

**National Association of Federal Retirees
Fredericton and District Branch (NB62)
BOD Meeting – February 4th, 2017 - 9:30AM
Hazen Park Centre, 2nd floor, Oromocto**

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Wilson King.

1. WELCOME

Elliott Keizer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the Agenda with the following additions to the agenda:

Reports:

5a) with Finance – John add Budget – Cyril

New Business:

6f) Information Items – Elliott

6g) Sage announcement – Cyril

6h) Meeting dates - Elliott

3. MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2016

Motion to approve the minutes as presented

Moved by Denise; Seconded by Jacques

APPROVED

4. BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES

a) Board of Directors duties and responsibilities - Cyril

Ongoing and standing item on the agenda until approved.

b) Planning update – Recruitment & Training – Wayne

To be included under the Membership report 5c).

5. REPORTS

a) Finance – John

John presented his report.

2016 Notables

There is a surplus higher than in 2015; about \$3,500 to \$3,700 after year-end adjustments.

- Surplus is caused by:

- Branch information sharing: budgeted \$2,300 VS \$1,299; cause by no charge for the Sage inserts.
- Regional/National meeting expenses: \$1,700 less than budgeted.
- Other travel was \$1,000 less than budgeted.
- Repatriation (claw back) of excess funds was \$1,526.
It is expected that a similar situation will occur in 2017 unless we do something. A suggestion was made from Ottawa to create a special reserve; if we do, we can put some of our assets into it that will not be subject to claw back.

Budget 2017 – Notables –

John went through the details in the 2017 budget for Fredericton and Local Branch NB62.

- Revenue similar to 2016 despite the fees increase the branch portion goes up by 1, 3%.
- Projecting a deficit of \$2,000.
- Less money going into “branch information sharing” following the national decision for two no-costs Sage inserts.
- Extra funding for Membership Recruitment and Engagement.

John is asking for acceptance of this budget so we can start to spend. To be presented at the AGM. Cyril said that it covered what he wanted to talk about.

Motion by Cyril; Seconded by Ron

APPROVED

Last two special fiscal years we spend less than our revenues. Therefore, John is asking permission from the board for the formation of a special reserve (defense of benefits). Debbie Barnhart suggested that we sheltered up to \$3,500 that would decrease the amount of claw back. John is asking to set one for up to \$5,000. Money would be put aside for legal fees if there are changes in our benefits packages. It has to be done before budget acceptance.

Motion by Ian to approve a defense of benefits reserve of up to \$5,000.

Seconded by Ron

APPROVED

Membership renewal: some of our members send cheque to our branch. Asked Ottawa that all 2018 membership renewals will be handled by National and any cheques received by our branch will be forwarded to National for deposit.

b) Special Events – Norm

The next spring dinner of Tuesday, May 2nd is all looked after. Guest speaker will be Simon Coakely, CEO at National Office.

The next information session will be Tuesday, June 6th at the Days Inn in Oromocto. Topic will be Wills and Estates Planning; guest speaker is Robert M. Stoney.

c) Membership – Wayne

The planning session for the January meeting with the Union of Defense Employees has been postponed to April.

Wayne talked to Brenda Moore at CFB Gagetown who is looking after the pre-retirement seminars; next one in April and she said that we would be invited.

He heard rumors that the government may not be funding those seminars. Peter Atkinson emailed him and confirmed the rumors. They will be contracted by a college in Quebec; will find out whom they are and if we can build a relationship with them.

Idea came up of holding a BBQ and it could be positive if we get the Union support. Make a presentation to attract membership. He is asking for help to do this from the board. Chris asked for an outline so he could prepare a presentation that would be short and simple, i.e. advocacy and preferred partners program. He referred to a profile sent by Elliott (from Peter Atkinson) for military vs ordinary members. The basic profile for military is much earlier (between 20 and 40) and ordinary member is 40-60). Not too many people are looking for MEDOC between 20 and 40. Need to address the youth military. Ron suggested that we should hold two BBQs; one in Oromocto for military and Fredericton for ordinary members. Wayne will organize a meeting with John, Chris, and Elliott.

Elliott read a report (from Bulletin to Branches) regarding “pilot project on member recruitment” from the minutes of the National Board of Directors of Nov 29 to Dec 1st. The report said:

*“At the previous Board meeting, the CEO had raised concerns with the target for membership numbers in the Strategic Plan 2017-2019. He had explained that the only way to achieve such a target would be to start recruiting active employees or members of the Canadian Forces or RCMP.
The Director of Membership and the CEO gave a presentation on a pilot project for the recruitment of current federal employees.
Following the presentation, the Board agreed that the CEO and National Office staff will work with the Quebec District Directors and the Atlantic District Directors on the proposed initiatives. The Kelowna and/or Winnipeg branches may also be included in this pilot project.”*

Elliott said that nobody heard of this and he will follow-up on it. Wayne will share the presentation we have done as the National Office presentation is too long. What we need is one that is short and punchy.

Ron suggested that since Simon Coakeley is coming in June, that it would be nice if the Executive could meet with him and discuss some of the issues that we have and have Léonard LeBlanc present. Elliott will follow-up on this.

