



Victoria Branch Newsletter

B.C. Government

Retired Employees Association

Editor: Carol Cullimore

November 2016

BCGREA DIRECTORS' MEETING

It is my honour, on behalf of Branch Chair Sarjit Manhas, to provide you with the Chair's Report from the Annual General Meeting.

The meeting was opened with the traditional and respectful 2 minutes of silence for deceased members.

Guest Speakers were Lisa Hansen and Marc Costeles, Johnson Inc. and Sally Thompson, Director of Affinity Partner Development/Canada Hearing Centre.

Major business was one resolution and one motion. The resolution was that all annual dues payments for new members, who are in receipt of a PSPP pension will be deducted annually via "Dues Check Off" from their February PSPP pension payment. Members will be considered in good standing upon receipt of their membership application and considered paid up until the first deduction from their pension cheque. Existing members who have elected to pay their annual dues by any other means other than DCO will be considered grandfathered and shall submit their dues to the branch to which they belong by the 2nd of January each year.

The other item was Shingles Vaccine. The President reported that he had received a letter from David Vipond, Chair, Public Service Pension Board of Trustees, which stated the Board had concluded its annual review of extended health benefits, and decided not to change the EHB plan to provide coverage for the shingles vaccine. As a result, Lawrence Johnson made a motion that the BCGREA write to British Columbia's Minister of Health, Terry Lake,

urging the Provincial Government to include the cost of the shingles vaccine in the BC Medical Services Plan for all seniors 65 years and older, similar to the policy recently introduced by the Government of Ontario. Both of these items were Moved, Seconded and Carried.

Election:

President - Ken Pendergast, acclamation

First VP - Art Kaehn, acclamation

Second VP - Carrie Mulchahy, acclamation

Barbara West

Secretary and Acting Chair

Victoria Branch



GOODWILL

If you know of any member who is hospitalized, sick, ill or injured, please contact the Acting Goodwill Coordinator, Michael Holbrook at 250-656-7955 or mjholbrook@telus.net with the information.



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BCGREA TREASURER'S REPORT

Report to September 2016 -

Bank chequing account	\$12,851
Term Deposits	<u>\$21,803</u>

Total	\$34,654
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Income \$383 from Bank Interest, Dues,
Expense \$466 from Office and Postage and Catering.



EMAIL REPORT

Just so you know:

We only use your email address to share BCGREA information with you. We will never share your email address. You can expect to receive the following from our Branch:

Monthly invitations to General Meetings that occur on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, and feature a Guest Speaker. There are no meetings in July or August and the June and December ones are social luncheons rather than meetings.

Semi-Annual Branch Newsletter distributed in April and November. Information relevant to BCGREA Members. Sometimes these come from the provincial BCGREA office and sometimes they are only Branch specific. Rarely is there more than one per month, if any.

To ensure you receive the above information:

Make sure emails from bcgrea.victoria@gmail.com are not directed to your SPAM or Junk folder. If you change your email address, please advise us by emailing bcgrea.victoria@gmail.com. Sharon Stewart, Email Director
Email: sharonstew@gmail.com
Tel: 250-658-1424.



TELEPHONE REPORT

Our new telephone coordinator is Rick Morgan, formerly of the Duncan Branch of the BCGREA. The Duncan Branch has folded and Victoria Branch is pleased to have Rick take over the telephone committee. Rick has 12 to 14 volunteers who phone members with meeting reminders.

Rick can be reached 250-748-4193 or danyronen@telus.net.



LUNCHEONS

The June luncheon was held at the Olive Grove Restaurant on W. Saanich Rd. on June 14, 2016. The bruschetta appetizers and their giant size meatballs were very popular. There was an abundant amount of food available and the restaurant even provided lunch container left-overs for many attendees! We sold 48 tickets. Thank you to our members and guests who supported this summer social. The Olive Grove's buffet lunch fee was \$20, with the Branch paying the taxes and tip. Thanks to the donation of those who attended, we sent a cheque to the Dandelion Society charity for \$135.

The Victoria Christmas luncheon is on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 12:00 noon at the Vista 18 Restaurant in the Chateau Victoria Hotel, 740 Burdett Avenue (off Douglas Street). Seating will be available starting at **11:30 a.m.** No early birds please!

This is a wonderful festive opportunity to come share a meal and great conversation with fellow members and their guests. You may even be lucky enough to win one of our many Xmas draw prizes. We will take up a collection for the Dandelion Society at the luncheon.

