

Annual General Meeting Minutes
The Clubhouse at Baldoon, Wallaceburg
April 12, 2017

Branch web site <http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater>

Present -

President - Gloria Cayea
Treasurer - Diane Kerr
Director of Membership - Bill Mason
Outreach Coordinator - Pat Mason
Program Coordinator - Mary Ann Burgess
Health Benefits Officer - Earnie MacDougall
IT and Web Site Coordinator - Doug Kerr
Secretary - VP - Robert Jackson
Member at Large - Diana Wright
Member at Large - Georgina MacIssac
Member at Large - Murray Lester

Special Guest - Simon Coakeley. CEO NAFR

President Gloria Cayea opened the meeting at 12:05 pm

Mary Ann Burgess led a moment of silence followed by grace. Members then enjoyed the buffet lunch provided by The Clubhouse at Baldoon.

Following lunch Gloria introduced our guest speaker, Simon Coakeley, Chief Executive Officer National Association of Federal Retirees. Simon summarized his extensive and impressive career with the federal Public Service prior to joining NAFR on May 16, 2016, as our CEO. Simon shared hi-lites from his first year in office, namely:

- Approval of the Strategic Plan by representatives acting on behalf of over 90% of the membership
- Returning the organization to financial black, achieved in part through membership fee increases; sale of the organization's former building; and efficiencies such as dropping the 2017 membership stickers.
- Advocacy including a recent court hearing concerning the increase imposed by the government on our health insurance premiums, and continuing work on Bill

C-27, An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985. The court hearing took place in federal court earlier this week and involved presenting five distinct arguments before the judge. There was no indication given by the judge as to when a decision may be rendered. Advocacy with respect to Bill C-27 continues. Simon pointed out that while Bill C-27 doesn't directly affect existing pensioners, the issue of defined benefits versus targeted benefits is complex and Bill C-27 could ultimately serve as an opening for future pension changes adversely affecting current pensioners.

- NAFR is forecasted to continue operating "in the black" for 2017.
- Simon also referenced his most recent Board of Directors meeting which coincided with the dedication of NAFR's new office building. Photos of the dedication ceremony are available on the national website.
- In response to questions Simon indicated NAFR is seeking an effective way to counter adverse press concerning the government's obligation and its ability to sustain public service pension payments. Simon noted that since the Public Sector Pension Investment Board was established there is now an actual pension fund in existence (as opposed to the pre-year 2000 practice of including pensions in the government's general revenues/expenditures). Currently the Investment Board reports government pensions are fully funded to the year 2075. As always, because this is based on investment performance, market forces (good or bad) will apply and may affect this projection over time.

Following a brief break the meeting resumed with its Annual General Meeting portion.

Gloria Cayea presented the President's Report. The elected Branch Executive are entering their second year of office, meaning that while no elections are required this year, there will be elections at next year's AGM. As always, the Branch is hopeful that volunteers will step forward to offer their services including but not limited to filling future vacancies. Gloria

represented the Branch at the 2016 AMM in Ottawa and was involved in Bill C-27 advocacy at the local level. Letters were written to Sarnia area MP Marilyn Gladu and the Minister of Finance. As well, Branch representatives met with Goderich area MP Bob Lobb. The Branch continued its outreach to members, holding 4 general meetings in addition to the AGM. These meetings continue to be held a variety of venues within the Branch's boundaries, including Goderich, Grand Bend, Sarnia and Wallaceburg. Gloria noted this fall's meeting in Goderich will include both a new venue (Harbour Hill Retirement Community facilities) and a celebration of Canada 150.

Gloria referred to the success of the last year's Golf and Bowling tournaments and pointed out the Branch gained 4 new members as a direct result of the golf tournament.

Gloria gave a reminder of the risk of e-mail phishing citing a recent fraud attempt made against the Branch by someone using her name.

Gloria concluded with a reminder to members that the Branch depends on volunteers to function. Gloria again encouraged all members to consider volunteering, particularly in light of the need to elect an Executive Board at next year's AGM.

Diana Wright introduced a motion to approve the 2016 AGM minutes. Seconded by Earnie MacDougall and carried.

Diane Kerr, Treasurer, presented Reviewed Statements for the year 2016 showing an earning of \$2451.16. The Statements were approved by the membership on a motion by Dave Cayea seconded by Lynn Davie.

Diane then summarized the 2017 Budget and introduced a motion approving the 2017 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Diana Wright and carried.

Diane next presented a motion concerning the allocation of reserves, namely, "That we allocate \$2000, up from \$1500 in 2016, for the maintenance and eventual replacement of computer equipment (purchased in 2013) used for the business of the Branch. Further that the Branch Board be authorized to use

this designated fund as required without further member authorization." This motion was seconded by Diana Wright and carried.

Bill Mason, Director of Membership, gave an overview of the 2016 membership. Although we gained 22 members since the last AGM, we lost about the same number over the year so our total membership number remains around 600.

Bill reminded members of the 2017 Branch Golf Tournament being held on August 14, 2017 at Greystone Golf Course Sarnia (the same venue as last year's tournament).

In response to a question concerning the lack of 2017 membership stickers, Simon Coakeley reminded the meeting that NAFR saved about \$100k by cancelling this year's membership stickers. Partner organizations have been notified of the cancellation and members shouldn't have an issue using their cards with 2016 stickers. Anyone encountering problems is invited to contact NAFR's national office with the details.

Mary Ann Burgess, Program Director, asked members to consider the questionnaire placed on each table soliciting ideas to improve our meetings. All members are invited to share their thoughts and suggestions.

Mary Ann gave an update on the proposed "Rum Runners Tour" Branch event planned for June 14, 2017. The event needs 40 people to prepay before final booking can take place. Although over 30 members have expressed an interest in attending, so far only 13 have prepaid. Members were reminded that the Run Runners Tour comes highly recommended by members who previously took part. Interested members are encouraged to commit as soon as possible.

Mary Ann also gave an update on the new venue for September's Goderich meeting. The meeting will be held at Goderich's Harbour Hill Retirement Community facilities and will include entertainment and special Canada 150 recognition.

Pat Mason, Outreach Coordinator, thanked Branch callers for their work over the past year. Pat also referred to a recent member's loss where it was unclear whether a vehicle can retain its special

"veteran" license plate after the veteran passes away. The answer is "yes" even though local authorities don't seem to always know this.

Doug Kerr, IT and Web Site Coordinator, reminded members that the website is there for their use, and in combination with the national site provides a wide variety of useful information for members.

Earnie MacDougall and Georgina MacIssac, Volunteer Recognition Committee, called on Simon Coakeley to present this year's Bluewater Branch Volunteer of the Year Award. The Volunteer of the Year Award went to Mary Stevens in recognition of her significant and long standing contribution to the Branch.

Earnie noted that for the upcoming year he will be looking to the membership to help out, both for Volunteer of Year nomination and selection, and more generally to help keep the Branch functioning. He reminded members the Branch needs volunteers to make it work.

The meeting adjourned on a motion at 2:20 pm.

Prepared by

Secretary - Robert Jackson

Certified by

President - Gloria Cayea