



Victoria Branch Newsletter

B.C. Government Retired Employees Association

Editor: Carol Cullimore

April 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 Spring Directors' meeting.

Sarjit, as Past President, would not be able to represent our Branch and vote on matters so it was my honour to fulfill those duties. The day, March 23rd, had a full agenda. The meeting was opened by President Ken Pendergast, with the traditional and respectful two minutes of silence for deceased members.

Efficient use of time allowed the President to give his report before our Guest Speakers arrived.

Guest Speakers were:

1. Isobel MacKenzie, Office of Senior's Advocate, Ministry of Health. Refer to the website for a warehouse of information at www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca ;
2. Tom Martell, Martell Insurance Services, speaking about the Guaranteed Life Insurance Plan with a supply of brochures to use at retirement seminars;
3. Lisa Hansen, Johnson Inc., speaking about some of the changes to the various insurance plans administered and to introduce a "Flexible Benefit Plan" (handout). It was moved, seconded and carried that the info sheet about "Thrive" be shared with members inviting input and an expression of interest that will assist Johnson Inc. and the Provincial Executive in developing this product.

A discussion regarding MSP premiums and payment through taxation was conducted. It was moved, seconded and carried that we write lobbying the government to change MSP premiums to a taxation based system. Director's Reports were concluded after lunch as was the Treasurer's Report. There were 2 resolutions discussed by the First Vice President, a.k.a. Resolutions Committee. These will be raised at the fall Annual General Meeting. The first raises the resolution from last fall regarding Cash over DCO Paying Members. It has been proposed that as an incentive to go onto DCO new members electing this option have their initial year's membership dues waived. The second resolution is concerning advertisements, advertorials and requests for member recognition articles. More information will be forthcoming in this draft policy.

Discussion then shifted to Jerry Gosling of Branch 100. This Branch is at risk of dissolving early in 2017 if more members don't step forward to serve on the Executive. Currently nine positions are being filled by two people.

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A draft letter was read and Director's were invited to email suggested changes to Jerry. Other membership issues were shared by many branches, some good, some not so good. Most every Branch is suffering from member apathy.

The Annual General Meeting will be October 18, 2016 at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn.

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 the Acting Goodwill Coordinator, Michael Holbrook at 250-656-7955 or mjholbrook@telus.net with the information.



BCGREA TREASURER'S REPORT

Report to February 2016 -

Bank chequing account	\$3,345
High Int. savings account	\$3,282
Term Deposits	<u>\$21,512</u>

Total	\$28,229
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Income \$7,022 from Bank Interest, Refreshment Donations, Dues, Luncheons
Expense \$11,617 from Goodwill, Office and Postage, Catering, Donations, Luncheons, Newsletter and Bursary Fund.



TELEPHONE AND EMAIL REPORT

Changing your email address?

Please don't forget the BCGREA if you change your email address. Just a quick email to me is all that's required.

Sharon Stewart, Email/Phone Director

Email: sharonstew@gmail.com

Tel: 250-658-1424.



LUNCHEONS

The Christmas Luncheon was held on December 8, 2015 at 12:00 noon at the very popular Vista 18 roof-top restaurant. The surrounding ocean and city views were beautiful and relaxing and the staff service was first rate. We all enjoyed a scrumptious buffet which included a generous variety of items followed by an equally wide assortment of decadent desserts. Several gluten free options were also available.

We sold 106 tickets. Thank you to our members and guests who came out to support this event. The cost for this outstanding buffet lunch was again \$20 with the Branch covering tip and taxes. Thanks to the generous contributions of those attending plus a matching top up from the Branch, we donated \$400 to our Dandelion Society charity.

The large door prize basket donated by Tom Martell [Martell Insurance Services] was won by I. Holbrook. The other 24 door prize winners were: B. Newstead, N. Hepworth, E. Houston, S. Iverson, K. Watkiss, V. Januska, E. Klingspohn, N. Hill, L. Fehr, G. Sund, M. Mills, G. Curren, D. Wallenger, N. Sjoberg, V. White, B. Warburton, C. Zalorfy, P. Garcia, M. Martins, L. Klatt, P. Knapik, J. Kucy, M. Weber and one other whose name was illegible.

The summer luncheon will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at noon, the location and cost will be determined shortly. Lunch seating will start at 11:30 a.m. There will be a limited number of tickets available on a first come first serve basis. Tickets will be available for sale at the April 12th and May 10th General Meetings (after the guest speaker's presentation), with the price/venue details announced at that time.

After April 12th you may also purchase June luncheon tickets by mail, by sending a cheque payable to "BCGREA Victoria Branch" for the number of tickets required. You must also enclose a stamped/self addressed return envelope. Mail to: Vicki White, 11-118 Aldersmith Place, Victoria, V9A 7M9.

Come join us at our monthly meetings and learn useful information from our knowledgeable guest speakers. Coffee/tea and desserts follow with time to socialize. I would really love to see more of our members attend these great monthly educational and social meeting opportunities.

Friday, June 3rd is the final deadline for buying tickets for the June 14th luncheon unless all tickets are already sold before that date.

We will take up a collection for our charity, the Dandelion Society, at the summer luncheon. I hope to see you there!

Thank you - Vicki White - Director



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

It has been yet another busy year as the Membership Director. Our membership remains reasonably strong but the numbers continue to waiver. Last year at this time our membership was 2,050 and currently we are 2,007 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 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 2016 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 2017. Thank you for your consideration.

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.

April 12 - Steve Wallace, Wallace Driving School.

May 10 - Doni Eve, Manager, Health Promotion and Engagement, Healthy Living and Health Promotion Branch re their new website - Ageing Well.

June 14 - Summer Luncheon

September 13 - Simon Harvey, DriveLine Society

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 2015-2016

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

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

House Committee

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

Telephone & Email Committee

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

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.bcgrea.com
