

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES
General Meeting - Vancouver Island North
11 March 2009**

Bill McSeveney called the meeting to order. Margaret Crites, accompanied by Joan Collins on piano, led the gathering in singing "O Canada".

Bill welcomed the gathering and introduced nine members who were attending the General Meeting for the first time. He thanked Joan Collins for providing keyboard music during the luncheon.

Approval of Previous Minutes

It was moved by Ian Sibbald and seconded by Halle MacMullen that the minutes of the last meeting be approved as presented. Carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Tom Dandeno presented the two financial statements. The first covered the current year (1 January to 28 February 2009). He moved that it be approved. Seconded by Halle MacMullen. Carried.

The second report covered the 2008 financial year. Tom pointed out that the Branch's primary assets take the form of a cash reserve which is currently invested in GICs. He moved that the report be accepted. John Davis seconded. Carried.

Financial Review Committee Report

John Challenger read the report of the Committee which comprised himself and Arnie Auerbach, two members at large who are independent of the Branch Executive. A copy of the report is enclosed. It's bottom line indicates that the Branch financial position is acceptable.

Media: John Davis had a nil report.

Welfare: Halle MacMullen told the members that, prior to the meeting, she had sent out two cards and had learned from the telephoners of the need to send out ten more. She thanked the telephone committee for keeping her informed.

Membership: Steve Bunyan reported that, as of early March, the Branch had 1066 members paying by DDS, with four more pending, and 272 paying by cash or cheque. In addition, there were 701 associate members of whom 575 were on the DDS roll. This yielded a grand total of 2043.

Website: Steve Bunyan noted that Duncan Branch is now responsible for the Island website and that it has undergone a significant overhaul. He volunteered to act as a local contact point with the new webmaster.

Newsletter: Kevin Weighill was unable to attend because of his work with Elections BC as that agency prepares for the forthcoming election. Steve Bunyan did report sending out 1350 copies, of which 1093 were mailed and the balance sent by e-mail. He indicated that he would approach new members with a view to adding them to the e-mail list.

Benefits: Bill Turnbull introduced Doug Dunsmore, the recently-appointed Assistant Benefits Officer. He reported that some members had experienced difficulty in taking advantage of the 2008 reduction in minimum RRIF withdrawals. He noted that, although it is not mentioned in the Plan Document, the PSHCP will pay up to \$800 (at 80%) per eye for interocular lenses. He stressed the importance of regular checkups in detecting common problems associated with aging such as glaucoma, prostate cancer and hearing loss.

Telephone: Paddy O'Blenis thanked the telephoners for their good work and reminded them that they, themselves, will not be called. Rather, they should indicate whether they will or will not be attending a given AGM when they report their phone list results to the Co-ordinator.

History: Frank Elvins had nothing to report.

Programs: Barb Schneider thanked Laurie Hewitt her help with making favours for the luncheon for which the final attendance figure was 124. She indicated her satisfaction with the meal itself. Barb mentioned that tickets for the Xmas Luncheon/Meeting would again be on sale at the June General Meeting and would remain on sale until the end of November.

New Business

Bill McSeveney congratulated Chuck Page on reaching his "39th" birthday and then introduced Tom Maclean of Collete Vacations who gave a presentation on three of the company's tour packages: Australia/New Zealand, China and Italy.

Draws

The 50/50 winners were Nan McCully and Tom Taylor. The dinner draw, a \$50 gift certificate for the *Avenue Restaurant* in Comox, was won by Frank Elvins

Barb Schneider made a special draw for the nine first-time attendees. Diana MacDonnell, a new member, won a free lunch at the next AGM in June 2009.

Adjournment

Adjournment, proposed by Bill McSeveney and seconded by John Davis, was carried.

Approved by:

Bill Turnbull
Acting Secretary

Bill McSeveney
President

