



Victoria Branch Newsletter

B.C. Government Retired Employees Association

Editor: Carol Cullimore

April 2015

BCGREA DIRECTORS' MEETING

March 18, 2015 was the date of the BCGREA directors' meeting. The venue was the South Delta Baptist Church in Tsawassen. Starting at 9:00 a.m., the business meeting was begun with the call to order and introductions all around.

The agenda and the minutes from March 2014 were approved and the correspondence was read out. Sarjit, representing the Association sent a letter to Isobel Mackenzie congratulating her on her appointment as the first Seniors' Advocate by the BC Government, and to express our thanks for her appearance as speaker at the October 15, 2014 AGM.

Sarjit reported to the Directors regarding the recruitment and retention initiatives from Victoria and Nanaimo, namely the new brochures, one-time posters, a roll up banner and a table banner. The roll up banner is available to branches who wish to purchase it at a cost of \$200 (balance to be paid by the provincial office). Only 150 posters were printed and so far only 12 branches have taken advantage of this opportunity. The call was for orders to be placed by mid February, but it still may be possible to get one if you act quickly. Contact Sarjit.

A resolution to amend the Policy for Honorary Membership was put forward for discussion.

"(ii) Active members, with a minimum of ten (10) years continuous paid dues in the Association, through one or more branches, having rendered distinguished service, determined by the Branch, and approved by the Association through resolution during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) are eligible for Honorary Membership.

A Branch shall submit a resolution for Honorary Membership a minimum of 90 days prior to the AGM, to the Provincial Secretary which will be recorded and forwarded to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee, outlining the distinguished service criteria."

This proposed change to the BCGREA Policies and Procedures will be sent to the AGM for approval.

Unfortunately North Okanagan Branch 1300 (Vernon) has had to close. Members may attend meetings at Kelowna Branch 1500 or Columbia/Shuswap Branch 1000. This means we now have 22 branches instead of 26. The underlying reason for dissolution remains the same according to Sarjit in her President's Report. This being members failure to volunteer to fill positions. Members want to have a branch, enjoy the meeting but do not want to step forward to fill the necessary positions.

Provincial Membership Chair, Nancy Stewart still has a supply of Membership and Life pins available for \$3 each. Also she would like your ideas on how to encourage new members to join and how to make new and current members feel welcome and a part of things. If you have ideas, please contact Nancy Stewart at stewa85@telus.net.

We had presentations from BCIMC (BC Investment Management Corporation) and Johnson Medical.

Robert Field, CFA, Manager, Client Services and Lilly Palmieri, CFA, Senior Client Service Consultant gave an overview of BCIMC and the services they provide to us. Mr. Field explained about the company, the importance of investing and how our contributions have provided and continue to provide our pension incomes for the long term. He explained the importance of long term investing.



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He gave these examples of the returns achieved over the past 24 years:

- the 1 year return from Sept. 30, 2014 was 15.4%
- the average return over the past 5 years was 9.7%
- over the past 10 years it was 7.8%
- over the long term, 24 years, the average return has been 8.7%

The Trustee Report indicated that the results of the BC Public Service Pension Plan's valuation shows that the plan is fully funded and is sufficient to pay the current and future lifetime pensions of all members. Another good news item is that an inflation adjustment of 1.8% was approved by the Board of Trustees and now becomes part of the basic pension.

Ms. Palmieri demonstrated how BCIMC is an advocate of "Responsible Investing" meaning that BCIMC takes environmental, social and governance factors into account (ESG) when making investment decisions.

Lisa Hansen and Mark Costales spoke for Johnson Medical. They presented their Annual Report and provided an overview of the MEDOC travel insurance plan and an update for the coming year. The upshot is that due to the factors of inflation and currency there will be some rate adjustments of between 5 and 10% for the upcoming year.

It was a full and enjoyable day. Accommodations were at the Coast Tsawassen Inn and were found to be quite comfortable.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 and will be at the Coast Tsawassen Inn.

Submitted by Michael Holbrook,
Goodwill Committee



TELEPHONE AND EMAIL REPORT

I would like to thank the following people who phone advising members of our monthly meetings:

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, Kirby Rimer, Elaine Ross, Irene Standal, Erika Veerkamp and J.R. Wright. I also want to thank the following resigned telephoner: Sandra Barker.

If you would like to receive a phone call advising of our meetings, along with the name of

the speaker would you please contact me at 250-384-3481 to be added to our phone listing.

If you have email and have been missed, please contact my email - djasper@shaw.ca and I will add your name and email to our listings. Thank you – Dale Jasper - Director



LUNCHEONS

The Christmas Luncheon was held on December 9, 2014 at the Chateau Victoria Vista 18 rooftop restaurant. Their substantial buffet included a nice variety of items which was followed by a large assortment of very yummy desserts. An equal amount of delicious gluten free menu options was also provided. The panoramic city and ocean views were stunning and the restaurant staff were most attentive. We sold 95 tickets. Thank you to our members and guests who attended to support this event. The cost for the buffet lunch was again \$20 with the Branch covering tip and taxes. Thanks to the generosity of those attending we sent a cheque to the United Way charity for \$138.

The large door prize basket donated by Tom Martell (Martell Insurance Services) was won by H. Charnia. The other 29 door prize winners were: G. Sund, J. Gordon, G. Homold, L. MacGregor, P. Alexander, E. Houston, A. Daniels, B. West, D. London, M. Sampson, A. MacManagle, B. Heschuk, S. Lund, D. Sigurdson, N. Derrick, T. Thompson, J. Jasper, A. Beattie, J. Pearson, S. Watts, J. Viszlai, N. Deramo, L. Dickson, M. Mills, V. Blazenko, N. Sjoberg, B. Pletch, M. Anderson and M. Reniero.

The summer luncheon will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 12:00 p.m., at the Olive Grove Restaurant, 4496 West Saanich Road. There will be a limited number of tickets available on a **first come first serve basis**. Tickets will be available for sale at \$20 per person at the April 14 and May 12 General Meetings. Please come out to our monthly meetings to hear our guest speakers and enjoy refreshments with a welcoming social gathering afterwards. I would really love to see more of our members attend.

After April 14 you may also purchase June luncheon 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, V9A 7M9.

Friday, May 29 is the final deadline for buying tickets for the June 9 luncheon, unless all tickets are already sold before that date.

We will take up a collection for our charity group at the summer luncheon. I look forward to meeting you there.

Thank you - Vicki White - Director



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

It has been yet another busy year as the Membership Director. Our membership remains strong but the numbers continue to waiver. Last year at this time our membership was 2,066 and currently we are 2,056 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 BCREA or directing them to the website.

While too numerous to list here we have had 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 change 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 2015 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 2016. 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. These meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except June, July, August and December

April 14, 2015 - Andrew Moore, Director of Canadian Senior Cohousing Society,

www.canadianseniorcohousing.com

May 12, 2015 - Dr. Mark Smith, Chiropractor

June 9, 2015 - Luncheon

September 8, 2015, October 13, 2015 and

November 10, 2015 are unconfirmed but

suggested speakers are: the Reverend Al from the Dandelion Society and the Diabetes Society. Stay Tuned.

Suzanne Iverson, Program Advisor



BCGREA TREASURER'S REPORT

As at February 28, 2014

Bank chequing account \$3,193

Bank savings account \$3,241

Term Deposits \$20,769

Bank balance including term deposits \$27,203

Revenue from Dues, Bank Interest, Refreshment Donations, Luncheons, Sale of Pins and Donations

Expense from Office and Postage, Refreshments, Newsletter Printing and Postage, Honorarium, Goodwill, Luncheons and Donations.



GOODWILL

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

