



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

National Association of Federal Retirees  
Winnipeg & District Branch  
National Website: [www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca)  
Branch Website:  
[www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Manitoba/Winnipeg-and-District](http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Manitoba/Winnipeg-and-District)  
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**Annual GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, September 19, 2017**  
**Lunch: Noon - Business Meeting 1:00 p.m.**  
**Army, Navy, & Air Force Veterans Branch 283, 3584 Portage Ave, Winnipeg, Manitoba**

## MINUTES

**Present:** Ceci O'Flaherty, President; Patricia Jarrett, Past President; Barb Higham, Acting 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Paula Nygaard, Secretary; Pam Proctor, Treasurer; Lucy Cummings, Nicky Compton, Gerry Jennings, Louise Jutras, Lucille Mahon, Jim Jarrett, Dorothy Watermulder, Directors.

**Guests:** Cynthia Foreman, Prairie District Director, Bill Merchel, Branch Services Coordinator

**Attendees: 185**

Meeting was called to order at 12:53

### **1. Approval of Agenda:**

- *Motion to approve agenda by Linda Laz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pam Proctor, Carried*

### **2. Introduction of "first-time attendees":**

- At least 10 first time attendees were identified from the floor.
- A moment of silence was held for those no longer with us.

### **3. Review of Minutes from the April 4, 2017 Annual General Meeting:**

- *Motion to approve minutes as presented by Dave Barham, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lucy Cummings, Carried*
- **Business Arising from Minutes:**
  - a) **Elections:** There were many changes over the summer. Northwest Ontario and Manitoba wanted a representative on the Board of Directors so Cynthia Foreman was requested to put her name forward. This was a difficult decision for her to make as she had just been elected as our Branch President in the spring. There is a very good team of Directors working in this Branch so she decided to put her name forward for the election. Cynthia was successfully elected at the AMM as the Prairie District Director. As Ceci O'Flaherty was the current 1<sup>st</sup> VP she became our

President. Currently we have openings for the 1<sup>st</sup> VP and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. There will be elections for several Director vacancies at the Annual General Meeting in April 2018. Winnipeg & District is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the country. We want to maintain a strong branch so if you are interested in a position on the Board, we encourage you to contact any of the board members for information on the upcoming Director vacancies.

- b) **Defence of Benefits Fund:** update on motion to send 20K to National. Members wanted clarification on how many other Branches contributed to the Defense of Benefit Fund and what the total contribution was. There were 34 Branches that contributed a total of \$237,173.90. Ceci advised she has a list that can be reviewed if anyone would like to review it. Most of the contribution went towards legal costs.

#### 4. Presidents Report

- I would like to start by saying I am happy to be the President of the Winnipeg and District Branch. A lot has happened since our Annual General Meeting in April. I wanted to share a few highlights with you.
- Preferred Partners - We have 2 new preferred partners with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and Murray Automotive group which Gerry Jennings will describe later on in the meeting. It is very important to check our website regularly as some of these discounted offers are for a limited time such as Bomber games and events at the MTS centre and you don't want to miss out.
- AMM - I am very proud to say that our Branch was recognized by several awards at this year's Claude Edwards Leadership Award – Pat Jarrett,  
Honourable mention – recruitment and engagement  
  
Volunteer support and Development
- From a business perspective there were several very good speakers and panel discussions this year at the AMM.
- The President's forum discussed 5 key areas:

Branch Role in Advocacy

Member Recruitment

Volunteer Recruitment

Branch to Branch support and

Service to Members

- Many suggestions were made and a report with recommendations was prepared and shared with the National Board of Directors and with all Branch Presidents. This will ensure that all ranches are working toward a common goal.
- Advocacy - The main reason for our organization is to advocate for the rights of superannuants including those who retired from the RCMP, military and the public service. This ensures that the benefits that we currently have such as our pensions, medical, dental (offered because of the national association of federal retirees). Not sure if John Bjore will speak about this later –

don't want to steal his thunder. Advocacy Programs Officers are establishing regional teams to focus on Advocacy. The board of directors has asked Gerry Jennings (Director at large Partnerships)

- Recruitment - We have continued to focus on increasing our membership. Pat and Jim Jarrett have been very busy attending several forums to raise awareness of our organization including SCAN (Second Career Network) and 17 wing fall fair as well as other initiatives.
- Golf tournament - We had a wonderful day for golf on August 15. Started a little cloudy but cleared up nicely without getting too hot. We had a total of 92 golfers sign up. Thank you very much to Jim and his team for organizing such a great event. Course has been booked tentatively for August 14, 2018 – mark your calendars.
- Prairie Dog Central - Canada 150 and Branch 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary - Fantastic Day. Had approximately 260 people join us on the train and dinner. Unfortunately, 5 members of your board of directors were arrested as “Desperado’s”. Thankfully we were able to get released from jail by leading the singing of O Canada before dinner so we were able to partake in all the fun activities. Thank you to Pat Jarrett and her team for spending countless hours over the summer to organize such a successful event.
- **Upcoming Events**
- Regional Learning Conference – September 20 to 22. The theme of this year’s conference is Stronger Together – Branches supporting Branches. Representatives from Thunder Bay, Pinawa, Portage, Brandon and of course our Branch will be attending. Included in this Conference will be a training session on Volunteer Management presented by representatives from the National Office. There will be an update on this at the next General Meeting in November.
- Lunch and Learn – email sent out September 11. 3 speakers  
**Wednesday, October 18, 2017**  
**at the Manitoba Eastern Star Chalet,**  
**525 Cathcart Street, Winnipeg**
- Outreach – Selkirk MB. October 2017 - Because our Branch is Winnipeg and District and covers a broad area, we do an annual outreach for members residing outside Winnipeg. This year we will be hosting a meeting in Selkirk. An invitation has gone out by mail to all members residing close to Selkirk. If you are interested in attending please register by phone or email.