For free parking you must get a parking pass at the hotel front desk and put it on your car dashboard. There are a limited number of luncheon tickets available for pre-purchase only on a first come first

serve basis. No tickets will be held. This is a very popular event and seating is limited, so to avoid disappointment get your tickets early.

Tickets are still \$20 per person and can be purchased at the General Meeting on November 8th. The Branch will pay the extra \$2/person restaurant lunch fee, plus again also pay the taxes and tip. That is a total lunch saving of \$4.40 extra per person paid by our Victoria Branch!

Tickets may also be requested by mail. Send a cheque payable to "BCGREA Victoria Branch" for the number of tickets required, plus include a stamped/self-addressed return envelope to Vicki White, 11-118 Aldersmith Place, Victoria, BC V9A 7M9.

The deadline for pre-purchasing luncheon tickets and the deadline for receiving payments for tickets is Wednesday, November 30th, unless all tickets are sold out before that date.

Please join us for an amazing lunch buffet (including gluten free options) and enjoy the striking ocean and city views. I look forward to seeing everyone at the December 13th lunch.

Thank you - Vicki White - Director



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Renewal time is rapidly approaching! Those of you not on direct deduction from your pension cheque should mark your calendar and send in a cheque before Jan. 1st to avoid getting a "nag notice" from me. Also those non-direct deduction members that haven't sent in a cheque for 2016 remember that if you haven't paid by the end of the year I have to remove you from the membership.

NOTE: Cheques must be payable to "BC Government Retired Employees Assoc." written out in full. The letter abbreviation is not acceptable at the cheque clearing house.

Questions and Answers:

1. **How do I report a change of address?**
If your address, telephone number and/or email contact address has changed, please ensure that you forward the changes to my attention at 250-744-4275 or kccruickshank@gmail.com. It is also very important for you to notify the Pension Corporation of any changes.
2. **Can I arrange to have my dues paid other than by writing a cheque each year?** You may want to consider having your dues deducted annually from your February pension cheque. Please contact me at 250-744-4275 or kccruickshank@gmail.com to arrange to make the conversion starting in the year 2017. Changes must be made before December 31, 2016.
3. **How can I change from getting a paper copy of The PEN to getting it electronically?** Send an email to the Membership Director at kccruickshank@gmail.com to request the change. Making the change now may not be enough time for the next edition.

Ken Cruickshank - Membership Chair



UPCOMING MEETINGS with GUEST SPEAKERS and EVENTS

Location and time of regular meetings is 2 p.m. at the BCGEU Hall, 2994 Douglas Street. These meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except June, July, August and December.

Nov. 8 - Danda Humphries, Victoria historian
Dec. 13 - Christmas Luncheon, Vista 18

Tentative for the New Year are speakers from Johnson Inc., Purple Shield (estate planning), Income Tax and Hearing Life.

Michael Holbrook - Program Committee Chair

BCGREA Victoria Branch
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Serving the Public Service Retiree

British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association Branch Executive 2016-2017

Chair:	Sarjit Manhas	250-384-9278	sarjit@telus.net
1st Vice Chair	Ken Cruickshank	250-744-4275	kccruickshank@gmail.com
Secretary	Barb West	250-478-5935	barbarawest@shaw.ca
Treasurer	Dawn Jones	250-920-7681	dawnj11@outlook.com
Past Chair	Terry Prentice	250-383-2026	taprentice@shaw.ca

DIRECTORS

Membership & Data Base

Ken Cruickshank -----250-744-4275 kccruickshank@gmail.com

Program Committee

Michael Holbrook -----250-384-5997 mjholbrook@telus.net

House Committee

Suzanne Iverson -----250-592-5991 sliverson@telus.net

Email Committee

Sharon Stewart -----250-208-9012 sharonstew@gmail.com

Phone Committee

Rick Morgan -----250-748-4193 danyronen@telus.net

Social Coordinator

Vicki White -----250-361-0024 vltwhite@shaw.ca

Newsletter

Carol Cullimore -----250-477-4230 grandmagreen@telus.net

Goodwill -Acting

Michael Holbrook -----250-656-7955 mjholbrook@telus.net

Director-at-Large

Judy Hana -----250-220-9430 J.Hanna@shaw.ca

Meetings are held at
2:00 p.m. on the second
Tuesday of the month,
(except June, July, August
and December) at the
BCGEU Hall, 2994 Douglas
Street. Branch lunches and/
or other events are
held in June and December.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.bcgrea.com
