



The Victoria - Fred Whitehouse Branch Report

HELLO FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

Summer 2010

I would like to take this opportunity to say I'm very pleased to have been elected as branch president at our recent AGM, and I look forward to serving you. Before I tell you a bit about myself and mention a few objectives, I would like to extend on behalf of all branch members our sincere thanks for the excellent work done by our outgoing president Diane McIntyre during her tenure. I look forward to her assistance in her role as immediate past president.

I have been a branch director since being recruited by Bill Rowbotham on a chance meeting shortly after retiring and coming to live in Victoria in the fall of 2007. My work experience includes: 26 years in the Air Force as an Air Traffic Control Officer; two years with the Transportation Safety Board; and 13 years in the private sector with a facilities management company. My wife Jacquie and I have been married for 42 years. We have two married daughters and two grand-daughters and two grandsons – one family resides in Ancaster, ON and the other in Casper, WY. Jacquie and I live in James Bay.

As your president it is my objective to: improve branch communication with members through use of the internet (e-mail and website); increase attendance at branch general meetings; and recruit additional volunteers to serve as branch directors.

I look forward to meeting and hearing from you as we work together for our common interests.

Richard Savard

**WE CAN'T LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ONE PERSON!
THIS COMMITTEE NEEDS THE HELP OF SOME OF OUR MEMBERS
COULD YOU HELP?**

Access to email and Internet as well as some familiarity with word processing and spreadsheet applications is desired. If interested and you would like more information call or email to Richard Savard (250) 590-8755; bc09@shaw.ca.

HOSPITAL COVERAGE—Level I, II, or III

Submitted by Shirley Roberts

Do the following calculation:

Two members. Member A has hospitalization Level III while member B has Level I. They have not been hospitalized for the past five years. (family coverage)

The membership fee for member A during a five-year period is:

$$\$75.21/\text{mth} \times 60 \text{ months} = \$4,513$$

The membership fee for member B for the same period is:

$$\$29.80/\text{mth} \times 60 \text{ months} = \$1,788$$

This is a difference of \$2,725 for this period between Level III and Level I.

Let's say that member B (level I) was hospitalized for 8 days during the five-year period and had asked for and was provided a private room. Let's say that the additional cost of a private room at the hospital was \$225/day (Which is a lot).

The plan for members with Level I pays \$60/day ($\$60 \times 8 = \480)

The cost to the member is therefore $\$225 \times 8 = \$1,800 - \$480 = \$1,320$

It is still a saving of \$1,400 ($\$2,725 - \$1,320$) for this five-year period.

Many pensioners still feel that the plan is the same as what GSMIP was offering years ago. The member with Level II was guaranteed a semi private room while the member with Level III was placed in a private room if he/she was hospitalized.

If a member is hospitalized and requests in writing a semi or a private room and is granted such a room, the plan reimburses the following:

Member with hospitalization level I up to \$60/per day

Member with hospitalization level II up to \$140/perday

Member with hospitalization level III up to \$220/per day

Personal opinion

There are very few private rooms in hospitals and there is no guarantee that one would get one even if he/she has Level III.

I have also noticed that the majority of hospitals have many two-bed rooms and very few 4 or more-bed rooms.

In addition, if after an operation, the member's physician states that the member requires a private room because of the particular treatment required, the member will be placed in a private room even if he/she has only Level I of hospitalization.

There will not be any additional charges for the member.

Similarly, lets say a member is hospitalized and has Level I hospitalization and the only room available is a private room, the member will be placed in that room **without any additional charge**. He won't be told to return home and to come back when a bed in a four-bed room is available.

It is also worthy of note that today, most patients in hospitals are hospitalized for a period of less than 5 or 6 days.

I personally believe that everyone should select Level I hospitalization. To do otherwise, the member is most likely losing money. Members should call the hospital in their vicinity and find out the additional cost charged for a patient who requests and is provided a private or a semi-private room.

The editor phoned the VGH and received the following information on the afternoon of 20 April 2010.

<p>For the Victoria General Hospital a private room costs \$195. The daily charge for a semi-private room is \$165.</p>

If a member wishes to change their hospitalization level, he/she needs to contact the pension office. The pension office will then send the member a change form, which has to be completed, dated, signed by the member and sent back to the pension office. The change would take place on the 3rd month from the time the pension office has the signed form.

RETIREMENT DIRECTOR BILL ROWBOTHAM

Bill Rowbotham stepped down as a branch director at the end of April after serving the branch for over ten years and as a member of FSNA since 1986 (member no. 1566!)

Bill's accomplishments are legendary and many. He alone was the spark behind the branch initiative to have members pay their dues by direct deduction at source instead of annually by cheque – hugely successful but not yet 100 percent accomplished. Bill also organized our voice mail service; was head of our membership committee; and recruited new members by presenting FSNA at local retirement seminars. Bill will continue his membership activity as an ex-officio member of the board of directors.

On behalf of all of our members I sincerely thank Bill for his yeoman efforts and sincere dedication to FSNA.

Victoria – Fred Whitehouse Branch Board of Directors

Office	Name	Phone No.	E-mail	Other Duties
President	Richard Savard	250.590.8755	rdsavard@shaw.ca	Publicity; Internet; Seminars; Voicemail
1 st Vice-President	Vacant			
2 nd Vice-President	Shirley Roberts	250.381.3241	gordandshirley@shaw.ca	Health & Dental Benefits; Voicemail
Immed. Past President	Diane McIntyre	250.743.6084	elhefe@telus.net	Health Benefits; Voicemail
Treasurer	Genno Pereira	250.727.0391	superannuate@shaw.ca	WMS
Secretary	Inez Walker	250.418.8726	inezwalker@shaw.ca	Secretary
Director	Richard Acton	250.479.1799	richmarj@shaw.ca	Voicemail; LTCI; MEDOC
Director	Jim Anderson	250.391.9545	jdandrsn@shaw.ca	Branch Report/Newsletter
Director	Patricia Baye	250.642.0051	pbaye@primus.ca	Membership 'P' thru 'Z'; WMS
Director	Rick Deans	250.370.7403	rickrdeans@shaw.ca	Guest speakers
Director	Nancy Kenyon	250.381.9037	kenyonn@shaw.ca	Membership 'H' thru 'O'
Director	Val Kolsun	250.370.9106	jchomyn@shaw.ca	Archives; Donations
Director	Joan Landsky	250.388.5090	gwili@shaw.ca	Reception & Supplies
Director	George Philip	250.477.3170	geodot@telus.net	Director at Large
Director	Ray Webber	250.385.7800	mcmewsvic@shaw.ca	Voicemail; Lost Contacts; WMS; Condolences
Ex-Officio Member	Bill Rowbotham	250.370.2567	drumbeg@shaw.ca	Membership Lead 'A' thru 'G'

Voice Mail (leave a message): 250-385-3393

Our mailing address remains: FSNA Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch
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 www.fsna-nvi.com