

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

February 23rd, 2016 - Meeting chaired by Wayne Melymick, President

EXECUTIVE PRESENT – Wayne Melymick, Bob Chapman, Mark Powell, Karen Warwick, Gerry Cain, Evelyn Mandley, Bob Sutherland, Liz Brandstrom.

EXECUTIVE ABSENT – Barry MacDonald, Pam Brown, Frank Friesen, Isabelle Nisbet, Gregor Aitken, Peter Epp.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Bruce Ballantyne.

PRESENTATIONS: Poppy poster and literary contests winners:

Junior Colour Poster – First Place – Joint winners – Monica Lis & Madeline Rutherford – Our Lady of Fatima (also placed first at Zone)

Primary Colour Poster – First Place – Mariella Lydell – Rochester Elementary (also placed first at Zone)

Junior Essay – First Place – Viraj Behla – Ranch Park Elementary (also placed first at Zone)

Intermediate Poem – First Place – Joint Winners – Taryn Clark & Talia Mazzocchio – Hillcrest Middle School

Junior Poem – First Place – Jacob Dunn – Ranch Park Elementary (also placed first at Zone)

MINUTES FROM THE LAST EXECUTIVE MEETING ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST GENERAL MEETING – January 26th, 2016

Errors or omissions: None.

Business arising: None.

*Moved by D. Vilac and seconded by M. Mandley to accept the minutes as printed. **Carried.***

SECRETARY – Correspondence - Karen Warwick

BC/Yukon Command -

Memos #08.16 to #16.16 posted on Bulletin Board.

Requests for Donations –

A.L.S. - *Moved by P. Howard and seconded by R. Pollock that we donate \$500.00. **Carried.***

Girl Guides of Canada – Mundy Lake District – *Moved by D. Vilac and seconded by S. Davidson that we donate \$500.00. **Carried.***

Nothin' Dragon – Dragon Masters Dragon Boat Racing Team – *Moved by J. Ackerman and seconded by M. Mandley that we donate \$500.00. **Carried.***

Centennial Dry After-Grad Committee – *Moved by G. Howard and seconded by B. Brister that we donate \$500.00. **Carried.***

Children of the Street Society – *Recommended by W. Melymick and seconded by M. Powell that this be tabled to the next Executive meeting. **Carried.***

Canadian Liver Foundation – *Recommended by W. Melymick and seconded by B. Sutherland that this be tabled to the next Executive meeting. **Carried.***

Heather Jolley Highland Dancers – *Recommended by W. Melymick and seconded by B. Chapman that this be tabled to the next Executive meeting. **Carried.***

Other correspondence – None.

Thank you letters &/or Receipts -

Vancouver Island University Foundation – Canadian Letters and Images Projects.

The Cerebral Palsy Association of B.C.

Vancouver Naval Museum and Heritage Society.

Thank you card and donation from Karen and Karl Warwick.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Wayne Melymick

February was an extremely sad and very unsettling month for our Branch.

We now must pull together to become as strong if not stronger than we have been!

There will be a number of issues to be dealt with during the next 3 months. For example – again sadly a position election, budget, Meat Draw supply issues, some repairs within our building, etc.

I am asking you all to bear with us and to be as supportive to your Executive Committee as you have been over this past year. Your cooperation is truly appreciated.

Reviewed the “Ethical Behaviours for the Branch Executive Committee”.

There will be a special meeting for the purpose of electing a 2nd Vice President on Tuesday, March 8th, 2016. An email notification will be sent out to the membership and this will also be posted in the Legion and on the Legion Website.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mark Powell

The good news is that as of February 23, we have a very healthy cash balance of \$25,000 in our General account and we are reporting a small profit for the month of January.

Unfortunately, Draught Beer profit margin was only 54% in January. This profit is 8% lower than last year's actual and lower than the 60-65% target margin recommended by BC/Yukon Command.

I think probably this is a bookkeeping problem and I will be looking into the cause of the profit decline.

Unfortunately, a lot of water has gone under the bridge since the end of January.

Your executive has been working diligently on the budget for the year and we have a first draft completed.

Part of the budgeting process is to identify challenges to our profitability. For example, our insurance company has done an appraisal of this building and has valued the replacement cost at about \$3.2 million.

This is much higher than the last valuation and the insurance company wants an additional \$2,000 in annual premiums.

Comrades Frank Friesen and Bob Sutherland are looking into the square foot area that the appraisers have calculated. So we are hopeful that we can get that \$2,000 reduced or eliminated.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT – Bob Chapman

Staff Meeting

On Feb 12 President Melymick and I had a staff meeting with all the Lounge staff except for Lori.

Discussions were outlined in an Agenda (see attached)

The majority of the discussions surrounded the establishment of a safe and respectful workplace free of bullying. All staff was presented with an agreement (attached) and in full agreement signed the document.

Each was given a copy and the originals retained by the executive. All staff agreed to work together in a respectful workplace.

Gaming Monies

I received a letter from John Mazure the General Manager and Assistant Deputy Minister of Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch of the Ministry of Finance. The letter dealt with why the Service Clubs such as the Legion cannot keep more of their gaming money for general revenue. Citing a section of the Criminal Code that allows charities and religious groups as being the only groups allowed to keep their gaming monies.

However, I don't believe that the Hard Rock, River Rock or Starlight Casinos are religious or a charity. I will be following up on provincial legislation.

