



National Association of Federal Retirees    Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

WINNIPEG & DISTRICT

## Newsletter – September 2018

### President's Message

Ceci O'Flaherty

It's hard to believe that days are already starting to get shorter and we are nearing the time when our Association gets busy for the Fall. I hope everyone had a happy, healthy and relaxing Spring/Summer season this year.

With this in mind, I want to remind you of a few important dates coming up in the next coming months.

September 25 – General Meeting at the ANAVets 3584 Portage Avenue – doors open at 11:30; lunch served at 12:00; meeting and guest speaker presenting on the Emergency Response Information Kit 1:00 to 2:30. **Please register by September 18.**

October 11 – Outreach meeting in Steinbach. This will include a guest speaker presenting on the Emergency Response Information Kit. An announcement will be coming out in the next couple of weeks to our members in the Steinbach area with more details.

October 23 – Speaker Series – more information is contained in the Activities and Events Report located toward the end of this newsletter

November 20 – General Meeting at the ANAVets, 3584 Portage Avenue – doors open at 11:30; lunch served at 12:00; meeting 1:00 to 2:30. **Please register by November 13.**

You can register by phone (204) 989-2061 or by email [nafwpg@mymts.net](mailto:nafwpg@mymts.net). Please remember to specify which event date you will be attending.

In keeping with a commitment made to the members, we have looked into getting meeting space in different areas of the city but at this time have been unsuccessful in finding a suitable location with adequate parking and reasonable pricing. We will continue to research and look at different venues.

### Awards

This year our Branch was recognized at the Annual Members Meeting with three awards for the work done by our volunteers in recent years. The awards were for Advocacy, Volunteer Support and

Development and co-winner of the Branch Excellence Award. A huge thank you to the Board of Directors and all our Volunteers who helped support our Branch initiatives.

## **National Board of Directors**

At the Annual Members Meeting (AMM) in June 2018, there was an election for the position of Director, Prairie Region. The candidates who put their names forward were both very well qualified and would have been an excellent representative. Rick Brick from the Edmonton Branch was elected. Thank you Lionel Guerard, Winnipeg and District Branch for putting your name forward and representing our Branch well.

## **Minister for Seniors**

On July 18, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that his new cabinet would include a Minister for Seniors. Ms. Filomena Tassi, Member of Parliament for Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas has been appointed to the role. Federal Retirees have led the way advocating over several years for a dedicated voice for seniors at the cabinet table and are looking forward to working with Ms Tassi to ensure public policy decisions are viewed through a seniors' lens. Seniors are the largest growing demographic in the country. Our President, Jean-Guy Souliere will be advocating with Minister Tassi for the development of a National Seniors Strategy which includes areas related to income support, housing, home care, caregiving and age-friendly communities.

## **Branch Updates**

### **Membership Recruitment – FREE GIFT CARDS**

In order to help with our recruitment efforts, we continue to offer a \$25.00 gift card to any member who recruits an eligible member (single or double membership) to join our Branch. Here's how it works.

1. You must be a current (paid) member of the Winnipeg and District Branch;
2. You recruit a new member who joins (single or double membership) and pays a National Association of Federal Retirees membership;
3. New member must email Branch [nafrwpg@mymts.net](mailto:nafrwpg@mymts.net) and provide your name as recruiter;
4. At the end of each month we will send out gift cards – 1 gift card for **each** new membership (double membership counts as 1 recruitment)

## **Membership Report**

As of August 22, 2018, we have a total of 6192 memberships compared to 6149 total in the previous newsletter. Since December 31, 2017, we have the 193 new memberships.

## **Caring**

There was 1 bereavement card sent out.

## **Advocacy**

As you know, Advocacy is the primary focus for our Association. Gerry Jennings, Advocacy Programs Officer (Manitoba) has been busy over the past 6 months working with all Branches in Manitoba. In consultation with the Advocacy Representatives in the Branches, he has met with Constituency Office representatives for the majority of the Members of Parliament in Manitoba. His primary focus at these meetings is to raise awareness of our Association and to advocate with the local Members of Parliament on issues related to our members.

## **Annual General Meeting (AGM) – April 2018**

At our AGM in April we held a forum for members to meet with our National and Local preferred partners. We were very happy to see so many of our Preferred Partners represented and got lots of great feedback from our members.

Following the AGM elections, here is a list of the Board of Directors for the Winnipeg and District Branch.

