



The Pen

Pensioned Employees Newsletter

www.bcgrea.ca

Spring 2021

President's report

BCGREA launches new website

By Ken Pendergast

Spring is happening, with wonderful sunny weather following yet another peculiar winter, with limited snow and alternating temperatures.

They say only “fools and newcomers” try to predict the weather, so suffice it to say that we will wait to see what this summer brings, with



COSCO's Sheila Pither



possible early drying with potential for another busy fire season throughout the Province.

The BCGREA held our **Spring Directors' Meeting** using Zoom as a means of safely connecting to a total of **57 people**, comprised of **Directors**, all our **Affinity Partners** as well as **COSCO President Sheila Pither**, **BC FORUM President**

Diane Wood, Retired Teachers Association President Grace Wilson, Retired Municipal Employees Association President Terry Erskine and BC College Pension Plan Retirees Association President Mary Griffin.

Each of the Affinity Partners took the opportunity to provide a short update on

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BC GOVERNMENT RETIRED EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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their specific programs and highlights.

Johnson Inc. continues to monitor the situation and impact of COVID 19 on their policy holders with both MEDOC and Prestige, in the attempt to ensure both service and savings for our members.

Collette Travel is a family owned Travel Agency that remains debt free and therefore able to withstand the impact of COVID despite the fact they have not sold any trips for over 13 months.

Collette is ready to roll out a number of vacation opportunities as soon as conditions will allow.

Trip Merchant remains viable, although operating with minimal staff during the Pandemic and is planning to unveil their new Program 2.0 this Fall after attending our AGM.

Trip Merchant has been offering members of the BCGREA the opportunity to enter a number of their Free Trip Programs, with the latest being a free trip to Cartagena.

Hearing Life Canada has announced the addition of eight new outlets throughout the Kootenays. Hearing Life had no coverage in these



Tom Martell

areas previously leaving no access for members within those geographic areas.

New offices are now open and functioning in: **Castlegar; Cranbrook; Nelson; Fernie; Kimberley; Invermere; Grand Forks and Trail.**

ESM (Endless Savings & More) continues to provide a large list of opportunities for members to access savings during their shopping if they take advantage of the listings in the ESM website.

Manulife Insurance, through Martell Insurance, remains a valuable Partner offering Life Insurance to members of the BCGREA.

We also had the opportunity to welcome our newest Affinity Partner, **Tires 2 Go Mobile Shop**, that provides tire service to people in the areas of **Abbotsford**,

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President's Report

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Langley, Chilliwack specifically, and will also respond to requests in Vancouver with a small mileage charge.

Tires 2 Go is also committed



to finding other like-minded Tire Service dealers throughout the Province that may be interested in offering similar service, and partnership savings to members of the BCGREA.

If you haven't taken the opportunity to sign onto our **new Website**, you need to do so ASAP and see what has been happening during the past couple of months with the **BCGREA Website**.

Brian Green and a few dedicated volunteer members of our Association have been working with Vince Dimanno of Figure 8 Websites and Tim Anderson of Alphabet Websites to develop an exciting **new Website for the BCGREA**.

The "Soft Launch" of the Website is available for viewing, while some of the

additional changes and amendments are being "ironed out".

Long standing **Chair of the BCGREA "Recruitment & Retention" (R&R Committee) Terry Burgess** has decided to step down from the Chair. **Allen Coccola** has offered to step into the role of Chair to continue the important guidance the R&R Committee has provided during the past several years.

Thank you Terry for your leadership in helping to enrich the membership and retention of the BCGREA.

You and your committee volunteers are very much appreciated for all the extra efforts applied to improve our administration to **"Stop the Bleeding" and further increase the membership**.

The BCGREA remains optimistic that with the current administration of vaccines we will be able to resume something similar to our regular AGM this Fall. We have therefore scheduled this year's **AGM for October 20th, 2021 at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn**.

More details will be forthcoming regarding the Agenda.

Each Branch should be planning for their delegates to attend accordingly.

Given that the Spring Directors' Meeting for 2020 was scheduled to be in Prince George and was subsequently cancelled due to COVID-19, we still have a number of deposits with airlines as well as a reservation at the Coast Inn of the North in Prince George.

For these reasons, your Provincial Table Officers have their eyes on rescheduling the **Spring Directors' Meeting to be held in Prince George in April 2022**.



