

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 & 10th. 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. 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 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.

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.

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. You can even send an email to the branch (edmonton@federalretirees.ca) or call our Branch Service Phone: 780-413-4687 (from outside Edmonton call toll free 1-855-376-2336).

Ross Gillespie