



Victoria Branch Newsletter

B.C. Government Retired Employees Association

Editor: Carol Cullimore

November 2014

CHAIR'S REPORT

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 two minutes of silence for deceased members.

Recruitment and Retention efforts of Nanaimo and Victoria Branches in the updating of the brochure were updated. Guest Speaker was Isobel MacKenzie, Office of Senior's Advocacy, Ministry of Health. Members are encouraged to view the following documents (can be Google searched on the internet):

Improving Care of BC Seniors - An Action Plan

Ombudsman - The Best of Care: Getting it Right for Seniors in British Columbia.

The proposed new Mission Statement was received and approved. It reads,

"The BCGREA is committed to representing all members in good standing of the Association that are in receipt of a superannuation allowance under the *Public Service Pension Act* of British Columbia. Representation includes, but is not limited to, maintaining strong communications and negotiations with the Government of BC and Canada, on behalf of the membership. Members in the Association may also access the services and benefits that accrue through the affiliation of Companies and other associations having specific plans and

services designed for the benefit of retirees in BC and Canada."

Honorary Membership to George Broomfield, Frank Wolfram, Gladys Floyd, Ray and Maureen Hanson, Evelyn Kyle, Br. 400, Sherie Randall, Br. 500, Bonnie Billington and Sheila Halverson, Br. 800, Bill Solberg, Br. 900 and Douglas Carson and Pamela Temple, Br. 2000. MSC

Election:

President - Sarjit Manhas - acclamation

First VP - Ken Pendergast - acclamation

Second VP - Carrie Mulcahy - acclamation

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



GOODWILL

If you know of any member who is hospitalized, sick, ill or injured, please contact a member of your executive with the information.



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LUNCHEONS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Members

For any number of reasons, we lose volunteers from the Executive. Since each Executive has a "job", it becomes difficult to double up on our chores. Please give thought to coming on board, even if it means attending meetings to see how we function before you make up your mind. We always appreciate fresh ideas and your contribution will be welcome.

Sarjit Manhas
Chair, Victoria Branch & President, BCGREA



TELEPHONE AND EMAIL REPORT

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

Sandra Barker, Vera Blazenko, Carol Cullimore, Nadine Derick, John Evans, Murray Galbraith, Kathleen Hadley, Noreen Hutchinson, Beth Jasper, Jean Kucy, Judith Legault, Maureen Lundquist, Anita Malkiewicz, Shirley Mollberg, Elaine Ross, Kirby Rimer, Irene Standal, Erika Veerkamp, J.R. Wright.

Also thanks to resigned phoners: Anne Harrison and Linda McPhee.

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 - Director



The June luncheon was held on June 10, 2014 at Romeo's Restaurant on Blanshard Street. The variety and quality of the food was great and service from the staff was exceptional. We sold 43 tickets and I would like to thank our members and guests who came to support this event. Romeo's buffet lunch fee was \$22 but our attendees only paid \$20, with the Branch paying the taxes and tip, plus subsidizing the extra \$2 per person charge.

Thanks to the generous donations of those who attended plus a matching top-up from the Branch, we sent a cheque to Our Place Society for \$250. We received a very nice thank you letter from them for our donation.

The Victoria Christmas buffet luncheon is on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 12:00 noon at the Vista 18 Restaurant on the 18th floor at the Chateau Victoria Hotel, 740 Burdett Avenue (off Douglas Street). **Seating will be available starting at 11:30 a.m.** Please come out and enjoy the spectacular panoramic views and enjoy socializing with members and friends. I look forward to meeting many of our members at the December 9th lunch. For free parking please get a parking pass at the hotel front desk that you must put in your car. **There are a limited number of luncheon tickets available for pre-purchase on a first come first serve basis.**

Tickets are still \$20 per person and can be purchased at the General Meeting on November 4th. The Branch will again pay the tax and tip. You may also get tickets by mail by mailing a cheque payable to BCGREA for the number of tickets required, along with 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 deadline for receiving payment for tickets is Friday, November 28th, unless all**

tickets are already sold out before that date.

We will take up a collection for Our Place charity at the Christmas Luncheon and your Branch has again agreed to match donations made.

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 January 1 to avoid getting a "nag notice" from me. Also those non-direct deduction members that haven't sent in a cheque for 2014 remember that if you haven't paid by the end of the year I have to remove you from the membership.

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 2015. Changes must be made before December 31, 2014.
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 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. These meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except June, July, August and December

- November 4, 2014 – Victoria Fire Department** – Chris Kelly - Fire Inspector/ Investigator, Victoria Fire Dept. - fire prevention and smoke alarm maintenance.
- December 9, 2014 - Christmas Luncheon** - Vista 18 Restaurant.
- January 13, 2015 - Lan Chen** - focus on estate planning and power of attorney.
- February 10, 2015 - TBA** - topic will be income tax.



BCGREA TREASURER'S REPORT

As at September 30, 2014

Bank balance	\$ 6,238
Term Deposits	<u>\$20,769</u>
TOTAL	\$27,007
Year to date Expense	\$ 662
Year to date Income	\$ 627

We spent \$35 more than we took in.

Expenses for Office & Postage, Coffee, Newsletter, Auditor Honorarium, Mustard Seed Donation.

Income from Dues, Coffee, Interest earned.

BCGREA Victoria Branch
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Serving the Public Service Retiree

British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association Branch Executive 2013-2014

Chair:	Sarjit Manhas	250-384-9278	sarjit@telus.net
1st Vice Chair	Ken Cruickshank	250-744-4275	kccruickshank@gmail.com
2nd Vice Chair	Vacant		
Secretary	Barb West	250-478-5935	barbarawest@shaw.ca
Treasurer	Marie Mills	250-642-5088	mariemills@shaw.ca
Past Chair	Terry Prentice	250-383-2026	taprentice@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.

DIRECTORS

Membership & Data Base

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

Program Committee

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Social Coordinator

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

Newsletter

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

Goodwill

WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.bcgrea.com