Collette's John Goranson

"Good things are happening in the BCGREA" despite the COVID Pandemic.

I look forward to seeing you at the **AGM on October 20th, 2021** in Tsawwassen, BC.

Have a "super summer" while "staying safe" and following the Provincial Health Authority Orders.



By Brian Green
Vice-President

A new version of our website is now up and running. You can find it at www.bcgrea.ca.

We invite you to have a look.

The site has been redesigned in a number of ways including updated graphics, text and reorganization of how material is presented.

We hope that it will be a valuable resource for those who are members of the association as well as those thinking about joining.

If you have friends who are eligible to join we invite you to refer them to the website which provides a full list of the benefits of membership.

You can even apply online without the need to download any forms.

The new website has much greater built in capabilities than previously.

Some of the changes you will see are:

1. A greatly expanded section for each Branch to use as their online communications platform;
2. More automated forms for

membership, subscribing to the Pen and claiming expenses;

3. More informative links regarding our affinity partners and how to get hold of them;
4. Much greater security "under the hood" to prevent misuse; and
5. More ways to communicate with the Association at both the Provincial and Branch level.

Email addresses for individuals are being replaced by ones that

go by position. For example – President,
Branch1200@bcgrea.ca.

This will both improve security and allow easy changes when members of various offices change over time.

As noted elsewhere in *The Pen*, we are sponsoring a logo contest for both *The Pen* and the website and invite your submissions.

Please have a look at the separate article if you are interested.

As always we welcome your comments and they can be addressed to
webfeedback@bcgrea.ca

Books of interest on Amazon

Taylor, Graeme, *A Paramedic's Tales*, 2020, Madeira Park, B.C., Harbour Publishing Co. Ltd.

Paramedics are exposed to a vast spectrum of human experience, often in the most surprising and delightful ways. And the best part of working in this profession is that it is one endless adventure.

You never know what will happen next--where you will go, who you will meet or what you will be asked to do. You show up for work, and life takes you from there, usually at high speed.

Steeves, Gary, *Tranquility Lost*, 2020, Gibsons, B.C., Nightwood Editions

"This book is an important addition to BC's labour history and captures the spirit and determination of union members to protect their jobs and protect the services they provided to vulnerable citizens." ---Glen Clark, former premier of British Columbia. Gary Steeves died in December 2020.

BCGREA LOGO CONTEST – WIN \$100

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

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Applicant must be a BC government retired employee or spouse, aged 50 to 85 inclusive and a resident of Canada.

† Acceptance is guaranteed if eligibility criteria is met, and is subject to receipt of first premium payment.

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Logo contest

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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 2021. 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 submission 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>.

POSITION AVAILABLE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, *THE PEN*

Carrie Mulcahy is resigning as Editor-in-Chief of *The Pen*

The Position Description

- attending Table Officer Executive meetings (as requested);
- attending the Directors' meetings (once a year);
- attending the Annual General meetings;
- preparing reports for these meetings;
- gathering the content for *The Pen*, our semiannual publication (note: the President's report is always part of *The Pen*);
- sending the content to the Editor (Charles La Vertu) for desktopping;
- reviewing the first draft for any changes required and returning to Charles to make changes;
- approving the final draft;
- mailing copies of *The Pen* to the President's List, which numbers about 100 copies;
- paying invoices to Canada Post for any returned paper copies; and
- paying our annual fee to Canada Post

note: as our members' list becomes more accurate Canada Post mailing list is also becoming more accurate. This lessens the number of "returned" Pens

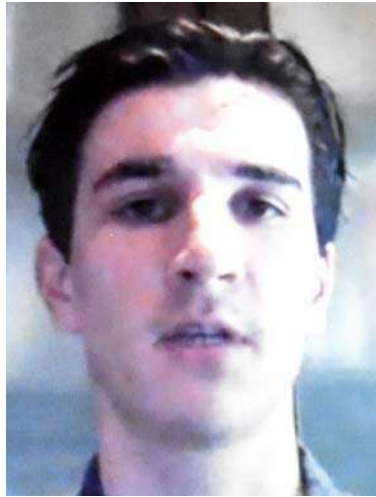
If you are interested, please email Ken Pendergast wkwrp@telus.net

BCGREA has new affinity partner

To ensure your vehicle is safe and ready for the polarized seasons, it is vital to keep up with your tire needs. Tires 2 Go is a mobile tire dealer servicing the Fraser Valley that offers reliable, fast, and convenient service to the comfort of customer's homes.

