above address will be returned to sender.

Any questions regarding PSHCP claims can be directed to Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada through your sun life account at www.sunlife.ca/pshcp or by phone at 1-888-757-7427.

Communications Report: Heather-Anne Elliott-Martin the Membership Director expressed her thanks on behalf of the entire Board to the phone committee volunteers for their excellent dedication.

Door Prizes: The first door prize was a \$150.00 gift certificate from Via-Rail which was won by Vivian Mattia. The two (2) door prizes of \$50.00 each were won by Lucie Colucci and Charles Collett. The two (2) 50/50 draws were won by Marjorie Jardine.

Canada's 150th Anniversary Celebration: Our Branch is looking at partnering with the Kingsway Legion in planning this event. If you would like to participate as an organizer or have suggestions, please contact one of our Board members or the Entertainment chairperson for the Kingsway Legion.

The Kingsway Legion: Mac Torrie the President of the Kingsway Legion wished the members of the National Association of Federal Retirees – AB 17 – Edmonton Branch a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year on behalf of the Kingsway Legion.

Adjournment: President Ross Gillespie adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next annual members meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2017. It will be an evening meeting.