

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**March 22nd, 2016** - Meeting chaired by Wayne Melymick, President

EXECUTIVE PRESENT – Wayne Melymick, Bob Chapman, Mark Powell, Karen Warwick, Pam Brown, Gerry Cain, Evelyn Mandley, Isabelle Nisbet, Bob Sutherland, Liz Brandstrom, Gregor Aitken, Peter Epp.

EXECUTIVE ABSENT – Barry MacDonald, Frank Friesen.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Bruce Ballantyne.

INITIATION: Several new members were initiated.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST EXECUTIVE MEETING ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY.**MINUTES FROM THE LAST GENERAL MEETING – February 23rd, 2016**

Errors or omissions: None.

Business arising: None.

*Moved by G. Cain and seconded by P. Ryan to accept the minutes as printed. **Carried.***

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

Memos #17.16 to #27.16 posted on Bulletin Board.

Requests for Donations –

Children of the Street Society – *Moved by P. Howard and seconded by R. Pollock that we donate \$500.00.*

Carried.

Heather Jolley Highland Dancers – *Moved by M. Mandley and seconded by P. Ryan that we donate \$500.00.*

Carried.

Centennial Centaurs – Senior Girls Soccer – *Moved by G. Cain and seconded by S. Davidson that we donate \$500.00. **Carried.***

Centennial Football Program – *Moved by P. Howard and seconded by S. Davidson that we donate \$500.00.*

Carried.

Canadian Liver Foundation and Lord Baden Powell Elementary School - *Recommended by W. Melymick and seconded by B. Sutherland that these be tabled to the next Executive meeting in April. **Carried.***

Other correspondence –

Letter from Coquitlam Chapter #23 O.E.S. and \$25.00 donation to Poppy in memory of Bill Warwick.

Thank you letters &/or Receipts -

BC & Alberta Guide Dogs

Vancouver Naval Museum and Heritage Society

C.H.I.L.D. Foundation

Crossroads Hospice (Given to Poppy)

Tri Cities Female Ice Hockey Association

Special Olympics BC – Law Enforcement Torch Run

U17 Kaos Soccer Team (email)

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

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Wayne Melymick

To date we are “holding our own” within the Branch. However, we are now seeing an increase in beer and liquor prices from our suppliers. This does affect our Branch income. Treasurer Mark Powell will explain this issue fully in his report.

On a better note – 1st Vice President Bob Chapman worked very hard in putting together a grant application from the Federal Governments New Horizon Seniors fund in mid-2015. Bob was successful in obtaining \$25,000 in grant money which can be used for improvements within our Branch. A huge thank you to Bob for enabling us to obtain this money. We must give the Government of Canada 20 days notice before a start date at which time they forward us one lump payment of \$25,000.

A big welcome (back) to Comrade Peter Epp as 2nd Vice President. A great addition to our team. Peter is also retaining his Service Officer role for our Branch. Again welcome Pedro!

As per our last GM we now have Austin Gourmet Catering as our meat supplier on our Saturday and Sunday meat draws – Welcome to Doug and his crew!

I am hoping that our Volunteer Corps will grow this year as we will be involved in more activities, e.g. Veterans Week celebrations, Golf Tournament, Battle of the Atlantic, Coquitlam birthday celebrations, as well as parades and most importantly Remembrance Day. We will be asking Members to become involved.

Thank you.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mark Powell

The balance of the general account as of March 22 was a very healthy \$28,000 and the operating profit was essentially a break-even for the month of February.

On a year to date basis operating profit was about \$3,000 which is down about \$13,000 from almost \$16,000 from the same period last year. Of this \$13,000 decline, gross margin from draught beer accounted for about \$4,000 due in part to a cost increase from Molson Breweries on most of its brands. Other breweries will likely follow suit soon. Membership profit was down about \$3,000 due to a \$3.00 per member per capita increase from Dominion Command over the past two years. A capital grant expired reducing that income by about \$2,000. Staff wages and benefits including accounting fees were up about \$3,000 from a year ago.