We carry over 50 leading tire & wheel brands ensuring that we can recommend the best product for each customer's individual driving needs.

We bring our mobile service to you so that you



Tires 2 Go's Ethan Symons

don't have to waste any time waiting for your car to be serviced at a crowded retail location.

With over 15 years of experience in the tire industry, my brother and I have found that the best way to stand out is through fast & friendly service.

Get in touch with us today for all your tire needs!

Call 604-217-9514 or find us at www.Tires2gomobile.com.

A graphic for Tires 2 Go Mobile Shop. It features a background of several rows of tires stacked on metal racks. Overlaid on the center is a circular logo with the text "TIRES 2 GO" in large white letters and "MOBILE SHOP" in smaller yellow letters below it. Below the logo, the text "Take Advantage of Spring Tire Rebates and Exclusive BCGREA Member Pricing" is written in white.

Tires 2 Go provides safe, convenient, and friendly tire services direct to our members.

For details and your quote:

Call: **604-217-9514**

Visit: www.Tires2gomobile.com

Mention you are a member of the BCGREA to learn about your preferred rates.

Currently servicing Abbotsford, Mission, Langley, Aldergrove, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Chilliwack. Tires 2 Go is looking forward to expanding their service area for our members in the future.

Retention and Recruitment Committee seeks new members

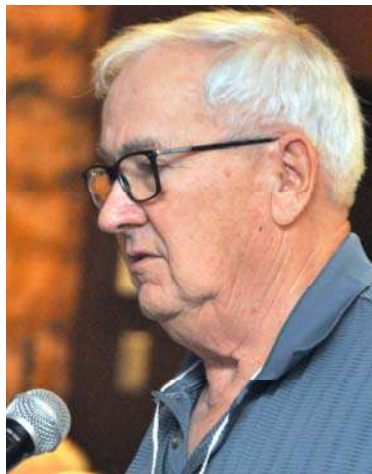
By Al Cocco

The R & R committee, after a 14-month hiatus, had its first zoom meeting on May 5th.

The committee members are:

- Al Barclay, Branch 400 Grand Forks ;
- Bonnie Billington, Branch 800 New Westminster;
- Wilf Brodrick, Branch 2100 Langley/Surrey;
- Al Cocco, Committee Chair, Branch 2500 Peninsula;
- Dave Dyke, Branch 200 Campbell River;
- Brian Green, Branch 1200 Victoria;
- Ron Kerr, Branch 300 Rocky Mountain; and
- Edna Park, Branch 500 Kamloops.

The committee unanimously acknowledged Terry Burgess's contributions and leadership for the past four years and wish him all the best in his "retirement" from the R & R committee.



Terry Burgess

There is room on the committee for a couple more individuals who have an interest in helping.

Just contact any of the members with your areas of interest and a description of the skills that you bring.

Some of the things that came out of the meeting:

Back in February 2020, the R & R Committee put forward a recommendation that the Provincial Body does a cost share, of up to \$500 per branch, for branch R & R events.

Covid-19 shut down that recommendation. The R & R Committee will put forward a more formal resolution to the Table Officers at our next meeting. Hopefully this will go forward to the AGM in the fall.

Plans are being developed to expand pre-retirement activities to include online sessions that discuss the "human aspects of retirement."

This would involve working with other retirement associations.

The concept of having the R & R host online (Zoom) branch meetings was discussed.

Basically providing technical support and facilitation in running a branch meeting.

Possibly providing a speaker and a door prize or two. Perhaps using Kelowna as a test site in late June.

If your branch is interested please contact me.

Will try to make the branches aware of the benefits of the branch web pages that are available on the new BCGREA website and the benefits of using the Campaigner in communicating.

Thanks to everyone for their willingness to help. I think we have an energized group of people, and I look forward to good things and interesting times.

THE VALUE OF Friendship



By Pat Thiesen

We have different kinds of friendships over the years.

There are the ones developed in high school with whom we have kept in close touch.

There are the friends we encountered during our work years whose interests coincided with our own, or joined our widening family, or from our neighbourhood.

And then, there are the friends that have shown up so much later in life who give us support and guidance regardless of age or background as we navigate our retirement years.

