

**National Association of Federal Retirees – AB17 – Edmonton Branch**  
**General Membership Meeting - May 2, 2018**  
**Royal Canadian Legion, Kingsway Branch – 14339 - 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Edmonton, Alberta**

Present: 93 Members including Board Members: Ross Gillespie, Brian Emdin, Dave Riffel, Lillian June, Delbert Dahl, Heather-Anne Elliott-Martin, Mahir Mansi, Judy Tracz, Clay Kolstad, Sylvia Kennedy, Rick Brick, Joan Brick, & Mick Rempel. Also in attendance were the following 3 guests: Roy Goodall - National Vice-President National Association of Federal Retirees, Sandra Azocar - Executive Director Friends of Medicare and Laura Slywka 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 5:58 p.m.

Opening Remarks: Ross Gillespie welcomed everyone and acknowledged the presence of National Life Member Doreen Morton and Branch Life Member Lillian June. Rick Brick said Grace, after which supper was provided.

Approval of Agenda: Ross asked for additions/amendments to the Agenda. There were none. Motion for approval by Brian Emdin, seconded by Dave Riffel and unanimously approved.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Ross then asked if there were any errors or omissions in the Minutes from December 6th, 2017 General Membership Meeting. There were none. Motion for approval of by Joan Brick, seconded by Mahir Mansi and unanimously approved.

Elections: Brian Emdin conducted the elections for the positions of President, Second Vice-President, and Treasurer. Ross Gillespie, Dave Riffel, and Clay Kolstad were all nominated for another two-year term. There were no other nominees from the floor, the incumbents were unanimously approved to retain their positions on the Board.

Treasurer's Financial Statements & Auditor's Report including Motion for the Defense of Benefits Reserve and Reserve for the Canada 150 Celebration: Reviewed financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 showing a Loss of \$7,742.48 were presented. Motion for the dissolution of the Reserve for the Canada 150 Celebration was presented, Defense Benefits Reserve would be increased by \$3,000.00 to a total of \$45,313.28. Motion for approval by Clay Kolstad, seconded by Peter Gwinner, and unanimously approved.

Budget for 2018: Proposed budget was presented. Motion for approval by Clay Kolstad of the budget, seconded by Joan Brick, and unanimously approved.

Guest Speakers:

Roy Goodall National Vice-President National Association of Federal Retirees brought greetings to the Board and Members on behalf of himself and National Office. Veteran's Summits were held in various provinces which provided networking including an executive summary. 28% of branches are considered healthy but 24% are struggling, which may result in a reduction of branches in the future. Volunteers are very hard to come by which causes burn out for board members since the same individuals stay involved. Branches must start using funds held in reserves, if this does not happen then National Office will request 30% of balance held. As of December 31, 2017, NAFR membership total is 176,202. An

appeal against NAFR's loss in the federal courts regarding the government's unilateral change to Public Service Health Care Plan premiums has been filed. Important in that action is to strengthen NAFR's right and responsibility to represent the interests of former Federal Public Servants, Canadian Forces members, RCMP members and federal Judges. National Office hopes to increase membership, promote advocacy, and improve visibility.

A tribute was made to Clay Kolstad for his extensive volunteer activities spanning more than 40 years in the community, being a NAFR member since 1994 and Branch Treasurer for the past 18 years. Roy presented Clay with the President's Commendation for his exemplary service.

Sandra Azocar was introduced by Milton (Mick) Rempel to the Board and Members, as he arranged for her presentation. Friends of Medicare is a not for profit organization and has been working since 1979 to protect, improve and expand our public health care system. They support the principles of the Canada Health Act such as comprehensive coverage of all medically required services, universal coverage for all Canadians regardless of income, accessibility for all residents uninhibited by user fees, portability from province to province, public administration on a not-for-profit basis. A 2015 Angus Reid poll found that 91% of Canadians believe our public health care system should include a universal prescription drug plan. We are working to win a universal prescription drug plan that covers all Canadians regardless of income, age or where they live. No one should be forced to choose between paying for groceries and paying for the medication they need. Canada is the only developed country in the world with a universal health care program that does not include a universal prescription drug plan.

President's Report: Ross presented and discussed the President's Report, copies were provided for members to read on the tables. (Copy attached)

**If you pay your membership dues by cheque, please send to the National Office:**

National Association of Federal Retirees, 865 Shefford Road, Ottawa, ON, K1J 1H9.

The transition of our Branch website and Facebook page has been completed to: *www.federal*

*retirees.ca.* Click on Branches, follow the dropdown menus to Alberta then Edmonton. On our

home page you will find a Menu on the left side to explore our pages. Please contact us with any comments, questions and corrections. Click on Contents and either phone or send an email.

Ross also acknowledged the diligent work of Mick Rempel with completing this transition. Please consider completing your profile on the national website, you will need your membership number and to create a password. You will then have access to 'Members only' data not available to the general public.

I encourage you to check out our Facebook account; Search for National Association of Retirees Edmonton Branch. Please like and/or follow our page which unlocks additional functionality for the branch.

We currently have 1872 doubles (3,744 members) plus 1,826 singles for a total branch membership of 5,560 (5,582 as of December 7, 2017). For membership inquiries, contact our Membership chair Heather-Anne Elliott-Martin (780-942-2664) or email at - nafsocial@yahoo.com.

