



National Association  
of Federal Retirees      Association nationale  
des retraités fédéraux  
**WINNIPEG & DISTRICT**

**National Association of Federal Retirees  
Winnipeg & District Branch**  
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**Annual General Meeting: Thursday, April 23, 2015**

**Lunch: Noon**

**Speaker 12:30**

**Lorraine Mitchell, Clutter Denied**

**Business Meeting 1:00 p.m.**

**St. James Legion, 1755 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba**

### MINUTES

**Present:** Pat Jarrett (President), Nicky Compton, Penny Wright, Gordon Criggar, Lucille Mahon, Lynne Belding, Jim MacGill, Dorothy Watermulder, Pam Proctor, Cynthia Foreman, Val Gottfried, Gerrit Westerhof,

**Absent:** Vivian Stunden, George Dobson, Jim Jarrett, Wilfred Somers, Lil Atamanchuk

**Guest:** Joe Sanderson, Prairie District Director

**Attendees:180**

Opening Grace was led by Lynne Belding. Meeting was called to order at 1:10

**1. Approval of Agenda** – Agenda was approved

**2. Introduction of “first-time attendees”**

- Since the agenda is was so full we did not have time to introduce each individual member but they did stand up and were welcomed. There were several new attendees.

**3. Review of Minutes from the November 20, 2014 General meeting** – no changes, Minutes approved as written

**4. New Business:**

**President’s Report (Pat Jarrett)** – Pat’s report included:

- Update on spring newsletter. It has been sent to all members with an e-mail address. Those without e-mail received it through regular mail. In order to do this some board members and volunteers got together and stuffed over 1300 envelopes so that all members would receive the newsletter. Copies of the newsletter have been placed on the tables.
- Pat confirmed that the information from the Winnipeg Branch was sent to SAGE in a timely manner. However it did not appear in the magazine. They were very apologetic. The national office arranged to send it out to all of our members via e-mail or Canada Post to those members without e-mail. Unfortunately, our members did not receive this information until one to two days before our meeting and by that time we had reached capacity for members to sign up for the luncheon meeting. 31 members were not able to attend.

- Pat provided an update on two webinars where she and board members attended during the last 6 months, one on the Branch by-law template and the other on the new management system. A third webinar was attended by Pat most recently which focused on the "Costed" Strategic Plan for 2016-2018. Prior to the Webinar the Presidents were provided with information outlining the costs of carrying out These various priorities. They will be presented in June to the Presidents for approval or amendments.
- The annual Regional conference, sponsored by the Regional Services Officer, Stan Hrabarchuk, will be held in Thunder Bay in May. Many of the board members will be attending. The main objective of this meeting is to review the resolutions that will be presented at the National Meeting in June.
- Pat and Nicky Compton referred the membership to the green coloured paper survey on the tables. They urged everyone to think of ways the board could use their membership dues for the benefit of the membership. Some suggestions already provided are guest speakers, training session, workshops etc. We would greatly appreciate if they could take the time to provide their input by completing the form.
- Pat recognized the volunteers for their hard work especially Carol Downie who has served in the background on the Telephone committee for a number of years, Vivian Stunden (who is leaving the board), Penny Wright (also leaving the board), Val Gottfried (leaving the board) and Gordon Crigger who was membership Chair for a number of years and helped other branches. He and Pat teamed up on many pre-retirement seminars. ( leaving the board).
- Pat confirmed that there will be a golf tournament this year again. She referred the membership to the handout which provides information. She encouraged them to participate as it is a good time. Look on the website for updates.
- Pat referred the members to the handouts on the tables which the members need to read as they will be voting on motions concerning this information. They included the 2014 Financial Audit, the 2015 budget forecast, and the district branch by-laws.
- As part of board member development, a teambuilding session will be conducted May 21st. In addition, two members of the board, namely Cynthia Foreman and Dorothy Watermulder will be accompanying Pat to the Annual Members Meeting in Ottawa in June as Observers and several board members will be attending the regional conference in Thunder Bay in early May.

#### **Committee Reports and Financial Report (Year End Balance Sheet)**

- **Membership report** provided by Dorothy Watermulder and Gerrit Westerhof. In our Branch we have 1929 double memberships plus 2235 singles for a total of 4,176 memberships representing 6093 active members. Reminders were sent out in October 2014 advising members that dues for 2015 had to be in by April 30, 2015 based on the grace period of 120 days from January 1, 2015. However the grace period was subsequently changed to 90 days making the new deadline March 31, 2015. Due to the long delay in the production of new membership cards, follow-up reminders were not sent out. We will address this issue when the new membership cards arrive.
- **Caring Committee report** provided by Lucille Mahon. Condolences offered to all members and families who have recently lost loved ones. There was a long list of members who have passed away. However if a significant period of time had passed before Lucille was made aware of the passing condolences were not sent. Condolences are sent out electronically as well as in card form.
- **Telephone Committee report** provided by Val Gottfried. The committee has been busy calling and welcoming new members. They have been asking the new members how they have heard about the organisation. The results are as follows; 33% at pre-retirement seminar, 26% from a co-worker, 19% through our telephone committee, 18% other such as MEDOC and 8% at 55 Plus Living show. We now have a new volunteer who has agreed to help on the telephone committee. We appreciate that. Val's time on the board

has come to an end. She thanked the board members for all their help. It has been an interesting 2 years for her.

- **Luncheon Report** provided by Lucille Mahon on behalf of Lil Atamanchuk who will be absent for the AGM. There were over 100 confirmed attendees. There will be a printout of all the registered members at the front door so that the members can check off their names.
- **Health Benefits Officer Report (Penny Wright and Barb Smith-Molloy)**  
These past few months have been very quiet with few phone calls or emails.

