

NANAIMO/MIDISLAND BRANCH #600

Branch Executive

Chair:

Lawrence Johnson

1st Vice Chair & Programs:

Roz Kennedy

Secretary:

Kathy Torhjelm

Treasurer:

Gloria Johnson

Membership:

Lea Campbell

Social Activities & Good and Welfare:

Looking for a volunteer

Phoning & Buddy Committee:

Mary McDaid

E-mail Distribution:

Al Jensen



- Report from Branch Chair -

Here we are, still in the middle of a pandemic. Hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to receive at least one dose of the vaccine. Things have not stood still at the BCGREA Provincial level and you should receive a copy of the Spring 2021 edition of "The Pen" the provincial newsletter with lots of good news. Your branch has also attempted to keep things moving along. We have held "virtual" meetings on Zoom in September, November and January. The next scheduled meeting is to be held on Tuesday May 11. At our virtual meetings, we have been drawing five names from the branch membership list to win a gift card from various merchants throughout the branch area. We will continue with these draws until at least we have a chance to meet face to face at the Unitarian Hall. We have received many thank you notes from appreciative members who had their names drawn. Mary McDaid along with the phoning committee has kept the branch "buddy system" functioning, thank you to Mary and her committee.



**MEMBERSHIP REPORT
SPRING 2021
from Membership
Chairperson Lea Campbell**

Happy Spring Greetings to all our Branch 600 Members and a fresh bouquet to new retirees and transferred in members joining our Mid-Island Branch.

This certainly continues to be an interesting year of accepting and learning new online skills, such as Zoom. We also continue to graciously accept everyday changes, such as wearing masks and waiting in lines.

The BCGREA Membership Directors have also seen changes this past year to our registration process and Website page. The new website page also has introduced an online application, streamlining the process.

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We have also received thank you notes from members who appreciate the extra effort from Mary and the volunteers of her committee. If you feel that this group can be of service to you or check on your well being, or if you need information on a service that you are unable to locate, please give them a call even it is just to talk, they will do their best to have your issue resolved.

Roz Kennedy plus one observer (Mary McDaid), represented our branch at the Annual Directors meeting held on Wednesday April 21 via Zoom. Kathy Torhjelm and myself also attended as members of the Provincial Table Officers. We learned that the upcoming issue of "The Pen" will announce a contest to develop an improved B.C.G.R.E.A. logo, refer to Page 4 of this newsletter for details.

Your branch executive will continue to keep you informed of issues and activities however we do need your input so I hope you will try and attend and participate in our "Zoom" meetings. I will forward a notice and the link to the Zoom meeting closer to meeting dates. Hope to see you at the meeting.

In the meantime stay safe and have a super summer.

= GET INVOLVED =

- Report of the Telephone Committee and Buddy Callers -

The Telephone Committee originally was started to communicate Branch info to those members who did not have access to computers. The info was usually to advise members of upcoming meetings and special events. It also communicated important items like changes in our insurance policies or programs offered to the BCGREA members.

We still relay the types of information we did previously, but this service has evolved with the advent of COVID-19 into the Buddy System. The calls have become an opportunity to regularly contact members in order to maintain a personal connection, whether or not they also receive info from emails. Members appear to appreciate the calls and in several circumstances have said they were waiting to hear from us.

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One of our long time callers, Mary Foster, has decided it is time to hang up the phone. She will be missed on the Phone Committee. Mary has been involved in many roles with our Branch Executive for the last 25 years.

The current callers are Lorna Fulton, Peter Kannigan, Dan Murphy, and Tom and Gail Moore. Their continued work is appreciated by the Executive and the members they contact.

If you would like to receive a regular call, whether or not you receive the Branch emails, or if you would like to join the roster of callers, please contact me.

Mary McDaid
mamcdaid@shaw.ca
250 390 0747

MEMBERSHIP REPORT SPRING 2021
from Membership Chairperson Lea Campbell

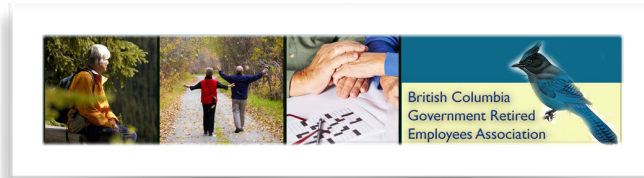
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I recently attended a zoom meeting with other Membership directors of BCGREA. There were several interesting topics regarding the Membership, such as definitions to clarify the types of memberships, ie active, associate, etc. The Sync Program, introduced last year was also reviewed. This program enables us to send and receive updates to Central Registry in a much more secure and confidential process.

I continue to maintain our Branch 600 registry of approximately 500 members. At this time I am currently working on a few friendly reminder letters to those not currently on Dues Check Off (the method of having the annual membership directly paid from the February Public Service Pension Cheque).

If you have any new information, such as email, address or phone number, please send me an email at Tiara@shaw.ca .

I would like to remind everyone of Dr Bonnie Henry's closing remark, Please, “ Be Kind, Be Calm and Be Safe”.



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{ B.C.G.R.E.A. Logo Contest }

This article is reprinted from the B.C.G.R.E.A. website...

In conjunction with the launch of our revised website the BCGREA is running a contest to see if there is interest in developing a new logo for the BCGREA. This would be used on the website and in the masthead of the Pen. Historically we have used the Steller's jay in one of two formats – either as a “crest” or a photograph. We have only limited copyright permissions on the use of the photograph as copyright is owned by National Geographic. This leaves us with the crest, the origins of which are not clear to us and appear to have no specific historical significance.

During the website redesign process, the developer provided us with some options to consider as part of the overall visual package. The website committee did not have a consensus on which design to adopt or whether we continue with a variant of the Steller's jay crest.

In subsequent discussions with the Table Officers a decision was made to open this up to the membership at large for their input and suggestions. Hence the contest and this notice.

So what are we looking for? First and foremost, a logo is a visual representation that captures the essence of an organization or company. Most effective logos are simple and direct – think of Apple, CN, Facebook, Habitat for Humanity, Microsoft, PBS, World Wildlife Federation – they share common elements including being aesthetically pleasing, distinctive, scalable, simple enough to use in various medium – e.g., print, web, banners and look good in colour or black and white. Most importantly – they communicate something direct and identifiable about the organization that attracts people to it. That's what we'd like your input on ...how do we best convey what the BCGREA is about? We are looking for your submissions – they don't need to be fancy artwork or graphic design – a simple sketch will suffice along with why you think it captures the BCGREA will do. Equally we can accept most web friendly formats – jpeg, bmp, etc. Our web designer can take your idea and turn it into something web friendly. Send your questions or ideas to us at Webfeedback@bcgre.ca.

The contest is extended until July 30th 2020. At that point, the submissions will be reviewed by the web design committee and the Provincial Table Officers and forwarded for review by the Directors with a final decision targeted for September. The current Steller's jay as used on the website will be one of the options.

Here are the basic rules: Each submissions must be from a member of the Association. It must be original work and not include any copy written or trademarked material. Any images containing First Nations motifs should indicate if permission to use the images has been obtained. If selected copyright will be held exclusively by the BCGREA. Please retain copies of your submission for your own records.

Based on how the contest evolves, further information may be issued. It will be published on our website <https://bcgre.ca>.