



Victoria Branch Newsletter

B.C. Government Retired Employees Association

Editor: Carol Cullimore

April 2013

CHAIR'S REPORT

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

Sarjit, as President, would not be able to represent our Branch and vote on matters so it was my honour to fulfill those duties. It was a delight to see that all Branches in the Province were able to send delegates including the one Branch that will be dissolved and merged at the end of this month. The day, March 20th had a full agenda. Our Branch Chair, Sarjit Manhas, officiated at this meeting with the same efficiency and authority as she does at our Branch meetings. The meeting was opened with the traditional and respectful two minutes of silence for deceased members.

It was noted that there had been letters sent to both Federal and Provincial Government Leaders addressing a Resolution on Retirement Security coming out of the AGM yet only Federal Government responses were received. A letter had also been received from the Pension Corp informing that our appointee's term to the Board of Trustees was about to expire. A response had been sent to inform them that Lawrence Johnson had agreed to be re-appointed for a three year term. I am confident that we will be well represented to that Board. At this time I must report that Lawrence was not at the Directors' meeting because, for the first time ever, a Board of Trustee's meeting was scheduled at the same time.

A Guest Speaker from the BC Health Coalition, Adam Lynes-Ford, introduced us to his organization and what it does as a non-profit, non-partisan advocate for public health care. The principle focus of his talk was about the Provincial Ombudsperson's reports on senior care. The second of these reports was released about a year ago with 176 recommendations. 141 of these recommendations were directed to the Ministry of Health and to date only four of

them have been acted upon. More information about the BC Health Coalition is available only, for those that have access to the internet, at <http://www.bchealthcoalition.ca/>.

After a break for lunch and to recharge our batteries the Directors continued a discussion that had started earlier in the day regarding membership. Every Branch, whether rural or urban, is facing membership challenges and it was good to be able to share ideas together to help overcome them.

A number of very valid suggestions were put forward and I, as Membership Director for our Branch, will be endorsing and encouraging a number of these in the coming year. Ideas such as hosting a booth at the Saanich Fair (perhaps jointly with Peninsula Branch), posting notices about BCGREA in Senior's Centres, seeking help from Welcome Wagon and a number of other suggestions.

A Resolution was moved, seconded and carried to form a Committee to identify problems, recommend solutions on the issue of membership and recruitment to be chaired, subject to his acceptance, by the Membership Director of Branch 1000 Shuswap/Columbia.

Ken Cruickshank
First Vice Chair and
A/Chair, Victoria Branch
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GOODWILL COMMITTEE

If you know of any member who is hospitalized, sick, ill or injured, please let May Morrison know at 250-465-2780 or mamamo@shaw.ca.



BCGREA TREASURER'S REPORT

As of February 28, 2013

Bank balance	\$17,395
Term Deposits	\$10,405

TOTAL	\$28,339
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Revenue from Dues, Coffee Donations, Interest, Planners & Pins, Donations, Luncheons

Expenses from Office & Postage, Luncheons, Newsletters, Coffee, Donations.



TELEPHONE AND EMAIL REPORT

I would like to thank and provide recognition and information regarding the following people who phone advising members of our monthly meetings:

Vera Blazenko, from Victoria, joined in 1988, with husband, Bill, who is a LIFE member. They wanted to keep up to date with retiree's information and enjoy the interesting and informative programs. Has been a telephoner since 2002.

Carol Cullimore, from Victoria, worked for the Legislative Counsel, Legal Services Branch of Attorney General. Joined BCGREA in 2002 to help with newsletter and keep up to date with info regarding retirees. Has been a telephoner since 2002.

Nadine Derrick, from Montreal, QC, retired from Ministry of Environment, Lands and Water Resources. Joined BCGREA in 2003 as an opportunity to keep in touch and socialize with retired former colleagues as well as attend the meetings and listen to the guest speakers. Has been a telephoner for approx. 18 months.

Sherry Downie, from Calgary, AB, worked for Land and Water BC, Ministry of Environment but retired from Natural Resources Operations. Joined BCGREA in 2012 when friends (retirees) told her about it. Has been a telephoner since March 2013.

John Evans, from Stafford, ENG, worked for Food services at Glendale, Tillicum and Broadmead Lodge, retired in 2003. Joined BCGREA "cause that is what you did when you retired" and to support the Association. Has been a telephoner since 2009.

Noreen Hutchinson, from Indian Head, SK, retired from BC Systems. Joined BCGREA in 1994 to keep

in touch with previous employees and to support the work of the Association. Has been a telephoner since 2003.

Beth Jasper, from Victoria. Joined BCGREA in 1989 and is an HONOURARY member and served on the Board of Directors. Has been a telephoner since 1995.

Jean Kucy, from Windsor, ON, retired from Ministry of Children & Families. Joined BCGREA in 2002, as she supports the concept of an advocacy group that speaks for government retirees and believes that if lots of us join it makes for a stronger voice when we endorse or criticize something. It also keeps her up to date on things that affect us. Has been a telephoner since 2009.