President	Ceci O'Flaherty
Vice- President	Barb Higham
Treasurer	Pam Proctor
Secretary	Donna Dobson
Director at Large - Website	Louise Jutras
Director at Large – Membership	Dorothy Watermulder
Director at Large – Membership	Lucy Cummings
Director at Large – Equipment	Tom Higham
Director at Large – Activities	Nicky Compton
Director at Large – Recruitment	Lionel Guerard
Director at Large – Advocacy	Paula Nygaard
Director at Large – Advocacy	Gerry Jennings

## **Local Federal Retirees Partners**

Important reminder to all our members, we have arranged advantageous partnerships locally for your benefit. Our partners consist of True North Sports and Entertainment, All Seniors Care and Murray Chevrolet and Hyundai.

Each of these partners offer significant savings to any of our members who wish to do business at their facilities. Please be sure to check out the offerings on our web site to find some of the following:

- Discounts on hockey games and almost all concerts held at the MTS Bell centre in downtown Winnipeg. All the instructions to receive discounts on tickets are on our web site.

- All Seniors Care facilities offer free tours on request to all our members and family. Our discount includes one month free rent each year for any member or family of a member. Call any of the All Seniors locations and arrange a personal tour on your schedule.
- Murray Chevrolet and Hyundai offer a total of \$1000 in discounts after you have negotiated your best deal on any vehicle on their lot. Visit our web site, print off the coupon and when you have the best price, show them the coupon and get \$500 off the price and \$500 towards extras (scotch guarding, undercoating etc.). Full details are on our web site.

## **2018 Golf Tournament Report**

The Winnipeg & District Branch held its annual Golf Tournament on August 14th at the Scotswood Links Golf Course in Elm Creek. This year we had an amazing turnout of 102 golfers! The entry fee was \$68.00 which included golf, shared cart and a delicious Prime Rib Buffet dinner, and for those who just came for the dinner, it was \$30.00.

As in previous years, the format was “best ball” with a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. sharp! Based on what we have learned over the years, we have streamlined the registration process and will continue to improve various aspects of the tournament for next year. Look for some exciting changes!

The golf tournament would not be a success without the support of our fabulous volunteers.... Thank you to Gerrit Westerhof and Dave Winmill for devoting their summer to collecting fees and putting together foursomes; to Dorothy Watermulder for always being available year round to provide assistance on the phone; and to our onsite volunteers for the day Lionel and Dorian Guérard . All of our volunteers are instrumental in helping to make this a fun day at the links. THANK YOU!

A special thank you to everyone that donated prizes! Johnson Insurance (emergency kit, bar kit and golf tees for everyone), the Winnipeg & District Branch (water bottles & golf shirts), Scotswood Golf Course, Golf Town, Nancy Bahrychuk and Ian Hamelin.

The tournament has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday August 15, 2019.

## **Website**

We are in need of a Volunteer to take over the role of Website for the Branch. Our person currently in this role will be stepping down and we need someone to step forward to take this over. If you have a talent with computers, please consider joining the Board of Directors to help us out with this activity.

## **Activities and Events Report**

The Fall looks to be a very busy time for our Committee. We are currently putting the final touches on our Outreach meeting which will be held in Steinbach on October 11, 2018. The invitation will be signed and sent out to those in selected postal codes in early September.

Our Fall Speakers Session is scheduled for October 23, 2018 at Eastern Star Chalet. We have an interesting day planned and includes a podiatrist who will speak on seniors foot concerns, followed by a

presenter from the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety and our afternoon will be one of the Association's Preferred Partners, Hearing Life Canada.

During our Spring Speakers event we offered participants an opportunity to complete suggestion requests for future events and we will repeat this opportunity at our General Meeting in September. We have often received positive feedback on our choices in Speakers and hope to continue this as we receive more and more suggestion ideas.

Our Spring 2019 event is in the early planning stages and we are excited to finally honour a long standing request for medical assistance in dying. Dr. Kim will be our presenter and includes legislation, law and process. I am currently working with a presenter on a session of interest to many of our members on downsizing your house and upsizing your life.

We are committed to providing our members with interesting, fun and informative opportunities. Our Branch is always looking for volunteers so if you find you have time to spare and enjoy volunteering, give us a call.

## **Closing Comments**

If you have any questions or comments on this newsletter, please send them to [nafrwpg@mymts.net](mailto:nafrwpg@mymts.net) or call our Branch phone line at (204) 989-2061. If you wish to volunteer as a member of the Board or for any specific roles, please let us know.