The branch faces further cost pressures this year. Known cost increases include insurance costs and BC Hydro increases.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT – Bob Chapman

Yoga – Looking to see if we can get a yoga instructor to come and use our hall during weekdays. It is an opportunity to have some money come into the legion during hours when the hall is not generally utilized. If anyone knows of yoga instructor please contact Bob Chapman.

MLA/Gaming – In a follow up to the meeting with Provincial MLA Linda Reimer I asked the following questions:

If the criminal code only allows for religious or charitable groups to keep their gaming monies then how are the large casinos licensed? Although cathedral like they are certainly not religious.

If the criminal code codifies who and what can keep gaming monies and the province sells gaming permits to those groups to have gaming events then is the province itself not in compliance with federal legislation by licensing non-religious or charitable groups?

I have not yet had a response.

Additional Meat draw for Wednesday and Sunday. Decided to try one more meat draw on Wednesday. It was felt that Sunday was not busy enough.

Dominion Command – Produced a clipping from the Vancouver Sun detailing questions being raised by other Legion branches regarding the lack of accountability in reporting spending at Dominion Command.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT – Peter Epp

No report.

*Moved by F. McDiarmid and seconded by P. Ryan that these reports be accepted. **Carried.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sergeant-At-Arms – Bruce Ballantyne

Upcoming parades that will involve the Colour Party – Anzac Days on April 24th, PoCo parade on May 7th and Hyack Parade on May 28th.

Ways & Means – Liz Brandstrom

Our Ham and Turkey draws were very good – Friday we took in \$1,653, Saturday we took in \$1,905 and for Sunday I do not have the figures yet.

Our 50/50 draws were also extremely good.

Friday - \$249, Saturday - \$303 and Sunday - \$161.

I dropped off our Credit application to Thrifty's Port Moody last Monday morning.

We have been getting 10% off our orders from them and all seems to be well.

I will be speaking to Kyle, the meat manager, in regards to doing a change-up of items. I would like to try a variety pack like 2 chops, 2 chicken breasts and one more item in the pack.

Entertainment – Isabelle Nisbet

Has talked to Bonnie Kilroe and the dates she has available are June 19, Sept. 11, Oct. 9 & 16. The Executive and Membership opted for a date in the fall so Isabelle will call her again and confirm a date.

Also spoke with the manager for a "Johnny Cash" impersonator. He operates in the same manner as Bonnie where he will take the door and the Legion will take the bar. The dates available are May 22 and June 12 or 26. The tickets for his show would be \$20.00. *Moved by J. Smith and seconded by P. Ryan that we have the "Johnny Cash" impersonator at a date to be determined. Carried.*

Membership – Pam Brown

Presented a list of membership applicants and transfers for approval. *Moved by P. Howard and seconded by P. Ryan that these applicants be approved. Carried.*

Zone - Evelyn Mandley

The Zone meeting was held at Branch #263 on Sunday, February 28th with representatives from all six Branches in the Zone.

Darren Longstaff, BC/Yukon Command Branch Operations Advisor, covering from Hope to Pemberton, gave a very interesting talk. Some of the highlights were: 4 Branches currently in Trusteeship; 3 Branches have no bar; some Branches are making loans to other Branches at lower rates than Banks; everyone should read the Strategic Plan on the BC/Yukon web site; ask for donations from members and business **in your own area**. Reports were given by each of the Branches in attendance.

Comrade Bob Chapman gave a very good update regarding Gaming.

Maple Ridge Branch 88 will be the only branch attending the Dominion Convention in Newfoundland this summer and will report back to Zone. West Jet Airlines will give a 25% discount off air fare.

Next meeting will be held at Branch #2 in New Westminster on April 24th at 11:00 A.M. Everyone is welcome.

Poppy – Evelyn Mandley

The fresh daffodils have been delivered to the Branch and will be delivered to the various care facilities tomorrow.

