



MINUTES: Membership Meeting

DATE: September 9, 2025

Location: Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 595 Townsite Road, Nanaimo

1. **Call to Order, 1:30 pm**

Roz Kennedy chaired,

I would like to acknowledge that we gather here today on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

There were 13 members present.

2. **Tom Martell of Martell Insurance** – spoke on life insurance, estate planning and wealth management. Important to seek professional advice. Brochures were handed out. A gift was presented to him. – note-book and a pen. His power point presentation is attached to these minutes

Door prizes – Marilyn Terry and Kathy Torhjelm each received a BCGREA bag and water bottle.

3. **Executive Roll Call:**

x *Lea Campbell* – Chairperson

√ *Roz Kennedy* – 1st Vice-Chair/Programs

√ *Kathy Torhjelm* – Secretary

x *Warren McCormick* - Membership/Treasurer

√ *Chris Crabtree* – Phoning Committee

√ *Maria Noel* – Director, Special Events

4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** By consensus

5. **Adoption of the Minutes of the last meeting:** April 8, 2025. M/S Lawrence Johnson. Roger Terry. Carried

6. **Correspondence:** None

7. **Treasurer Report** – Current balance is \$m4,763.78. Last transaction was payment to Legion of \$248.90 on Aug 12. So gross cost was \$ 648.90

- 8 **Membership Report** - . Warren had received a membership list from Central Office and Chris contacted those on the list to find out their interest in Branch 600. There were several who lived in other communities, numbers not in service, and no email addresses. There are a few new names to add to our phone list.

9. **Telephone Co-Ordinator Report** – *Chris Crabtree* – all is good.

9. **Merchandising** - The executive purchased five more notebooks to give as speaker gifts along with a pen.

10. **Special Events** – *Maria Noel* – see attached. Report on the survey. There was an 8% response to the survey. One suggestion was for more social activities. To that end, we are planning a gathering at Montana's on Sunday, October 26th at 12:30 pm for members to enjoy lunch together.

Christmas Luncheon – December 9th at Rickys (Nicol Street) at 12:30 with lunch served at 1:00 pm. Tickets will be available at the October meeting - \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Please let the executive know if you need a ride. Menu attached.

11. **Guest Speaker** – *Lea Campbell* – October -Sharon Speevak of Elder Dog. November's guest is Stuart Morgan from the BC Pension Plan.

12 **Unfinished Business:** None

13. **New Business:**

14. **Good and Welfare**

15. **Next Meeting**

Next Membership meeting date will be **October 14th**

Location: Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 595 Townsite Road, Nanaimo

October speaker will be Sharon Speevak on Elder Dog.

Reminder that the previous month's minutes can be found on the BCGREA.ca website.
Today's minutes will also be added.

11. **Adjournment** – Lawrence Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:47 pm.

SPECIAL EVENTS SURVEY RESULTS - issued SPRING 2025

Presented by Maria Noel to our members

General Overall Findings

- A survey was sent to 446 current members and 98 spouses, totaling 544 members. We are a "healthy" local.
- Approximately 75% of our members (397 out of 529) subscribed to email at the time of this survey. We have since discovered that some of our members' email addresses (and telephone numbers) are incorrect and therefore need updating.
- Please go online to BCGREA.ca and update your information if anything has changed or help someone who does not know how.
- Response was dismal: 8% (only 20 responses were received)
- I'd like to THANK everyone here who submitted a survey response. We are here to serve you, the members, and as volunteers, everyone has a voice. I believe we can do better as a local in future, despite this very low response rate.

Overall survey takeaway:

Those who attend our luncheons, generally find the luncheons enjoyable, social, and worthwhile continuing. Main barriers identified in the survey to attendance are **distance, scheduling, and lack of interest**. Improvements in **meal variety, accessibility, and event options** could boost participation. Members are open to **more diverse social activities** beyond luncheons.

Our survey results were analyzed by our BCGREA office with the following results:

Our survey summarizes survey results regarding attendance, satisfaction, and feedback on BCGREA luncheons held in 2023 and 2024. The following is a short summary.

Attendance at BCGREA Christmas Luncheons

The survey results indicate varied attendance at the BCGREA Christmas Luncheons for 2023 and 2024, with a significant number of respondents not attending. A total of 14.3% attended in both 2023 and 2024, while 9.5% only attended in 2024. **61.9% did not participate in either luncheon.**

Overall Satisfaction with Luncheons

The overall satisfaction ratings for the luncheons show that a majority of attendees were satisfied, with 50% expressing satisfaction. Notably 75% reported being satisfied or very satisfied. Only 12.5% percent reported dissatisfaction.

Food Quality Ratings

Food quality received mixed reviews, with a notable portion of respondents 85.8% rating it as average or above, each receiving 42.9%.

Venue Ratings

The venue for the luncheons was rated positively, with a significant majority giving it a high score - 71.4% rated the venue as excellent (5) and 28.6 % rated it as good.

Event Organization Feedback

Event organization received favorable feedback, with 66.7% of respondents rating it 5 out of 5 and 33.3% of respondents rating it 4 out of 5. From other comments, only a few people expressed dissatisfaction.