What marks out particular friendships is that you sense the relationship is based on respect for who you are, deep down.

True friends have a level of trust between each other and have the confidence to respect personal boundaries.

Having a solid friendship is good for you on many levels.

Contacting casual friends may help you avoid isolation, but it is good friends who help prevent loneliness.

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Loneliness arises when you are feeling separated from other people, feeling empty.

A good friend is there to air and process these feelings and helps you protect your brain and body from stress, anxiety and depression.

Stress, if left unattended, can lead to poor immune health, insomnia, digestive problems, heart problems, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

A chance to share your concerns with a friend who listens and then helps brainstorm possible solutions (or not) can be invaluable.

Having a friend or two like that who cares may prevent our stressors building up and causing significant distress.

Friends offer emotional support by listening — really listening — to your problems.

They validate your feelings and help redirect you when you feel sad or upset.

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Friendship

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A friend might do nice things for you “just because”, the sort of surprise which just might raise your flagging spirits.

Of course it is especially nice when your spouse is your best friend but you should have other friends as well.

They’re needed to allow you to develop interests that deepen who you are – your sense of self.

Good friends can inspire: their positive examples can lead you to give up some

harmful habits or begin healthier ones leading to greater self confidence and happiness.

They are great cheerleaders fostering in you those wonderful feelings of belonging.

As they care about you, your level of self-confidence is elevated making you feel so much better as the days go by.

Life has so much more meaning when you have friends whether they are your next-door neighbour or scattered all over the globe.

Friends that are there

through your joys and traumas are a blessing that should be treasured, appreciated and cultivated.

Yes, those valuable people in your life can grow with you, trust you, forgive your many quirks and foibles, respect and support you no matter what transpires.

If you have had a good friend in your life, you have, most assuredly, benefitted from the value that friendship bestowed upon you.

— *Permission to reprint this article received from both the author Pat Thiessen and the BCRTA*

SAVING STARTS AT HOME.



"I bury my savings in the backyard, or between couch cushions."

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In memoriam

The Pen will publish a list of all members who have died recently of whom we are aware.

Information will be limited to name, Branch and month/year of death to preserve privacy and to help prevent identity theft or solicitations of the bereaved family.

Asterisk indicates we not sure of date of death. Dates have been received from the Pension Corporation and online obituaries.

Oct. 23 2020 – 2 May 2021

Branch 100

Donald Lewis Hickmott (*)

Branch 200

Barbara Custance (*)
Joseph Haits (2021)
Annie Teresa (Terry) Monroe (2021)
Arthur Louis Popp (*)
Michael Patrick Cannon (2020)

Branch 300

Patrick John Mahood (2020)
Richard Edward (Ted) Phillips (2020)

Branch 500

Harry Helmut Loerke (2020)
James Donald Mewhort (*)
Elfrieda C Mobbs (2021)
Robert J Russell (2021)
Verne A Sundstrom (2021)

Eugenie Ruth Wilson (2020)

Branch 600

Joyce P Grabinsky (2020)
Iver Henry Krogstad (2020)
Martin Thomas Liddell (2020)
David Earl McKellar (2020)
Thomas P O'Sullivan (2020)
James Sutton (2020)
Howard L Webber (2020)

Branch 700

Mona Casemore (2020)
Dee Cook (2021)
Edith (Anne) Farrell-Webb (2021)
William Stewart King (2020)
Andy Anthony Peloso (2021)

Branch 800

Margaret Luella Anderson (2020)
Anna Marie Beveridge (2020)
Gary Robert Bronson (2020)
Maria Lourdes Cruz (2021)
Betty Louise Gillespie (2020)
Margaret M E G McCoach (2021)
James Jaswant Singh Pannu (2020)
Phyllis Margaret Pullen (2020)
Nesta Picton Puls (2021)

Branch 900

(Keith) Douglas Chanin (2020)
Theodore R (Bob) Gibbs (2020)
John (Jack) Thomas Lay (2020)
Fredrick N Manson (2020)

Branch 1000

Thomas L Armitage (2020)
Vera Bergman (2020)
Hugh Patrick Kelly (2020)
Alice Faye Lines (2020)
Jason A Ross (*)

