



## **BLUEWATER Branch Report**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hello Everyone:

I would like to welcome all of our new members and thank all of our members for their support in the past year.

This has been a busy time for NAFR. In June, I attended the Annual Members Meeting. The Presidents' Forum was front and centre this year. The topics discussed and of most interest to all Presidents were the retention of membership, how to increase membership, and how do we recruit volunteers. It is interesting that a lot of the branches are experiencing the same problems with recruitment as Bluewater is. A new program was instituted this year called the VIP. Each branch was given a number of business cards with their name and contact information on it. These will be given to members of the Board so that they can give them to prospective members. Also, a suggestion was made that prospective members be invited to attend a general meeting.

As always, volunteers are a very great concern for branches. It is not uncommon for a branch to fold because of lack of volunteers. At this time, our branch is operating with enough volunteers. However, at the next AGM we will be having elections for all positions. Those are, Vice-President, Director of Membership, and Treasurer. We will also be looking for a Secretary, Outreach Coordinator, Program Coordinator, and IT and Web Site Coordinator. Please consider getting involved. New blood is always needed.

A new "You and Your Survivor" is being produced and should be online shortly.

If you require any information from your branch, please contact one of the Board Members and they will be happy to assist you.

Have a great fall season.

Gloria Cayea,  
President

### **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)

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

It is early July when I write this for our September to December newsletter. Hopefully summer will be all each of us want it to be.

Financially we are in good shape, keeping within our budget. Our September and October general meetings are our biggest expense but our budget should still be fine. Financial reports are available at all our general meetings.

I'm into quotes lately so here is one I read somewhere: "True happiness consists in making others happy". We should all strive to do this.

Diane Kerr

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

I am writing this the first week of July for our fall 2017 Sage magazine.

I hope everyone has had a chance to take in some of the celebrations for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation and the Remembrance of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vimy Ridge.

Our national membership numbers are 179,452 as reported at the Annual Members Meeting in June. Our Branch membership is 571 members. Down slightly. If you know of any Federal retiree or potential retiree please let them know about our Association. You can have them contact any member of the Branch executive for further information.

The 2018 dues rates have increased slightly. Dues are now \$48.96 for Singles and \$63.60 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. They include:

1. Pay by cheque NAFR, Bluewater Branch and mail it to the branch's post office box.
2. Visit the Associations web site ([www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca)) click on "joining us" and select "renew your membership" and follow the instructions.
3. Call the National office at 1-855-304-4700 and tell them you wish to pay your 2018 dues. Have member number 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

## IN MEMORIAM

There are no Memoriam

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

No Report

### Outreach Coordinator

As Outreach Coordinator, I try to inform all our members of upcoming functions, whether they are General Meetings, or Social Meetings. As well, I inform three local papers of the same. At present, I have 17 callers from our branch, and each caller has approximately 10 members (some have more, and some have less) to call to inform our members of upcoming events. I also have one caller who not only has some members to call, but also has approximately 50 members that she emails upcoming events to. My goal is to make sure that each and every one on our membership list gets contacted. As we get notification of new members, they get assigned to a caller, or get put on the email list, whichever they prefer.

I welcome any ideas or suggestions or recommendations that anyone may have to help make this outreach even more efficient. I encourage members to get involved with their branch. I always have callers who may have to give up calling for any number of reasons, so I am always looking for new callers. If Bluewater Branch has any member who would like to assist with calling, please let me know at 519-869-8872.

Pat.

## HEALTH BENEFITS OFFICER REPORT

No Report

## WEB SITE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Please take a look at our National and Branch Websites. They are full of great information. National Site: [www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca) and Branch Site: [www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater](http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater),

Our Branch site has information on our **Branch Executive and Board**, upcoming **Branch Events**, copies of this and past **Sage Branch Inserts**; and more.

Current information for the next two Branch Events appears on the right side of our HOME page. All future planned Branch Events can be retrieved by clicking on "**Branch Events**" in the **Bluewater Branch (ON36)** box at the middle bottom of the home page. I try to keep this information as current as possible.

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

## **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** – Bob Jackson, | *bojack@sympatico.ca*

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

**Member at Large** - Georgina Maclsaac

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