Activities Ratings

The activities at the luncheons were well-received, with 57.1% rating them as excellent and 28.6% as good for a total of 85.7%. This indicates a strong appreciation for the engaging activities offered during the luncheons.

Perceived Value of Luncheons

A majority of respondents felt that the luncheons provided good value for the cost, with 66.7% affirming this sentiment. Only a small number disagreed.

- Yes, good value: 4 (66.7%)
- No, not good value: 2 (33.3%)

Reasons for Not Attending Luncheons

The primary reasons for not attending the luncheons included schedule conflicts and lack of interest. A significant number of respondents indicated they attended at least one luncheon.

- Schedule conflict: 8

- Cost: 6
- Location too far: 6
- Lack of interest: 5
- N/A - Attended luncheon(s): 5
- Other: 4

Interest in Future Social Events

There is a strong interest in future social events, particularly for brunches in Spring and Fall, with 44.4% expressing interest in both seasons. A notable portion of respondents (33.3%) indicated they would not attend.

Suggestions for Future Events

Participants provided various suggestions for future events, including day trips, BBQs, and social gatherings. Many expressed a desire for more engaging activities. Suggestions included:

- Summer outings/potlucks/picnics or BBQs at a beach/park
- Day trips to local attractions
- Social meetings
- Walking events
- Breakfast/brunch gatherings

What People Enjoyed

- Reconnecting with old acquaintances.
- Visiting and chatting with others.
- Meeting new people.
- Good food and a fun social atmosphere.

Suggestions for Improvement

- **Keep prices low**, but some would pay a bit more for better meals.
 - We try to keep our prices low by subsidizing our member luncheons, but we must also realize that the cost of food has been continuously rising and we do not expect this to reverse in the near future.
- Like **small tables** to encourage conversation.
 - We already have a variety of small tables of 4 or larger at our events at the Legion and most restaurants offer this as their standard. ● Try **different formats** (e.g., brunch instead of lunch) ● Add **more meal variety** (not just sandwiches).
 - We have only had a variety of sandwiches with either soup or salad at our Spring luncheon. Our Christmas luncheon has always been a full hot turkey dinner.
- Ensure **rides or carpooling** are available for those who need transportation.
 - We would appreciate it if when events are announced, that you self-identify if you need a ride to our event, and you do not have a car or the bus schedule is not timely. We will let our members know and try to help you out.

Future Attendance

- Many expressed interest in attending **again in the Fall or both seasons**.
- A few declined due to ongoing **schedule conflicts or distance**.
- *It is clear that a majority of our members may not attend or are not interested.*

Additional Comments

- Some members suggested **collecting non-perishable food donations** at luncheons to support those in need.
- A few would like a **branch closer to Qualicum Beach**.
- Several respondents were simply happy with the luncheons and encouraged organizers to “keep up the good work.”

Board Approved Recommendations:

That we implement changes to our current social program to incorporate and address some of our members' concerns. We shall continue to keep our lunch prices as reasonable as we can.

Action Items

1. Lesson learned: Revise the Luncheon Survey -
 - shorter, hand out at meals, collect before everyone leaves
 - Only survey one event, not multiples as that complicates the survey
2. Set up more social get-togethers over food
 - Our **Fall lunch** social get-together will be held on:
Sunday, Oct 26, 2025 at Montana's, Meet at 12:30 pm, Lunch at 1 pm - this allows for churchgoers and those who work during the week time to attend. This is an opportunity for everyone to just socialize, therefore, you can order whatever you want and pay for your own food and beverage.

Would anyone interested in attending this LUNCHEON, Please send an email to marianoel405@gmail.com, with the Subject: *October BCGREA Luncheon*, OR phone me at 778-268-4514 to let me know you are coming so I can advise the restaurant about the number attending by October 20th, 2025..

- **Spring** date can be a Brunch during the week, perhaps March, but not March break
 - **Summer - Optional** - Propose a Potluck Picnic, no BBQ unless someone volunteers to bring a BBQ and either they or another cook the food, in which case perhaps our local can pay for the hot dogs, hamburgers and buns - possible locations Ladysmith, Transfer Beach, or Rath Trevor Beach near Parksville, or Maffeo Sutton Park, Westwood Lake.
3. Other activities: Ex. A walking group, Games get-together, knitting or other such activities we do encourage and are willing to support.
 - However, we need a volunteer leader and organizer from our group at large, for each of these activities if you want them to happen. This is your local.
 4. We are looking for a new Special Activities Director at September's Meeting. Please contact me or anyone on the Board and let them know you are interested. This is not a difficult job and if you like organizing events, then you are perfect for this position.

5. We will be starting to sell our **Christmas Luncheon tickets** at October's meeting: Our subsidized membership price will be \$20 per person, \$25 per non-member. It will be held at Ricky's in the south end of town, individual orders will be taken, and a short seniors menu of will be offered. Members pay us and we will pay Ricky's. Our local will subsidize the luncheon meal itself and the cost of gratuities.

Our Seniors Menu at Ricky's will include -

A 3-course Christmas Luncheon with

A cup of soup

4 main course options

And a mini dessert



Martell Insurance
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