



Victoria Branch Newsletter

B.C. Government Retired Employees Association

Editor: Carol Cullimore

November 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 Annual General Meeting.

The meeting was opened with the traditional and respectful two minutes of silence for deceased members.

Membership Committee recommendation was discussed and we were advised that this was only a preliminary report and to present a final report. Needs further work and participation from all Branch Membership Chairs is essential. Shuswap will chair.

Guest Speakers were Corinne Reckie, Director, Public Service and WorkSafeBC and Ryan Britton, Asst. Director Client Services speaking primarily about new initiatives to automate some Pension Corp transactions through "My Account".

Second Guest Speakers were John Crouse with Mark Costales of Johnson Inc. John spoke about the claims record of the new Health Benefits plan and about the open enrollment commencing October 15 for 2 months. A 42" Plasma TV was given away.

Resolution was proposed that the balance of the law suit Legal Fund be proportionally distributed back to the Branches, moved by Branch 1300. No seconder and the resolution failed.

Honorary Membership to Florence Gilbert, Anna Tremare, Mary Gilbert and David Adams.
Moved/Seconded/Carried

Election:
President – Sarjit Manhas – acclamation
First VP – Ken Pendergast – elected
Second VP – Carrie Mulcahy – acclamation

Appointed again were David Adams, Nancy Stewart, Kathy Torhjem.

Presentation to Fred Bennett as retiring First VP.

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



WELCOME

We have 59 new members who transferred from Cowichan Valley Branch 2600 when it disbanded at the end of June this year. Why? Same people serving on the Executive for the past 10 years and no one stepping up to take on the Chair was the cause. This is what happens when volunteers "burn out". Members who live south of Duncan transferred to Victoria and those north of Duncan were transferred to Nanaimo/Mid-Island Branch. Victoria was offered the dues for those who joined our branch and we said "no". Those moneys were donated to Hospice in Cowichan Valley. Welcome to the new members!!



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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 .



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 Derrick
John Evans
Anne Harrison
Noreen Hutchinson
Beth Jasper
Jean Kucy
Maureen Lundquist
Linda McPhee
Shirley Mollberg
Elaine Ross
Kirby Rimer
Irene Standal
Erika Veerkamp
J.R. Wright

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



**Useful Info –
Public Service Pension Services
PO Box 9460 Victoria BC V8W 9V8**

Phone – Victoria: 250-356-9617

Web – pspp.pensionsbc.ca .

LUNCHEONS

The Summer Luncheon was held at the Princess Mary Restaurant in June. The staff and manager welcomed us back after a few years of having our luncheons elsewhere. The buffet was not as big as it used to be but the food was great and the strawberry pie was delicious. The cost for the lunch to those attending was \$20 with the Branch covering the additional \$4 plus the tip and tax. Thanks to the generosity of those attending and a topup from the Branch we sent a cheque to Our Place for \$300. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Christmas Luncheon

The Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at noon at the Vista 18 Restaurant on the 18th floor at the Chateau Victoria Hotel, 740 Burdett Avenue (off Douglas Street) in Victoria. For free parking, please obtain a parking pass at the hotel front desk that you must put in your car.

Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased at the General Meeting on November 12. The Branch will pay the tip and tax. You can also get tickets by mail by mailing a cheque payable to BCGREA for the number of tickets required with a self addressed stamped envelope to BCGREA, c/o Vicki White, 11-118 Aldersmith Place, Victoria, BC, V9A 7M9

The deadline for purchasing luncheon tickets is Monday, November 30, 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

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 2013 remember that if you haven't paid by the end of the year I have to remove you from the membership.

Question 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 2014. Changes must be made before December 31, 2013.
- 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.

November 12, 2013 – Arthur Murray Dance Studio - Anthony Thompson, Instructor.

December 10, 2013 – Christmas Luncheon at Vista 18 – See earlier note for ticket information.

January 14, 2014 – Enabled Financial Solutions Ltd. – David Chase, Disability Refund Specialist.

February 11, 2014 – Hutcheson & Co. – Ammo Baines, Principal and Chartered Accountant and Tony Theaker, Chartered Accountant.

March 11, 2014 – Parks and Recreation – Nancie Dohan, Coordinator of Environmental Interpretation.

April 8, 2014 – Police Victim Services – Antoinette Warren, Program Director.



BCGREA TREASURER'S REPORT

Report - July 1 – Sept. 30, 2013	
Bank balance	\$ 1,199
High Interest Savings	12,763
Term Deposits	<u>\$10,405</u>
TOTAL	\$31,281
Income	\$ 286
Expense	5,718
Excess of expense over income	\$5,431

Income from Coffee Donations, Dues and Interest
Expenses for Camosun Bursary, Office & Postage, catering.