Here are a few highlights from the Public Service Health Care Plan Bulletin in March/15:

### **CONTRIBUTION RATE CHANGES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2015 FOR RETIRED MEMBERS**

The monthly contributions:

April 1/15 - 31.25% - pensioner – 68.75% - employer

April 1/16 - 37.5% - pensioner – 62.5% - employer

April 1/17 - 43.75% - pensioner – 56.25% - employer

April 1/18 - 50% - pensioner – 50% - employer

### **NEW SIX-YEAR ELIGIBILITY RULE**

If you retire on or after April 1, 2015, you will require a minimum of six years of cumulative pensionable service in order to qualify for coverage under the Plan.

This new eligibility rule will also apply to you if you become re-employed in the public service and retire again.

There are certain exceptions to the new rule. They are listed in the October 2014 PSHCP Special Bulletin available online at [www.pshcp.ca/news-and-bulletins](http://www.pshcp.ca/news-and-bulletins).

### **ANNUAL DEDUCTIBLE**

Effective January 1, 2015 the annual deductible was eliminated. If you are submitting a claim for expenses incurred prior to January 1/15, the deductible will be applied if it has not already been satisfied from claims previously submitted.

### **REMICADE**

Sun Life has come to an agreement with the manufacturer which will result in a reduced claim costs for you as well as the Plan. This drug is taken for the some treatments such as Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis, and Cohn's Disease. Under the terms of the new arrangement, PSHCP members will pay less, provided they use the PSHCP benefit card, that the Plan is the first payer, and that they are registered with BioAdvance(a patient assistance program for Remicade users).

Sun Life will contact members who are not enrolled in the BioAdvance program to provide them with information on how to participate.

This will be my last report as Health Benefits Officer. I have enjoyed working for you the past 11 years. I hope you give Barb the same support that you have given me

### **Finance Committee**

Jim MacGill presented the financial statement and balance report. He also provided the membership with a copy of the audit report for 2014.

**Motions:**

**Jim MacGill introduced a motion that the 2014 Financial audit Report as prepared by Eric Robert C.G.A. of the Osborne Accounting Group LLP be accepted as presented. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**Jim MacGill moved that the 2015 budget forecast be approved. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.**

**Jim MacGill moved to appoint Osborne Accounting Group LLP as the 2015 Financial Auditors of the “Association” Winnipeg and District Branch. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.**

**Pam Proctor moved that National Association of Federal Retirees Winnipeg and District Branch by –laws be approved as written. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**Pam Proctor moved that the amendment of Winnipeg and District Branch by-law 8.1.2D) and F) and 8.1.3 be accepted. Motion seconded and accepted unanimously.**

- Section 8.1.2D) now states: **Receive the reviewed financial statements for the previous financial year.**
- *8.1.2. F) now states:* **Approve an external reviewer for the current financial (calendar) year. The reviewer shall not be a member of the Branch Board.**
- 8.1.3 now states: **Copies of the record of proceedings for Branch AGMs or Special Meetings and a copy of the reviewed financial statements shall be forwarded to the National office by no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Before presenting these motions background information was provided by Pat to the membership regarding the Branch by-laws. Under the new Not For Profit Act, national by-laws were developed and approved. This meant that Branch by-laws had to be developed. Pat, together with Pam Proctor worked on developing these by-laws and these were reviewed by the Governance Manager in national office. It was their recommendation is to change the wording from “auditor” to “reviewer”. . Branches are not required to have a full audit performed, but rather a review by an external source. At our meeting with our auditor (Osborne Accounting Group) on April 9, his recommendation was that we consider “audit review” rather than “audit engagement” in future years.

**5. Provincial Advocacy Officer John Bjore was in attendance. - no report was presented at this time**

**6. District Director: Joe Sanderson** was pleased to see such a large group attending the meeting. He covered topics such as the Health Care Plan increases, the court case and the Federal budget. He confirmed that the law suit was launched this week against the government for not acting in good faith. It should not last for several years like our previous lawsuit. There was a lively discussion regarding the proposed changes to Pension plans referred to in the federal budget and the possible impact it may have on our pensions. There have been assurances that no major changes would take place without further consultations. Also there is no indication at this time that current federal pensions are in jeopardy. However we don't want the government to set a precedent which may affect our pensions in the future. Members were urged to contact their MPs to find out what their stance is on pension reform.

**7. Elections: Joe Sanderson**

George Dobson, Past President and Chair of the Nomination Committee was absent from the meeting but provided Joe with a list of candidates. Joe conducted the election on behalf of George for the 2015-16 term. The following members were elected by acclamation.

President - Pat Jarrett, 1st Vice President, Cynthia Foreman, Treasurer, Pam Proctor, Secretary, Lynne Belding, Health Benefits Officer, Barb Smith-Molloy, Director at Large, Nicky Compton, Lil Atamanchuk.

**8. Swearing in - New Board of Directors (Joe Sanderson)** Joe Sanderson conducted the swearing in ceremony for the newly elected members.

**Adjournment 3:00 p.m.**

SIGNATURES:

*Original Signed by Lynne Belding*

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Lynne Belding, Secretary

Date

*Original Signed by Pat Jarrett*

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Pat Jarrett, President

Date

2015-16 Schedule of Meetings:

May 11-13, 2015 Regional Conference in Thunder Bay

June 23-26, 2015 AMM in Ottawa

September 10, 2015 BOD - September 17, 2015 General Meeting

October 7, 2015 Outreach meeting in Gimli

November 5, 2015 BOD - November 19, 2015 - General Meeting

January 14, 2016 BOD

March 31, 2016 BOD