As I said when I started this Report – we have been very busy since the last meeting. Thank you and again – if you are interested in volunteering for the board, please come forward and talk to anyone on the board. Thanks.

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## **5. New Business**

### **a) Finance Report – Pam Proctor, Treasurer**

- There are a couple of minor changes in where items are reported. The most noticeable would be the costs for the General Meetings and AGM’s are now listed under branch meetings.
- Questions and comments from the floor

There is an expense item for 20K monies to be taken from reserves and sent to national office. We have already paid lots of funds towards defending benefits – what did we win? Response from Pam and Nicky - The funds go to various campaigns not to just to cover lawsuits. Monies go to protecting our benefits, no matter if we win or lose this is important because if we don't fight then the government will just do things and we will lose.

*Motion to accept the Financial Report – Nicky Compton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Suzanne Grenaire. Carried*

**b) Local Preferred Partners – Gerry Jennings**

- Volunteer Board of Directors decided to expand on the idea of Preferred Partners - identify potential local business that might offer significant benefits to our members
  
- Four local businesses have been engaged over the last sixteen (16) months
  - All Seniors Care Living Centres
    - Six locations in Winnipeg and one in Brandon
      - Highlight: Includes the twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) month rent free every year
      - We can sponsor family members
      - Contact any All Seniors location to schedule a tour
  - True North Sports and Entertainment
    - Varying discounts for attractions
      - Highlight: includes many events at the Bell MTS centre (not hockey)
      - Full instructions to obtain discount on tickets on our Web site
  - Winnipeg Blue Bombers
    - September 22 special group discount
      - Highlight: Maybe expanded to include additional games
      - Full instructions to obtain your tickets on our Web Site
  - Murray Automotive Group (Chevrolet and Hyundai of Winnipeg)
    - Negotiate your best deal and then claim up to \$1000 in discounts
      - Highlight: Can be used for any family member living at your address
      - Coupon required: Print the coupon off from our Web Site
- **Check our Web Site frequently for savings and to grow our relationship with Local Preferred Partners**

**c) Committee Reports – distributed at tables for reading**

*Motion to accept all Committee Reports by Ron Stewart, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dorothy Watermulder, carried...*

6. Fun event featuring quizzes relating to Canadian history for the celebration of Canada 150 – many books, T-shirts and other prizes... lots of fun for everyone.

7. Updates by guests:

• **Prairie District Director – Cynthia Foreman**

○ Honoured to be elected as President but now also honoured to be the new Direct Director. Quite the process. Had to do a video, lots of fun. Anne Ashcroft is the DD in Saskatoon so we have a great team. At the AMM I was selected to be on 3 committees. Advocacy, Nominations, and SAGE editorial Board. The Public Service Health Care legal case was lost but there will be more discussion next week at the board meeting. 2017 financial goals are 3-fold, balanced budget, replenish defense of benefit fund and then 3-year financial plans, Unfortunately the Provincial Advocacy Programs Officer has resigned for personal reasons. There will be process soon looking for a replacement so please watch out for a notice! This is a hugely important role. Membership as a whole is down by 2% since 2015. Please talk to your friends to try to get them to join as there are so many benefits. Please promote the importance of joining this organization.

▪ **Branch Services Coordinator - Bill Merchel**

○ Bill is responsible for all of the branch training within our region. The Regional Learning Conference starts tomorrow for 2½ days. Any branches that need training please let Bill know. Thanks

*Motion to adjourn by*

***Motion to Adjourn the Meeting by Jim Jarrett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Higham carried.***

Adjournment 2:25 p.m.

SIGNATURES:

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Paula Nygaard, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ceci O’Flaherty, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**2017 Schedule of Meetings**

**\* BOD - Team Retreat April 26-27, 2017**

**\* District Directors' meeting - May 10-11, 2017**

**\* AMM - June 14-16, 2017 Ottawa**

**\* BOD - September 7, 2017**

**\* GM - September 19, 2017**

**\* BOD - October 26, 2017**

**\* GM - November 7, 2017**

**\* Outreach -**

The following attachments were provided to the membership:

Agenda

Minutes from Nov 15, 2016 General Meeting

Presidents Report

Committee Reports

Financial Statements