Linda McPhee, from Winnipeg, MB, retired from Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resources Operations. Joined BCGREA in 2010, to be kept abreast of changes regarding BCGREA pensions and to support the lawsuit. Has been a telephoner since 2011.

Shirley Millberg, from Vancouver, was the first patient born in Grace Maternity Hospital. Husband Al was Government Worker. Joined BCGREA in 1983 when he retired. Has been a telephoner since 1985.

Kirby Rimer, from Victoria, retired from Transportation, Headquarters Engineering (Geotechnical). Joined BCGREA in 2002 to support and help senior citizen causes, our community and make sure our benefits were not reduced as promised. Has been a telephoner for 3 or 4 years.

Irene Standal, from Chemainus, retired from BC Ferries. Joined BCGREA in 2009 to get the Medoc Travel Insurance. Has been a telephoner for 2 or 3 years.

Erika Veerkamp, from Victoria, retired from Ministry of Children & Families. Joined BCGREA in 2000 to keep up to date on the latest developments for retirees. Has been a telephoner since 2000.

J.R. Wright, from Islay, AB, retired from Ministry of Health. Joined BCGREA in 1989 to get information regarding retirees. She is a LIFE member and has been a telephoner for approximately 4 years.

Maureen Lundquist is on holidays, therefore information has not been received.

I also want to thank **Alexandra Innes** who has just resigned as a telephoner.

Thanks to all the members who have provided me with their email address. If you have been missed being advised of our meetings, please contact me at 250-384-3481 or at djasper@shaw.ca and I will add your name to our listings.

Thank you – Dale Jasper



LUNCHEONS

The Christmas Luncheon was held at Kitty's Hideway in December. The food was good as usual. The cost for the lunch to those attending was \$20 with the Branch covering the additional \$4 plus the tip and tax. The door prizes were won by Nils Sjoberg, Ebie Bohan, Gerry Gerrard, Linda McPhee, Alec Beattie, Mike Simpson, Joan Stubbington, Kirby Reimer, Julie Lofting, Mary Csordas, Audrey Cinar Glenn, Dyer, Doreen Burgess, Marie Mills, Irene Holbrook, Frank Csordas, Bill Mills, Beth Jasper, Elizabeth Vaillant, Sandra Nickel and Narendra Nagpac. The big door prize basket donated by Tom Martell of Martell Insurance Services (a broker for the Mutual Life Guaranteed Life Insurance) was won by Frank Csordas.

The June Luncheon will be held on June 11, 2013 at 12:00 at the Princess Mary Restaurant, 453 Head Street. There are a limited number of tickets available on a first come first serve basis. Tickets are still \$20 per person and can be purchased at the General Meetings in April and May. The Branch will pay the additional cost of \$5 and the tip and tax. You may also get tickets by mail by mailing a cheque payable to BCGREA for the number of tickets required and a stamp/self addressed envelope to Carol Cullimore, 1906 San Pedro Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8N 2G8.

Monday, June 3rd is the deadline for buying tickets for the luncheon unless all tickets are sold before that date.

We will take up a collection for "Our Place" at the luncheon and your Branch has agreed to match donations made.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

It has been another busy year as the Membership Director. Our membership remains strong but the numbers continue to shrink. Last year at this time our membership was 2,044 and currently we are 2,023 strong. If you know of a colleague or former co-worker who has or is soon to retire why not mention to them the benefits of joining the BCGREA or directing them to the website.

While too numerous to list here we have had many members pass away in the last 12 months. Just as we take a minute at each meeting to

remember those who have passed let's take a moment here to do the same
Rest in Peace!

Address or Personal information changes?

Has your address, telephone number, and/or email address 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 remember to notify the Pension Corporation of any changes.

Are you presently paying your annual membership dues by cheque?

Renewals for 2013 are well underway. If you don't currently pay your dues by having them deducted annually from your February pension cheque you should have received a renewal notification either by email or conventional Canada Post. Contact me if you haven't been notified and/or if you wish to change over to automatic deduction for 2014. Thank you for your consideration.

Ken Cruickshank
Membership Committee



UPCOMING MEETINGS with GUEST SPEAKERS and EVENTS

Location and time of regular meetings is 2 p.m.
at the BCGEU Hall, 2994 Douglas Street.

**April 9, 2013 – Gardening Basics by
Broadmead Dig It – Flowers to Vegetables.**
Urban Gardens and what they mean today.

**May 14, 2013 – Camosun College Foundation,
Sandra Bitz, Advancement Manager – A**
presentation on the Camosun Foundation and the benefits that are made available as a result of our donation/bursary. Some examples of those individuals who have been helped will be given.

June 11, 2013 – Branch Summer Luncheon at the Princess Mary Restaurant, 453 Head Street – see note under luncheons.

**September 10, 2013 – Local Fall Travel
Adventures** – local travel agent to outline local travel adventure on the Island. Have a holiday adventure without the expense and hassle of leaving the Island.