

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

April 26th, 2016 - Meeting chaired by Wayne Melymick, President

EXECUTIVE PRESENT – Wayne Melymick, Bob Chapman, Peter Epp, Karen Warwick, Gerry Cain, Frank Friesen, Evelyn Mandley, Isabelle Nisbet, Liz Brandstrom, Gregor Aitken.

EXECUTIVE ABSENT – Mark Powell, Barry MacDonald, Pam Brown, Bob Sutherland.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Bruce Ballantyne.

INTITIATION: *Moved by P. Howard and seconded by P. Ryan that we approve seven new applications for membership. **Carried.** Moved by P. Howard and seconded by F. Friesen that we approve one transfer application. **Carried.** Seven new members were initiated.*

MINUTES FROM THE LAST EXECUTIVE MEETING ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY.**MINUTES FROM THE LAST GENERAL MEETING – March 22nd, 2016**

Errors or omissions: None.

Business arising: None.

*Moved by F. McDiarmid and seconded by L. Brandstrom to accept the minutes as printed. **Carried.***

SECRETARY – Correspondence - Karen Warwick**BC/Yukon Command** -

Memos #--.16 to #--.16 posted on Bulletin Board – We are not getting the Memos from Command. I will be looking into the problem and hopefully get it resolved.

Requests for Donations –

Canadian Liver Foundation – *Moved by P. Howard and seconded by P. Ryan that we donate \$500.00. **Carried.***

Lord Baden Powell Elementary School - *Still tabled as we are waiting on a response from the P.A.C.*

Coquitlam Metro-Ford Renegades – *Just received so tabled to the May Executive meeting.*

Other correspondence –

EPTA Properties – Redevelopment company working with Burnaby Legion #148.

Thank you letters &/or Receipts -

Thrifty Foods – card and a donation of \$2,000.00.

ALS

Children of the Street Society

Charles Best Dry Grad

Information letters, flyers, newspapers, etc. - None.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Wayne Melymick

Again last month we did “hold our own”. However, our profit margins are decreasing. The reasons are due to increased costs of all of our liquor purchases from the breweries as well as hard liquor, coolers and wine.

We have also again seen increases in Per Capita charges from both Dominion and BC/Yukon Commands. We now only receive \$11.37 out of our Membership fees for the entire year!

These costing increases have seriously cut into our Operating Budget. We have had to replace the beer tap compressor and we are aware of other repairs and maintenance that will have to be done soon.

A business decision has been made to increase our liquor prices to assist in keeping our Branch solvent as well as reviewing drink specials and Staffing levels.

2nd Vice President, Peter Epp, has carried on with Mark and on his own research to ensure we are going forward properly. He will be explaining this further in his report as our Treasurer is away on vacation.

We have taken much time and much “soul searching” prior to making this most important decision. The increases will come into effect May 1st, 2016. We ask you, our Membership to bear with us through this difficult period.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Wayne Melymick, Peter Epp

Mark Powell’s report - As of April 20th, the branch had a healthy bank balance of about \$16,100 in our general account and over \$5,200 in our lottery account. March had a small operating profit of about \$1,300. On a year to date basis, the operating profit was about \$3,800, down from \$16,800 a year ago. Over \$6,000 of the decline in operating profit was from the decrease in gross margin resulting from a drop in draught beer margins. An increase in bar wages including benefits of about \$3,500 also negatively impacted operating profit. A decrease in the income from the gaming administration fee of \$3,900 accounts for the remainder of the \$13,000 year to date decline in operating profit.

Peter Epp went over a comparison list of the draught beer and other liquor prices and the reasons for the liquor increases.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT – Bob Chapman

Interviewed another bartender and waitress. Allie Chapman helping behind the bar on Fridays.

Still working on getting the lighting for the darts so we can start a league.

Trying to maximize the use of the hall during the day time so will put an ad on Craigslist regarding a yoga instructor or similar to rent out the hall.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT – Peter Epp

No report.

*Moved by P. Ryan and seconded by R. Pollock that these reports be accepted. **Carried.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sergeant-At-Arms – Bruce Ballantyne

Dates of Events:

May 1st Sunday Battle of the Atlantic at the Legion Navy Band to entertain at 2:30 pm

May 7th Saturday Port Coquitlam Parade

May 8th Sunday 11 am Dogwood Vets at Cenotaph

May 28th Saturday Hyack Parade in New Westminster

June 26th Sunday Veterans Lunch at Br. 263

July 1st Friday Canada Day

Ways & Means – Liz Brandstrom

Everything is going well and we now have Thrifty’s back on board for all the meat draw days.

I am happy to report that I now am getting more folks to help with the draws. I have almost a full slate for May.

Things are looking good.

Entertainment – Isabelle Nisbet

Will be confirming both the David James and Big River “A Tribute to Johnny Cash” and Bonnie Kilroe “Broadway” shows.

Membership – Paul Howard

The official paid membership number as of March 31st, 2016 is 754 paid members.

The total as of April 25th on our system shows 812 paid for 2016.

