



Victoria Branch Newsletter

B.C. Government Retired Employees Association

Editor: Carol Cullimore

April 2017

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, was not able to attend so it was my honour to fulfill the Director's Duties. The day, April 26th, had a full agenda. The meeting was opened by President Ken Pendergast, with the traditional and respectful 2 minutes of silence for deceased members.

Guest Speakers were:

1. Lisa Hansen and Mark Costales, Johnson Inc. speaking about the coverages that they offer and conducting a draw for a prepaid MasterCard. Ken Pendergast was the winner.
2. Bob Quelch, Hearing Life Canada, speaking about his firm's recent alliance with the BCGREA and the significance of monitoring hearing loss. Note: Hearing aids are not covered in BC but there are other payment options. Exhaust all options before paying out of pocket.

A discussion regarding the Shingles Vaccine reported no changes to coverage at this time.

Correspondence included a letter regarding the conversion from Blue Cross to Green Shield Canada. Green Shield will have a speaker at the fall AGM. Travel insurance within BC which Johnson Inc. hopes to address within the next 5 days, and BC's

plan to eliminate MSP Premiums which was addressed by a handout.

Directors' Reports were presented after coffee followed by a workshop focussing on Membership Recruitment and Retention lead by Reiner Augustin. A review of the 17 recommendations put forward back in 2014 were discussed and enhanced in small table groups as were next steps to move forward. Group findings will be compiled and distributed.

The Annual General Meeting will be October 18, 2017 at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn.

The meeting adjourned about 2:30 p.m.
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.



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BCGREA TREASURER'S REPORT

Report to March 2017 -

Bank chequing account	\$7,900
High int. savings account	\$22,961
Term Deposits	<u>\$10,628</u>

Total	\$41,489
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Income \$19,111 from Bank Interest, Refreshment Donations, Dues, Luncheons

Expenses \$12,345 from Goodwill, Office and Postage, Catering, Donations, Luncheons, Newsletter, Travel expenses and Bursary Fund.



EMAIL REPORT

As only 30 - 40% of our emails sent to Victoria members are opened, it is suspected that many members unintentionally have them misdirected to a SPAM or Junk folder. To ensure you receive emails, please ensure

bcgrea.victoria@gmail.com is marked as a safe address on your email account.

Changing your email address?

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

Sharon Stewart, Email Director

Email: sharonstew@gmail.com

Tel: 250-658-1424.



TELEPHONE REPORT

We currently have 118 phone calls to make to members with information about the general meetings and guest speakers. This number includes 5 spouse/members in the same household. The number of calls is down to 118 from 125 in the previous month. We now have 13 callers, and the average number of calls to be made by each is

approximately 9 to 10 depending on the availability of the volunteers.

New phone volunteers are always welcome, and if anyone is interested please feel free to contact Anne Scott by email at

anneks@shaw.ca or by phone at 250-590-3280.

Anne Scott

Director, Phone Committee



LUNCHEONS

The Christmas Luncheon was held at the popular roof-top Chateau Victoria Vista 18 restaurant on December 13, 2016. We were awed by the panoramic views of the ocean and our beautiful city. It was a lovely, relaxing setting for an outstanding festive meal. The buffet included a large variety of mouthwatering items and an equally wide assortment of decadent desserts prepared under the supervision of Executive Chef, Garrett Schack. The buffet also included several gluten free options. The staff service was first class.

Many thanks to the 106 members and their guests who attended this event. The cost for this wonderful buffet lunch was \$20 with the Branch subsidizing the price and also covering tip and taxes. Thank you very much to everyone who generously contributed to our charity. With a matching top-up contribution from our Branch, we donated \$1,000 to the Dandelion Society.

The 24 winners of our door prizes were: J. Pearson, P. Alexander, C. Hillyer; V. White, S. Pearson, M. Reed, S. O'Connor, S. Barker, S. Gready, G. Sund, C. Gould, M. Csordas, D. Watkis, A. Anderson, M. Anderson, N. Derick, C. Pfening, M. Holbrook, E. Ross, D. Sigurdson, G. Breydons, C. King, B. West and A. Barnes.

We've booked Vista 18 Restaurant again for our next Christmas buffet luncheon.

The summer buffet luncheon will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at noon, at the Lucky Village Chinese and Japanese Restaurant, 100 Aldersmith Place (off Admirals Road). Their menu includes a variety of 25 items, including tea/coffee/pop and dessert. Lunch seating will start at 11:45 a.m. (no early birds please). I hope to see you there! There will be a limited number of tickets available on a first come first serve basis. We will be selling tickets for \$20/person at the May 9th General Meeting (after the guest speaker's presentation).

You can also purchase the June buffet luncheon tickets by mail, by sending a cheque payable to "BCGREA Victoria Branch" for the number of tickets required. You must also enclose a return stamped/self addressed envelope. Mail to: Vicki White, 11-118 Aldersmith Place, Victoria, BC V9A 7M9. **Friday, June 2, is the final deadline for buying tickets and also the deadline for receiving payment** for tickets for the June 13 luncheon, unless all tickets are already sold before that date. We will take up a collection for our charity at the summer luncheon.

Please come join us at our monthly general meetings and learn interesting information from our great guest speakers. Coffee/tea and desserts follow with gluten free and low sugar items included. It's a wonderful opportunity to get together with other members. I would really love to see more of our members attend these great monthly education and social opportunities. 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 2,007 and currently we are 2,000 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 2017 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 2018. 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.

May 9 - Marilyn Webb, Assurance Life - end of life planning

June 13 - Summer Luncheon

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

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House Committee

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Email Committee

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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