You will find a VIP card on your table, either give this card to someone who is eligible to join our organization or invite them to our September 5, 2018 meeting. Details of the meeting will be posted on our website as they are confirmed. We would also appreciate your ideas on how to increase our membership.

A Forgotten Heroes Gala will be held at the Kingsway Legion Saturday May 26th, 2018. If you are interested in attending, contact the legion to make arrangements:

**Order Tickets at: 780-425-8654 or 780-478-1631 to be purchased by May 21, 2018.**

Prize Draws: Two door prizes valued at \$50.00 each were won by Doris Burt and Keith Stagg. Two 50/50 draws of \$124.50 each were won by Tillie Chudyk and Chris Simon.

Closing: The next meeting will be held on September 5, 2018 and is a lunch meeting which will be provided at no cost.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Ross Gillespie President

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Joan Brick Secretary

## National Association of Federal Retirees – Edmonton Branch

### Annual Members Meeting May 2, 2018

#### President's Report

##### **Board Activities**

In addition to our preparations for this meeting, we have been and are still busy preparing to host the Prairies and NWT District meeting on May 9 & 10<sup>th</sup>. Delegates from branches in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories will discuss issues of concern to all of us including recruitment and retention of both members and volunteers (those who serve on boards or provide other volunteer activities for branches), advocacy concerns, the general administration and operation of our organization, etc. We are also preparing for a few of us to attend the national Annual Meeting of Members in Ottawa in mid-June.

At the national meeting, Rick Brick, our branch First Vice President will be a candidate for Director, Prairies and NWT District which is a position on the National Board of Directors. Branch representatives will be campaigning on his behalf.

##### **Meal Time**

You will notice that there are no perogies with our meal today. Our board decided to forgo this meal item because of its' \$3.00 per person added cost. You will be asked during the meeting to indicate by a show of hands, if you would be willing to pay a higher meal cost at the door to have perogies included with the meal. Currently, our meals are subsidized by \$15.00 - \$18.00.

##### **Dues Paid By Cheque**

If you pay your dues by cheque, please send your cheques to our National Office:

National Association of Federal Retirees, 865 Shefford Road, Ottawa, ON K1J 1H9

You will have seen in the treasurer's report that our association's method of accounting has changed. Previously we had deposited the cheques in our account and then we had to send the national office their share of the dues. In addition to the work here, that created problems in their membership records. For more than a year, cheques received at the branch have been forwarded to national office and are deposited there. It works more smoothly because they now send us the branch share of all dues payments (pension deductions, credit card payments and cheques).

##### **Branch Website and Facebook Page**

We have completed the transition of our website to [www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca). On this website, Click on *Branches* and follow the dropdown menus to *Alberta*, then *Edmonton*. On our Home Page you will find a Menu on the left side to explore our pages. Please contact us with your comments, questions and corrections (we strive for perfection, but we are human). Click on *Contacts* and phone or send us an email.

I want to acknowledge the diligent work of Mick Rempel in completing this transition. You will find him on the *Contacts* page under Website Inquiries.

If you haven't yet completed your profile on the national website, I encourage you to do so. There is a link at the bottom of every page. You will need your membership number and you will be asked to create a password. When your profile is completed, you will find that, through it, you have access to "members only" information that is not available to the general public when browsing the website.

Lastly, I encourage you to have a look at our Facebook account. At the top of any Facebook page, type "National Association of Federal Retirees Edmonton Branch" in the search bar. When you are on our page, please "Like" and/or "Follow" our page. Getting more *Likes* and *Followers* unlocks additional functionality for us. If you know others who may be interested, you can also *Share* our page with them.

**Branch Email Address** – We are now using [edmonton@federalretirees.ca](mailto:edmonton@federalretirees.ca) as our general email address. Previous addresses ending in "@gmail.com" are no longer in use. Membership related inquiries can still be sent to [nafsocial@yahoo.ca](mailto:nafsocial@yahoo.ca).

**Membership** – We currently have 1872 doubles (3744 members) plus 1826 singles for a total branch membership of 5560 (5582 on December 7, 2017). For inquiries about your membership, please call our Membership Chair Heather-Anne Elliott-Martin (780-942-2664) or email her at [nafsocial@yahoo.ca](mailto:nafsocial@yahoo.ca).

### **Recruiting New Members**

You will have found a "VIP" card near your place setting. I encourage you to give this card to someone you know who is eligible to join our organization. This includes individuals who are currently employed or retired from the Public Service, the Military, the RCMP or as a Federal Judge. They don't have to be receiving their pension, as long as they are eligible. Some non-pensioned veterans are also eligible.

Better than just giving them the card, why don't you invite them to come with you to our September 5, 2018 meeting. That lunch will be free! Details of the meeting will be posted on our website as they are confirmed.

We would love to hear your ideas on how to grow our membership. We have created a Membership Recruiting Committee chaired by Dave Riffel. If you are willing to help on a short term committee, please speak to Dave or any board member following the meeting. You can also call Dave at 780-468-3125 or send him an email at [david.p.riffel@gmail.com](mailto:david.p.riffel@gmail.com). You can even send an email to the branch ([edmonton@federalretirees.ca](mailto:edmonton@federalretirees.ca)) or call our Branch Service Phone: **780-413-4687** (from outside Edmonton call toll free **1-855-376-2336**).

Ross Gillespie