



**NAFR – Fredericton and District Branch (NB62)  
Spring Branch Annual Meeting - May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 5:00 pm  
St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Lincoln, NB**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Elliott Keizer; Cyril Theriault; Ron Brooks; Denise Blanchard, Norm Sheen; Rae Hopper, Jacques Piché, John Richards, Ian Culligan, Clayton Tupper, Linda MacDonald and Wayne Gunter.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Wilson King and Chris Goddard.

**1. WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Elliott Keizer welcomed all to the meeting.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

Elliott Keizer introduced the Board and Provincial level guests: Simon Coakeley, Chief Executive Officer, NAFR; Leonard Leblanc, National Director; Pat Goobie, Provincial Advocacy Officer; Claude Curwin, Branch Services Officer; Garth Brewer, President, Upper Valley Branch; Lorraine Scott, President, Saint John Branch and Karen MacGregor, President, South East Branch.

**3. O CANADA**

Jacques Piché led the singing of "O Canada".

**4. DEPARTED MEMBERS**

Norm led the moment of silence for our departed members. A special mention was made regarding the passing of Bruce Jack a former Director of our branch who passed away on April 25, 2017.

**5. GRACE**

Norm Sheen said Grace.

**6. DINNER**

**7. GUEST SPEAKER – Simon Coakeley, Chief Executive Officer, NAFR**

Léonard LeBlanc introduced the guest speaker, Simon Coakeley.

Mr. Coakeley thanked Elliott for the invitation. He briefly spoke about his past experience with several government organizations.

The following subjects were addressed:

- AMM: approval of the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan (proposed by then President Gary Oberg) with a 92% approval. Due to some business decisions that have been made and the new fee structure, the Association is projected that it will be in the black this year and projecting the same next year.
- Sale of the old building and purchase of the new building: Association made more money when they sold the old building than expected. The new building was not as expensive as it was projected to be. May 16 was the first day of occupation in the new building. The first thing that was done is to name the building "The Claude Edwards Building" and the dedication was held on March 29 of this year.
- Public Service Health Care Planned Court Challenge: it was expected that they would be in Court in November 2016 but due to unforeseen circumstances, it was re-scheduled April 10 and 11. Instead of incurring the cost in 2016, it was put into 2017. The Association's lawyers argued the case on Monday: (1) Contractual rights existed; (2) Agreement not to change the 25-75 contribution rates until we agree to changes through a negotiating process. The government did not negotiate the change; they imposed it. The government's action constituted discrimination on the basis of age/or retirement status. Decision not anticipated before end of summer/beginning of Fall. A special message will be sent to the members when a decision is made.
- Advocacy Activities/Town Hall meetings: Association did a series of town hall meeting with the Canadian Medical Association to keep the pressure on the federal and provincial government regarding health care funding and not to forget the seniors. Pleased with the results and turn-out.
- Bill C-27: At one level, the Association did not need to react to it because it does not affect the Public Service Superannuation Act, the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act and the RCMP Superannuation Act. On another level, if the federal government is able to get C-27 passed and change the rules for the federally regulated industry, like banks, airlines, communication industries, etc... we might be next on the list. Our strategy is to start a ground campaign to get known across the country before 2019.

#### **8. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Elliott Keizer**

The President called the Spring Branch Annual Meeting to order.

#### **9. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**Moved by Ray Hopper; Seconded by Clayton**

**Tupper**

**CARRIED**

#### **10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 Annual General Meeting/Spring Dinner as circulated.

**Moved by Cyril Theriault; Seconded by Andrew**

**Gunter**

**CARRIED**

#### **11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ELLIOTT KEIZER:**

Elliott presented his report.