Branch 1100

Alan M Clark (2021)
Craig L T Galbraith (2021)
Frederick W Grant (2020)
Angus D Laing (*)
William Forrest Mather (*)
V Lillian Stewart (2020)
John W Toljanich (2020)
Frank Hanlan Ward (2021)
David B Williams (2020)
Trevor John Wright (2020)

Branch 1200

Gary R Ashton (*)
Paul Andre Bernard (2021)
Hilda M Bishop (2020)
Noreen A Braiden (2020)
Kathleen R Bryce (2020)
Willa Eileen Davies (2021)
Hazel Ann Dunham (2020)
Joan C Ellingham (2020)
Elizabeth G Farrington (2020)
Stefan A Graham (2020)
Francis Rothwell Grealley (2021)
E Jean Harwood (2020)
Roy Wilfred Kendall (2020)
Milford Ashley Lightbody (2021)
Alexander S Lukinuk (2020)
Ernest (Hugh) Lyons (2021)
Constance M Meadmore (2020)
Dorothy Margaret Milton (2021)
Patricia Gail Moar (*)
Ralph P Sollis (2020)
Roland H. E. Stieda (2021)
Sidney C Todd (2020)

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In memoriam

(Continued from page 11)

Philip W Wilkinson (2021)

Clare A Young (2020)

Branch 1400

Robert R Kettner (2021)

Branch 1500

Christina Campbell (*)

Margaret E Metzger (2021)

Branch 1600

Curtis Wayne Culp (2021)

Uwe Finger (2020)

Margaret King (2020)

Marnie J Rahn (2021)

Cheryl Rose Vessey (2020)

Branch 1700

Michael Donovan (2020)

Branch 1900

Joyce Kennedy (2021)

Herbert W Quast (2021)

Barry Michael Robinson
(2021)

Percy A Sketchley (2021)

Branch 2000

E Lorraine Smith (2020)

Branch 2100

Joseph (Gerald) Jarosinski
(2021)

Heather A Montgomery
(2020)

J J (John) Post (2020)

Kent A Utendale (2021)

Raymond Glen Warren (2021)

Branch 2300

Ronald (Robert) Nicholls
(2021)

Frederick Wilson (*)

Branch 2400

Alexander Charles Caldwell
(2020)

Donald Trigg (*)

Branch 2500

Don W. Cott (2020)

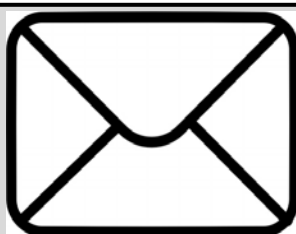
Gary C Harkness (2020)

Philip McRae (2020)

Allan Paul (2020)

Branch 5000

Leslie Weeks (*)



Please
Stay in Touch!

TO OUR MEMBERS

So we may ensure that we keep in touch with you, please let us know of changes in your Canada Post address.

Currently there are a number of issues of *The Pen* returned to us after each issue is mailed.

In order to avoid this, please send us both your recent and new mailing address.

Send to us at either:

BCGREAA
P. O. Box 791
NANAIMO, B.C.
V9R 5M2

or

BCGREAA@telus.net

Thank you for helping us keep up to date.

Josie Byington
Central Support

Monitoring Seniors Services

The **Monitoring Seniors Services** report focuses on key services in the province that fall under the Advocate's legislated mandate.

It highlights where seniors' needs are being met and where improvements are most needed. Access to health care, appropriate housing, adequate transportation, enough income to meet basic needs such as food, shelter and medicines and protection from abuse and neglect are key to the health and well-being of seniors.

This report, first published in 2015, is updated each year reflecting the latest information available.

Monitoring Seniors Services 2020 is the 6th edition and



focuses on 2019/20 data.

Current report highlights:

- The seniors population is generally healthy; 19% are living with high complexity chronic conditions, and only 6% are diagnosed with dementia.
- The number of home support clients increased 1.7%, however this is due solely to short-term home support clients who increased 5% while long-term clients decreased by less than 1%.
- Average and median wait times for clients admitted to long-term care increased slightly, but the number of people still waiting for admission at the end of 2018/19 grew by 28%.
- The property tax deferment program has been growing each year, but in 2018/19 there were fewer new clients for the first time in many years.
- There were 24,233 SAFER recipients, 6% more than last year; 4,458 clients were new recipients.
- 78% of seniors in B.C. maintained an active driver's license. This was 4% more than last year and is consistent with the growth of the seniors population.
- Low income seniors could receive up to \$1,579.21 per month in federal and provincial income supports, an increase of 2% over last year.