We received a very nice letter from the entire team at the Veterans Transition Network extending a huge thanks to the executive and members of Branch 263 for believing in their program and our donation last month of \$10,000.00.

We also received a letter from the Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation stating that in recognition of our increased support they will be updating our listing on the Wall of Thanks, located in the foyer of the Health Care Centre. Our listing will be recognized as:

"The Royal Canadian Legion, City of Coquitlam Branch 263 at the Ambassador (\$10,000.00+) level".

The City of Coquitlam has donated "Coquitlam" pins to be given to the Veterans and their spouse at our upcoming Lunch in June.

I would like to make the following motion:

The Poppy Fund donate \$2,707.00, which is the maximum amount allowable under the guidelines, to the following Cadet Units:

201 RCSCC GRILSE Sea Cadets

BCR Duke of Connaught's Own Army Cadets

754 Phoenix Air Cadets

513 Hornet Air Cadets

*Moved by E. Mandley and seconded by W. Melymick that these donations be made to the Cadet Units. **Carried.***

The Satellite Flight of 754 Phoenix Air Cadet Squadron, who helped with the Poppy Campaign last year, have made application to have a stand-alone Unit and is now in Ottawa for final reading, and expected in June 2016.

Their proposed name will be **801 Coquitlam Air Cadets**; Capt. Christopher Kung will be the Commanding Officer. We will propose a donation, probably in June after certification.

Service Officer – Peter Epp – No report.

Honours & Awards – Pam Brown

Working on who is eligible for the Korean War medal.

Youth & Sports – Bob Sutherland - No report.

By-Laws – Brian Brister - No report.

House – Bob Sutherland – No report, just doing regular maintenance.

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 is doing the live music events on the calendar and posted regarding the ham and turkey draws for Easter. Any suggestions are always welcome. 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 J. Smith and seconded by P. Howard that these reports be accepted. **Carried.***

LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT – Fran McDiarmid

The L. A. will be awarding three \$750.00 bursaries to Grade Twelve students this year.

The "Lunch Ladies" will be hosting George Derby on April 5th. An invitation to a Volunteer's Luncheon was received for the ladies and it will be on April 16th.

A generous gratuity for the tea for Bill Warwick was received from Karen and Karl Warwick and family.

Tickets for the Mother's Day basket are now available. The raffle is to be drawn on May 7th after the 6 P.M. meat draw.

Our Vice President has resigned so we will have an election for a replacement at our next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS – Wayne Melymick

The letter that G. Aitken wrote to Command asking for a break down in the use of the per capita monies at both the Dominion and BC/Yukon levels did NOT get a response.

P. Brown is working in the Historian position and will be getting pictures from P. Epp regarding the ground breaking for the Legion.

Doug from Austin Gourmet will be providing the meat for the Saturday and Sunday draws on a trial basis for the next three months.

NEW BUSINESS – Wayne Melymick

Considering the possibilities of renting the hall during the week.

A gentleman named Carl Strand, who said his father was Arthur McDonald, and a founding member of the Legion, donated a children's size picnic table to the Legion with the idea we could use it as a raffle.

We will need to decide how and when we could do this. Possibly in conjunction with Veteran's week and July 1st. We would need to acquire a gaming licence to hold a raffle.

Legion week will be from June 24th – 30th this year, and the Veteran's lunch will be held on June 26th.

We need to work on plans for other activities during this week.

The suggestion was made to print out a monthly calendar of events and have it posted in the Legion for anyone who does not have access to a computer and the Legion Website.

Will try and incorporate July 1st Canada Day celebrations into the Legion week.

J. Smith commented again about those persons who attend the Legion to enjoy the entertainment but only drink water so are not really supporting the Legion at all.

E. Mandley reported there are two sizes of Legion Week banners available for the Legion – 3 x 8 and 3 x 12.

We have a new flag flying again.

*Moved by P. Ryan and seconded by J. Smith that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.***

Karen Warwick, Recording Secretary

Wayne Melymick, President