- Active Board of 14 members and Executive of 5. Meetings were well attended over the past year.
- Last fall we had a planning session and set five priorities:
  - Recruitment

- Improved (effective) working relationship with National
- Communications
- Services to members, and
- Be a well-managed branch
- Recruitment: this is our biggest challenge; our target is 2,500. Wayne will be working with our National Office on a Pilot Project. He is also targeting Base Gagetown and UNDE.
- Improved relationship with National – Executive met Simon this afternoon and we had Jean-Guy Soulière as our feature speaker last fall. All in all trust and relations with National Office have improved greatly in the last year. Disappointed with how South West transfer of members was handled. As far as the National Board of Directors is concerned, we have an excellent relationship with our National Director, Leonard Leblanc.
- Communications/Phonevite: 680 calls x2 in April. About 10% are opting for the “Do-Not-Call” list.
- Services to Members - Website: Chris Goddard has done a great job for us. I use it for minutes, event details and a new contest is in place on our website to encourage members to surf it. We had a website presentation at the Regional Meeting in Moncton two weeks ago and the presenter simply said “The Fredericton people can take a break-You don’t need this.”
- Electronic payments: John has processed a few and we will be adding it as an option in future notices.
- Bill C-27: Cyril and I are planning to meet Matt DeCoursey.
- Be a Well Managed Branch: Hard to know how we are doing. We had two attempted phishing and John caught them immediately. We are using National Office staff more and more to carry out administrative functions in Membership and Finance which should free up some of our volunteers time and also provide a consistent service to members.
- Reserve Funds: Set up two years ago and continuing to improve them as you will see with the Finance presentation later.

## 12. REPORTS

### a. Membership – Wayne Gunter

- 2016 was a change year to a new electronic national membership program that included a new national website [www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca). This new website is accessible to the general public with electronic access for information on our National Association as well as to apply for membership online. We encourage our electronically connected members to check the website at least monthly for new National and Branch information. The website supplements the quarterly free SAGE mailed to our members. These communication tools have enabled our National Association to keep our members up to date with the changes made to our dental, health care and pension benefits.
- In the Spring 2017 Sage issue, National Office requested us to send messages to our local MP and the appropriate federal minister to not support the Bill C-27 to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act. If enacted, the Bill will permit the federally-regulated employers to replace their defined benefit plans with target benefit plans. Your support is very important to increasing our success in fighting cutbacks or changes to our pension plan and benefits.

- To contain our Branch expenses, we are using the telephone to replace the branch mailing cost to members. This will increase the speed of informing branch members than using the slower and more expensive mail service. For members not wanting to receive phone messages, they can press 5 on their phone after they listen to the message and they will be automatically deleted from future calls. If they change their mind, they can request our branch to be added to the phone call list.
- In the last year, we have had problems with cheques having incorrect Branch name or amounts from those paying by cheques. Also, the entering of contact information into the computer membership database is sometimes incorrect. The National Office does this work for most branches now. Our Board of Directors has decided to follow the other branches by sending these cheques to National Office to handle.
- Branch 62 is increasing our focus on member recruitment. The knowledge of NAFR is sadly lacking by federal employees. We have met with the Union of National Defense Employees and we have agreed to set up a small committee to develop a work plan together to promote our services to their members. If the work plan increases our ability to make federal employees aware of our services, we will try it with other unions.

**Wayne moved that the Membership Report be accepted.**

**Seconded by Denise Blanchard.**

**CARRIED**

**b. Financial Statements – John Richards**

- i. Audited Financial Statements: for the year ended December 31, 2016, prepared by Walter Logue, Chartered Accountant and were presented by John and explained. Net Assets for December 31, 2015: \$27,950; for 2016: \$30,780  
Statement of Cash Position at End of Year for 2015: \$23,981; for 2016 \$27,741  
**Motion to accept the audited Financial Statements showing revenue over expenses of \$2830. Moved by Clayton Tupper: Seconded by Jacques Piche**  
**CARRIED**

ii. 2017 Budget Presentation:

The 2017 budget as approved by the Board was distributed to members present and explained by John. Revenue: \$15,043; Expenses: \$17,040. Income over Expenses (projected): -\$1,997.

iii. Creation of a new Allocated Reserve Fund: Defense of Benefits and Member Services

The National Association of Federal Retirees encourages individual Branches to establish 'allocated reserve' funds for specific, non-recurring events. The 'allocated reserve' funds are for specific uses such as Training, Equipment, etc.. Branch NB62 has created two 'allocated reserve' funds and these funds are currently at their maximum amount established at the 2014 annual meeting. The establishment of a third 'allocated reserve' fund for "Defense of Benefits and Member Services" will insure that unexpected major membership issues in this subject area have some allocated funding available. Funding the reserve will also reduce the branch surplus in years that this occurs thereby conserving the funds for local use.