This is a little disappointing as our last year paid membership was 865. This is a drop of about 10% in overall membership while the expected drop not including additional new members is about 7%. At present we have approximately 162 members who have not paid or renewed their membership for 2016.

It is important that all members help with recruiting new members so that we may continue to serve our veterans and the community.

Zone - Evelyn Mandley

The Zone meeting was held on April 24th at Branch #02 in New Westminster. Representatives from all 6 branches were there.

Gregor Aitken explained what the Canadian Military Volunteer Service Medal was all about and encouraged everyone present to sign E-127 Petition which is to reinstate the medal. He felt that by doing so, this would send a message to the younger veterans that they are being recognized and appreciated for the time they have served their country. You can find the petition at: www.petitions.gc.ca Look for E-127. This is only open until May 17, 2016.

Zone Commander Peter Dunford gave a presentation on how to apply for grants and what grants are available to each branch. Each branch should receive the information shortly.

The next Zone meeting will be on May 22nd, 2016 at Branch #88, Maple Ridge at 11:00 A.M.

Poppy – Evelyn Mandley

We will be holding our annual veterans lunch on Sunday, June 26th during Legion Week. The LA has agreed to put on a full turkey dinner.

I would like to make the following motion: The Poppy Fund supply a hot lunch on Sunday, June 26th, 2016 to feed 75 veterans and their spouse or caregiver at the cost of \$1,850.00

Moved by E. Mandley and seconded by F. McDiarmid. Carried.

Service Officer – Peter Epp

There were a few veterans who requested assistance in the month of March:

A Navy vet requested assistance to defray the cost of a nurse to apply eye drops on a daily basis.

Unfortunately the Poppy Fund cannot assist in situations that are ongoing and VA insisted that the Veteran was not entitled to further assistance. The Veteran was encouraged to ask the nurse to teach him how to apply the drops himself thereby solving the problem.

A Veteran with tinnitus asked for advice how to proceed in asking VA for compensation for his condition. With very little to no help from the Service Officer (other than verbal encouragement) he was successful in obtaining a one-time payment as well as assurance of ongoing treatment for his condition. He has volunteered to mentor any other Veteran that has this condition and who would like assistance from the VA.

A veteran requested assistance from the Poppy Fund through BC/Yukon Command for some interim funding for groceries and travel expenses to a centre in the Okanagan, funded by VA, for treatment of unspecified symptoms. He was sent some application forms from BC/Yukon Command that were never filled out nor returned relieving us from taking any further action in this matter.

Honours & Awards – Wayne Melymick - No report.

Youth & Sports – Wayne Melymick - No report.

By-Laws – Wayne Melymick - No report.

House – Frank Friesen

Regarding the quotes for the carpet cleaning, the Legion will be going with Marla.

Sick & Visiting – Gerry Cain – No report.

Earl Haig – Wayne Melymick – No report.

Website – Gregor Aitken, Karen Warwick

Gregor reports he is trying to do a daily post on our Twitter site. Karen reported that she has not been doing much on the Website recently, but will get back to it. Encouraged the new members to go onto the Legion website and have a look around. Sign up to be able to access the member's only area.

Moved by P. Ryan and seconded by S. Mannynvali that these reports be accepted. Carried.

LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT – Fran McDiarmid

The Ladies are still working hard on pies. George Derby Vets were served lunch this month.

The LA voted to raise the price of meat pies by \$.50. We'll see how that goes. Meat prices have soared as well as everything else we use.

We have asked Coquitlam City Council for a donation toward our July 1st BBQ.

OLD BUSINESS – Wayne Melymick

None.

NEW BUSINESS – Wayne Melymick

Gregor Aitken spoke about the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and advised all regarding the Petition E-127. This petition closes mid-May. It can easily be accessed through Google.

Wayne Melymick spoke about the Branch golf tournament on July 7th at the Maple Ridge Golf Course. Tickets are \$50.00 which includes golf, prizes and dinner. You will need to make your own arrangements for a power cart. The registration sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

Wayne Melymick addressed the fact that our membership dues are some of the lowest as we have had no raise in them for three years. We are still waiting on a response from Dominion Command to our letter requesting a breakdown of just where our per capita money goes.

Bob Chapman addressed the Party Corner Etiquette rules that will be posted and included with the form required to reserve the area for an occasion. The sponsoring member's name and number will need to be included on the form.

There was more discussion about manning the door and checking for membership and guest book sign-in. Again, this is a Liquor Control Board requirement for our licencing. Rather than the executive having to wear full uniform to identify themselves at the door, it was discussed if they could wear a Legion golf shirt and their name tags. *Moved by B. Chapman and seconded by P. Ryan that the Legion provide the Executive and Directors with a golf shirt. Carried.*

Meat draw winnings cannot be placed in the cooler any longer. The cooler is part of the bar and therefore can only be accessed by the bar staff as per Liquor Control Board rules. We will look into getting a fridge for meat draw winnings.

Moved by F. Friesen and seconded by F. McDiarmid that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

Karen Warwick, Recording Secretary

Wayne Melymick, President