

Branch Board Meeting Minutes
Nick's Restaurant, Sarnia
February 5, 2019

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

Note: decision and action items are *in bold italic*

Present -

President - Gloria Cayea
Vice President - Earnie MacDougall
Treasurer - Diane Kerr
Outreach Coordinator - Pat Mason
Program Coordinator - Mary Ann Burgess
Director of Membership - Bill Mason
Recruitment and Engagement Director - Chris
Hawksworth
IT and Web Site Coordinator - Doug Kerr
Secretary - Robert Jackson
Member at Large. - Georgina MacIssac
Member at Large - Murray Lester

Absent -

Member at Large - Diana Wright

Gloria opened the meeting at 12:00 pm, updating details of the February General Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Sarnia Legion on February 20. The speaker will be from the Canadian Mental Health Association, and the topic is senior citizen mental health issues. The Branch will cover the speaker's lunch. Lunch will consist of soup/sandwiches/dessert/tea/coffee and the cost to members is \$10. Gloria will provide 3 door prizes from items collected at the last National meeting. After discussion concerning scheduling conflicts some members have on Wednesdays, ***the Board decided members will be polled via e-mail and at the next General Meeting to see if there is a preference for***

Thursday meetings. In any event, the September and November 2019 meetings are now rescheduled to take place on Thursdays. The new meeting dates are September 19, 2019 (Goderich) and November 21, 2019 (Sarnia). However the September 19 date is subject to confirmation the venue can accommodate the revised date.

Diane distributed sheets containing the 2018 Budget, the Branch Financial Statement Balances and the Branch financial Statement Earnings/Loss. **Diane requested budget requests be submitted to her by e-mail no later than March 15, 2019.** This will permit preparing a draft 2019 Budget for consideration at the April 2, 2019 Board Meeting. **Diane will provide copies of the 2018 AGM minutes, and all financial statements, audits and motions necessary for the 2019 AGM.**

A discussion was held whether the budget should include a "miscellaneous" category / line item. **The consensus of the Board is there will not be a "miscellaneous" category.**

A discussion was held regarding travel expenses for Regional meetings. **The Board agreed that for meetings involving driving and multiple attending Board members, only one member can claim mileage/car rental.** In other words, car pooling is expected and members from the same or adjoining communities choosing not to car pool do so at their own expense.

Gloria stated a Volunteer of the Year has been identified for recognition at this year's Annual General Meeting. **The Board endorsed the choice and Chris will make the presentation.**

Gloria and Bob led a discussion on the amendment of the Branch By-Laws. Two amendments will be presented for approval at the Annual General Meeting. Paragraph 8.1.1., second sentence, will be changed from "The date shall be no later than April 15th" to read "The date shall be no later than the third Wednesday in April" in order to conform with Na-

tional standards. The second amendment is the deletion of the Health Officer position and duties from the Addendum. **Bob will lead the By-Law amendment process at the Annual General Meeting. Bill will print copies of the By-Laws for this meeting.**

Bob reviewed two action items from the November 2018 Branch Board Meeting. The first concerned the venue of the September 2019 Goderich meeting. It has now been changed to the Parkhouse and **Mary Ann will advise the Board of the menu details and costs when available.** The second concerned National assuming responsibility for membership renewals effective January 1, 2019. This has not gone according to plan and **Bill will continue working with National to effect the change while retaining responsibility for the applicable memberships in the interim.**

Gloria undertook booking the Baldoon facility for the Annual General Meeting.

Chris indicated he is unable to attend the April Branch Board meeting. However he will be attending the spring Toronto Regional Meeting with Bill and Diane.

Pat asked the Board whether the callers should continue calling members who are not on the membership list (i.e. members not in good standing). **The answer given was no.** Following discussion **it was agreed former members could be contacted directly or via e-mail to discuss the status of their membership,** although it was noted any e-mail contact with members or former members should include the option to opt out of future e-mail notifications/communications.

Doug asked that the Board let him know as soon as possible of meeting dates/venues/changes in order to keep the website up-to-date.

Mary Ann advised the Board she would not be standing for reap-

pointment to her position as Program Coordinator.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Chris Hawksworth at 1415 hours.