The Seniors Abuse and Information Line (SAIL) received 4,372 calls of which 31% were related to abuse, 47% related to non-abuse and 23% were for general information. — Permission granted from Seniors Advocate Office to reprint

WIN A 5-NIGHT HOTEL STAY (INCLUDING AIRFARE WITH AVIANCA*) AT THE LUXURIOUS SOFITEL LEGEND SANTA CLARA HOTEL IN CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA!



The Sofitel Legend Santa Clara Hotel was built on an old convent built in 1621. Voted best hotel in South America as published in the Condé Nast Traveler magazine!

Open to all **BCGREA Members!** Contest closes on June 30th | The Winner will be announced 1 week later! **For full details and to enter this contest [CLICK HERE!](#)**

Password for Access: BCGREATM18

Join Trip Merchant, and the Colombian tourist board on an online presentation to learn about this incredible up and coming travel destination! As well as our 2022 Group Departure! **Presentation Date: May 27th at 9 am PST | 10 am MST | 12 pm EST - To Register [CLICK HERE!](#)**



Membership and Central Support Update

By Al Barclay

We held four Zoom meetings with the Branch Membership Chairs in April and May.

These meetings were limited to a maximum of eight attendees to ensure they had the opportunity to provide feedback on developments and procedures with Central Support; as well, request any

changes that they thought would improve the exchange of information.

We also took the opportunity to update the progress on the Central Membership database and the reports that are available from this database.

We highlighted some of the changes that are taking place

with respect to the new website.

The new design will incorporate masking of personal email addresses as well as removing personal phone numbers and addresses, as they represented a potential security risk.

One of the key added features of the website is the option for new members to complete an online application form.

This reduces costs and delays that used to occur with the mail-in paper applications.

It is also more secure than submitting personal information as attachments to standard emails.

Overall, the Branch Membership Chairs thought this a positive change.

Other topics in the meetings included: discussion and clarification about membership types; dues check off procedures; person IDs that are issued by the Pension Corporation as well as being used by Greenshield; and procedures around welcoming new members.

Several of the Branch Membership Chairs assumed their positions without a lot of guidance and orientation.

(Continued on page 15)

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Membership update

(Continued from page 14)

The chance to discuss some of the procedures for the position was beneficial with more experienced members sharing their experiences and ideas.

I want to thank all of you who participated in the sessions.

Josie and I hope all members will be comfortable approaching us with any questions and ideas that you have.

Our overall membership total continues to drop, and the current restrictions on in-person meetings are not helpful in recruiting new members.

The Pension Corporation is not holding any Approaching Retirement Seminars, so we do not have the opportunity to meet potential new members to tell them about the BCGREA.

I ask all members to spend a couple of minutes thinking of your former coworkers and to ask them directly if they are interested in joining the BCGREA; if you can't meet them directly, then please pass their names and contact information to your local Branch Membership Chair to follow up.

Our new BCGREA.ca website has two videos on the home



Al Barclay

page that expand on reasons to join; as well, affinity partner benefits available to members are discussed.

Josie has been working with Bill Myers to learn more about the Campaigner platform that we originally purchased to send electronic copies of *The Pen*.

It has proven to be a useful tool for distributing emails of interest and saves time

compared to other systems.

The provincial executive has approved a Distribution List Policy to guide our use of electronic communication.

We intend to send it out to all members to let them know how we will use this tool in the future.

This will ensure we comply with anti-Spam legislation.

Please take the time to read the policy when it arrives.

We encourage you to go to the [BCGREA.ca/newsletter-sign-up/](https://bcgre.ca/newsletter-sign-up/) page to set up your personalized email communication preferences.

I hope you all have a good summer and that the vaccine rollout continues to give us more security in the future.

I am optimistic that we will be able to convene in person again before too long.

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card available when you check
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An up-to-date membership
card is needed when checking
in.

Members must make advance
reservations prior to check-in
by calling the direct line of
each hotel/motel in which they
want to stay.

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numbers are as follows – all
have the 250 prefix.

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Vernon	558-5991
Golden	344-7990
Nelson	352-3595
Cranbrook	417-0444
Radium Hot Springs	347-2300

Salmon Arm	833-5800
Rossland	362-7375

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