**Motion: Be it resolved that the Fredericton and District Branch (NB62) of the National Association of Federal Retirees establish an Allocated Reserve fund for "Defense of Benefits and Member Services" and that its maximum balance to be set at \$5,000.**

**Moved by Ron Brooks; Seconded by Georgina**

**Jones**

**CARRIED**



iii. Financial Authorities: Motion to amend the by-laws by deleting clause 9.6.2 and clause 9.6.3

At the Fall General Meeting in October 2014, members approved via resolution, the establishment of two reserve funds, one for equipment purchase or replacement and the other for board training. These reserve funds are capped at \$5,000. Subsequently, another resolution was approved which reads:

*"The Fredericton & District Branch Board be authorized to spend a maximum of \$2,000 annually from each allocated reserve fund to support its defined function."*

Management of the reserves is governed by our by-laws (clauses 9.6.1 to 9.6.3). The clauses 9.6.2 and 9.6.3 in the present by-laws limit branch flexibility in the use of the reserves in a particular fiscal year. They also provide un-needed complications in their use, through their restriction in the amount that can be used in any fiscal year and through the philosophy that their balance must always be at the maximum amount established by the branch.

**Motion that these two clauses be deleted and the Fredericton and District Branch Board be authorized to spend, from the reserve funds, at their discretion, amounts annually to support the reserves' described purposes. Moved by John Richards; Seconded by Jacques Piché CARRIED**

### 13. NEW BUSINESS

#### a. National Director's Update – Léonard LeBlanc

Léonard talked about a presentation by the CEO of the Public Sector Investment Board (created in 1999). It was created so that the funding for pensions would be paid by this Board. In 2032, funds for the pensions will be paid through this Board. There was a good return by the investment managers so the fund currently has a net asset of 116.88 billion dollars. The annualized return on the 10 years was 8.9%. By 2032, the Public Sector Investment Board is projected to have 300 billion dollars (CA).

He added that the Association will continue to do advocacy work for pension and health benefits; challenge of the future.

#### b. Presentation of Long Service Pins – Elliott Keizer

- Pat Goobie presented the volunteer's pin to: Jacques Piché, 20 years and Cyril Thériault, 5 years.

- Elliott presented the following:

Volunteer pin to Linda MacDonald as she is retiring from the Board.

Branch President Commendation Award to Ron Brooks who is also leaving the Board. He spoke of Ron's numerous accomplishments.

#### c. Nominating Committee Report and Elections – Ron Brooks

Ron presented the report of the Nominating Committee which consisted of Gary Barfitt and himself. As set out in the By-Laws, the end of terms of the directors is staggered in an equitable manner.

- Two directors are retiring this year: Linda MacDonald and Ron Brooks
- Nominations – Standing for Re-election:
  - Elliott Keizer as President, Chris Goddard, John Richards, Ian Culligan and Norm Sheen.
  - New Board members: Marlene Pinette and Evans Estabrooks

After three calls for nominations there were no nominations from the floor. Ron declared the slate of candidates to be elected.

**14. DRAW FOR EARLY REGISTRANTS AND DOOR PRIZES – NORM SHEEN**

- a. Early Bird Draw: Elliott Keizer and Janet Culligan
- b. Door prizes - \$50 gift card: Mary Goodine, Muriel Sutherland, Pat Chamberlain
- c. Gift card from Coast Tire: Linda MacDonald
- d. Gift card from Schnitzel Parlour: Irene Murphy

**The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.**

Recorded by: Denise Blanchard 2017/05/09  
Denise Blanchard, Admin Director

Approved by: Elliott Keizer 2017/05/09  
Elliott Keizer, President

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