



## **BLUEWATER Branch Report**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dear Members:

As I write this, we are still in the throes of a very hot summer. As you read it, we are in the beginning stages of winter. Time has certainly passed.

At our Annual General Meeting in April, I was privileged to be elected as your President for the next 3 years. I am supported in this challenging role by a dynamic executive and board of directors. I would not be able to carry out my duties without their help.

In the past five years, six branches have folded. This is basically the result of a lack of volunteers. Thankfully, that is not the case for the Bluewater Branch, at least for the next two years. However, looking forward, I would encourage all members who are able to get involved.

The Annual Members' Meeting in June saw the passage of the Strategic Plan. 99% voted in favour of this plan which will carry us over the next three years. Protection of our pensions and benefits is the primary focus of our Association. National Office will now continue to lobby the federal government to maintain our rights.

General meetings for Bluewater Branch are held five times per year in different parts of our area. As well we plan to have two special events per year. Last year, we had a golf tournament which was well attended and which we hope to repeat in 2017. We are also looking at having a bowling tournament in the winter of 2017. This is a way of keeping our members engaged.

Again, stay safe this winter if you are travelling.

Gloria Cayea, President

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

I am writing this the first week of September for our winter Sage magazine. It has been quite a summer here in South Western Ontario. I can't remember such a long and hot summer since I was a kid on the farm. There was no air conditioning in those days, just what Mother Nature and a fan in the window provided. By the time you read this the weather will have cooled significantly and perhaps we may have seen a little snow. Speaking of snow, I hope all you Snow Birds have a safe and healthy trip and see you in the spring.

Members' renewal stickers will be sent out in the winter version of Sage magazine.

### **Where to find us**

#### **Federal Retirees, Bluewater Branch (ON36)**

PO Box 263, Sarnia, ON N7T 7H9

**Telephone:** 519-869-6326; **E-mail:** fsna.bluewater@gmail.com;

**Web:** [www.federalretirees.ca/en/branches/ontario/bluewater](http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/branches/ontario/bluewater)

Guess what, the 2017 dues rates have increased. They are now \$47.76 for Singles and \$62.04 for Doubles. For those who have their dues deducted at source (DDS) no action is required.

For those who pay directly there are many options available now. They include:

1. Make a cheque payable to FSNA Bluewater Branch and mail it to the branch's post office box.
2. Go to the Associations web site ([www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca)) click on "joining us" and select "renew your membership" and follow the instructions. Please note you will have to set up an account if you don't already have one to pay by credit card.
3. Call the National office at 1-855-304-4700 and tell them you wish to pay your 2016 dues. Have member number and credit card ready.
4. Make a cheque payable to "National Association of Federal Retirees" and mail it to the National Office. Be sure to include your membership branch and number.
5. Visit the National office and pay the member dues personally.

One other thing to mention is that these dues payments are not tax deductible.

Bill Mason, Membership Chairperson

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT**

Details and current information for all Branch Events can be found on our Branch web site at [www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater](http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater), and retrieved by clicking on "Branch Events" in the Bluewater Branch (ON36) box at the middle bottom of the page.

Upcoming meetings:

- February 15<sup>th</sup>, location Sarnia
- April 12th is our Annual General Meeting, location Wallaceburg.

Please check the web site for any last minute changes and more details.

### **OUTREACH COORDINATOR REPORT**

I am looking for callers all the time. The callers are responsible for calling each person on their list to inform the members of upcoming meetings, and any social functions the organization might have. We have a maximum of 5 meetings a year. No meetings during the month of May, June, July, and August. Call Pat Mason 519-869-8872 or email [willpat.mason@sympatico.ca](mailto:willpat.mason@sympatico.ca) for more information.

Pat Mason, Outreach Coordinator

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The end of September is almost here...where did our beautiful, hot, humid, dry summer go? By the time you get this it may be a beautiful cold, white December.

At our AGM in April 2016 I became the new treasurer. Diana Wright is still involved in our Branch but now has time for her favourite artistic interests.

I have entered all our financial information into our Federal Retirees National Office's very simple accounting program. Locally our income and expenses are in good shape and we are keeping within our budget.

Our Branch currently receives \$8.88 for every single membership and \$12.72 for every double membership. This amount will change in 2017 with the new membership fees.

Financial reports will be available at our meetings.

Have a great winter!

Diane Kerr, Treasurer

## **WEB SITE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

Our Branch's new Website is up and running. It can be accessed directly at [www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater](http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater), or through the National web site at [www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca) (click on <Branches> <Ontario> <Bluewater Branch>).

Our Branch site has information on: our **Branch Executive and Board**; upcoming **Branch Events**; copies of this and past **Sage Branch Inserts**; information and pictures from **Past Branch Activities**; etc.

Information for the next two Branch Events appears on the right side of our HOME page under **Events & Webcasts**. All of our planned Branch Events can be retrieved by clicking on "**Branch Events**" in the Bluewater Branch (ON36) box at the middle bottom of the page.

Our web site is a work-in-progress and I am always looking for content suggestions and pictures relevant to Branch activities and/or our members. Forward any suggestions/input to [nafr.bluewater.kerr@cogeco.ca](mailto:nafr.bluewater.kerr@cogeco.ca). Please confirm individuals in pictures are OK with having their pictures published, on our web site, in the public domain.

Doug Kerr, IT and Web Site Coordinator

## **Bluewater Branch Board**

### **Executive, (Elected)**

**President** - Gloria Cayea, 519-869-6326 | *dcayea@cogeco.ca*

**Vice-President** - Bob Jackson, | *bojack@sympatico.ca*

**Treasurer** - Diane Kerr, 519-869-8824 | *nafr.bluewater.kerr@cogeco.ca*

**Director of Membership** - Bill Mason, 519-869-8872 |  
*fsna.bluewater@gmail.com*

### **Board Members (Appointed)**

**Program Coordinator** - Mary Ann Burgess, 519-524-6981 |  
*enmacdougall@hurontel.on.ca*

**Outreach Coordinator** - Pat Mason, 519-869-8872 |  
*fsna.bluewater@gmail.com*

**IT and Web Site Coordinator** - Doug Kerr, 519-869-8824 |  
*nafr.bluewater.kerr@cogeco.ca*

**Health Benefits Officer** - Earnie MacDougall, 519-524-6981 |  
*enmacdougall@hurontel.on.ca*

**Secretary** – Looking for someone to fill this position

**Member at Large** - Murray Lester, 519-481-0385 |  
*mlesham@sympatico.ca*

**Member at Large** - Georgina MacIsaac

**Member at Large** - Diana Wright, 519-786-4738 |  
*dmwilsonwright@gmail.com*