**Motion by Cyril that Finance, Special Events and Membership reports be accepted
Moved by Cyril; Seconded by Ron APPROVED**

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Election renewal 2017 – Ron

Ron asked Linda is she is prepared to continue. She said that she will get back to us with her answer. Ron said that he is going to step down at the annual meeting.

Moved by Ron; Seconded by Jacques APPROVED

b) Update on Phonevite - Chris

Chris asked John if there is money in the account and there is. Need to decide when and what message we want to send. First message would be regarding the Annual Meeting. Chris said that Elliott should first send a message to introduce Phonevite; Elliott will draft the message for the last week of March with the help of Denise for the French version. That message should go out a week or two before the actual message. Denise will send an email on March 30th and timed it with the Phonevite message; maybe one week after.

c) Bill C-27 - Elliott

Elliott received an email from National Office with a set of tools to us meeting with members of Parliament about our concerns with Bill -27. Bill C-27 is the federal government attempt to change the defined benefit pension plan for Crown Corporation, banks and other organizations that are responsible for federal government. It is seen as a move toward derouting the define benefit pension plan.

He will have to have someone go with him and meet with Matt DeCoursey. He will go through this in more details. To make the point that Mr.Trudeau said that he is not going to tax or remove the tax deductibility on the premium we pay for health and dental benefits but it is under review now. With the email there is a letter to be sent to our Member of Parliament. Cyril and Elliott will work on this together.

d) Easter Egg Hunt - Chris

Chris posted a X-Mas tree picture on the website during the holidays. He did not get any email but it was not advertise He proposed to put an actual Easter egg. He suggested that we advertise this by email, in Sage or one of the bulletins. Website traffic is quite good. Next Sage is due March 8 and then we will insert the graphic on our website by the end of May. Prize could be a gift card from one of our partners. Chris also suggested that we take a picture of the BOD and he is willing to look after this.

e) Potential River Cruise Information Session – Elliott, Cyril & Norm

Cyril has made a couple of attempt to communicate with Expedia on possible River Cruise. Expedia would be willing to give a presentation along with Vikings. One of the companies AmaWaterways, was going to give a presentation through their agency in Fredericton where Elliott, Norm and Cyril were invited. It was cancelled because of the storm and is scheduled for next Thursday or Friday.

They found a cruise with a very good deal for February 2nd to Feb 12th. It is a Canadian funded cruise would include the following: flying to Havana, three nights in Havana living aboard the ship meals would be included on the ship; European flavor. It includes all meals, beverages and entertainment. After Havana, it goes to Montego Bay, Georgetown Grand Cavemen and Cozumel. The cost is \$2,500 per couple including airfare from Halifax. It went up to \$3,100 for March break.

Cyril suggested that they take a few minutes when they visit to talk about how the information session could go.

f) Information Items – Elliott

Regional meeting planned for all NB branches in Moncton on April 13 and 14; location to be provided later. Asked if there are things we want to talk about. They want to talk about recruitment for membership growth and a discussion about what the other branches are doing about this. Another item to discuss is the role of National Office in facilitating and coordinating day to day branch activities. An example of that is the confusion about the new fee structure. Elliott asked if we had other items to add to the agenda.

Bulletin to Branches – January 2017

- Resolutions must be submitted to National Office between January 14 and March 17, 2017.
- Town Hall agenda item: discussing the branch voting structure. After the Regional

meeting we might have more items to discuss like recruitment. We have until the end of April to provide our topics.

- Jean-Guy Soulière has been appointed as a pensioner representative on the Public Service Health Care Plan Partners Committee to replace Dennis Jackson.
- Branch Contractual Signing Authority: we are supposed to get a letter indicating what the new limits are. Branches with 1,501 to 5,000 members increase the limit on individual cheques are up to \$7, 500;
- President is pleased that the Board's work is in line with the commitment made to the Association's volunteers and members at the Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) to get the finances in order and under control.
- Another comment: It was noted that changes to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) do not have an impact on current retirees. These proposed changes will take up to 40 years before they fully impact retiring Canadians.
- President feels that the relationship between the Board and branches seems to be positive and the relationship between the President and National Office is very good. He recognized that there are still some issues with communications between the National Office and branches.

South East branch is in the process of going because of a lack of volunteers. All members are getting a letter saying that they are going to be transferred to the Saint John Branch. Those who are closer to Fredericton can switch here.

g) Sage Announcement – Cyril

Announcements have to be in Ottawa by March 8. Cyril's plan is to write a draft and give it to Elliott; he is leaving on February 22nd. Elliott will send them to Karen Ruthan. Not planning to do a Bulletin to Branches for the summer edition. Contest announcement will be included in the branch announcements.

h) BOD Meeting Dates

Discussion if we wanted to have our meetings during the week. No motion was made to change the date so it will remain on Saturday.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM

**Next Meeting: April 8, 2017 - 9:30 AM
2nd Floor, Hazen Park Centre, Oromocto**

Recorded by: _____
Denise Blanchard, Admin Director

Approved by: _____
Elliott Keizer, President