Sponsorships

During the process of obtaining hearing aids for a member, I became aware that an old time sponsor of the Legion was no longer a sponsor. Connect Hearing which operates an outlet a couple of blocks away advised me that they were no longer a legion sponsor and as a result were no longer able to provide our members with a discount on hearing aids. Wayne and I went to the store and met with the staff in an

attempt to establish a relationship with this particular branch because of our community and previous business relations. We provided our contact information for the regional manager to contact us. We also went to a local electronics store Audio Video Unlimited. We met with the manager and gave the staff an overview of the Legion and our community activities. We were looking to establish a conduit that if a company were involved in replacing electronics that they keep the Legion when disposing of the televisions. The management was very responsive to our request and may result in some new televisions. Nothing ventured nothing gained.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT – Bob Chapman

No report.

*Moved by J. Ackerman and seconded by P. Howard that these reports be accepted. **Carried.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sergeant-At-Arms – Bruce Ballantyne - No report.

Ways & Means – Liz Brandstrom

Has organized the dates for the ham and turkey draws. Trying to make them at least one to two weeks ahead of the holiday – March 11, 12, 13; September 30, October 1, 2; December 9, 10, 11.

Our trial basis with Farm Town Meats has been completed. The delivery and quality was not all good. There have been five written complaints regarding the product so we will not be continuing with them. Austin Gourmet has made a written proposal so we will try them on a trial basis for some of the draws. In the meantime we will also continue with Thrifty Foods.

Entertainment – Wayne Melymick

The Sadie Hawkins dance will be on Sunday, February 28th.

Membership – Paul Howard

Presented a list of membership applicants and transfers for approval. *Moved by B. Brister and seconded by S. Davidson that these applicants be approved. **Carried.*** There are still 217 renewals to be paid. Thank you to Shirley Vilac for all the phoning.

Zone - Evelyn Mandley

The next Zone meeting will be held at 11:00 A.M. Sunday, February 28th at Branch #263. All are welcome. Our Branch did very well at the Zone Level in the Poster and Literary Contest. The following entries took first place and are now being judged at BC/Yukon Command:

Monica Lis & Madeline Rutherford - in the Junior Colour Poster category.

Mariella Lydell - in the Primary Colour Poster category.

Viraj Behla - in the Junior Essay category.

Jacob Dunn - in the Junior Poem category.

Poppy – Evelyn Mandley

We will once again deliver fresh Daffodils to 10 care homes in the area. They will be delivered to the Branch on Tuesday, March 22nd and delivered to the various facilities the next day. We will also have the plastic Daffodil pins for sale in the Lounge again this year.

The tentative date for the Annual Veterans Lunch will be Sunday, June 26th, 2016.

We receive numerous bulletins from BC/Yukon Command each month which are all posted on the Bulletin Board. Branch #263 is mentioned favourably in Memo #16.16 – Annual Veterans Transition Network update. We are among the highest contributors and on the Donation Wall of Fame for the Highest Contributions for 2015. . . . Thank you to all who helped make it possible.

Service Officer – Wayne Melymick – No report.

Honours & Awards – Pam Brown - No report.

Youth & Sports – Bob Sutherland - No report.

By-Laws – Brian Brister

Murray Mandley has agreed to assist.

House – Bob Sutherland

The heating system has been blowing dust into the front office area. People have been affected with cold, flus, etc. The ducts have been capped off and electric heaters will be used until the heating system can be cleaned. The carpet in that office was cleaned.

Sick & Visiting – Gerry Cain

Sadly our 1st Vice President Bill Warwick passed away on February 4th.

Earl Haig – Wayne Melymick

Rita Jones is now living at Earl Haig.

Website – Karen Warwick

No report. Chris Chapman did a superb job on the live-streaming of the Celebration of Life for Bill Warwick. It was suggested that we present Chris with a Certificate of Appreciation.

*Moved by J. Ackerman and seconded by S. Vilac that these reports be accepted. **Carried.***

LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT – Wayne Melymick – No Report.

OLD BUSINESS – Wayne Melymick

Have had a response letter from Dominion regarding the letter G. Aitken sent asking for clarification of the per capita. Will have the letter at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – Wayne Melymick

Pam Brown proposed the idea that we have an Historian for the Branch to chronicle the history from 1963 until today and has volunteered to do that. B. Sutherland can help with the information regarding the Veteran's wall as well.

Farm Town Meats trial period is finished and we are still dealing with Thrifty Foods but from the Port Moody store now. Doug from Austin Gourmet has put in a proposal to supply the meat on two of the days. It was *moved by G. Howard and seconded by R. Pollock that we eliminate Farm Town Meats and give Austin Gourmet a try on a 3 month trial basis. **Carried.***

After some discussion regarding Thrifty Foods on Austin Avenue and their lack of support during the Poppy Campaign it was then *moved by B. Brister and seconded by D. Vilac that during this 3 month trial period the Executive continue to search out other possible meat suppliers. **Carried.***

While Branch #119 is waiting to go forward with their rebuild their members have been very active in supporting Branch #263 so we have now decided to adopt them.

The question of checking members at the door came up again as it appears some members get a bit cranky at being asked to present their dues card. It was again reinforced that the sign-in book and the door checks are not a Legion rule but are in fact a Liquor Control Board rule and as such we are obligated to obey this rule or risk a suspension in our licence. It was suggested that new members be encouraged to purchase a door fob at the cost of \$7.00 and eliminate the need to be checking their cards.

*Moved by P. Howard and seconded by J. Ackerman that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.***