



MINUTES - BCGREA EGM OCTOBER 15, 2025

Sound studio at Gateway Community Church, 2884 Gladys Ave., Abbotsford and by Zoom

Attendance: Table Officers In person – Wilf Brodrick, Tammy Welch, Al Barclay, Kathy Torhjem, Johanna Morrow, Jodine Ducs, Brian Green (via Zoom), Ken Pendergast (Zoom)

Zoom delegates (39):

Mark Perry (100)
Dave Dyke (200)
Katherine Shultz (200)
Debbie Kerr (300)
Morgan Bridger (300)
Dan Harlow (400)
Migs Lovlin (400)
Edna Park (500)
Lea Campbell (600)
Warren McCormick (600)
Allen Pollard (700)
Bonnie Billington (800)
Michael Strath (800)
Darcy McGifford (900)
Kirstine Hill (1000)
Teresa Dobrozdravich (1100)
Rose Kwek (1100)
Sarf Ahmed (1200)
George Bowden (1200)
Jacquie Kotak (1400)

Robert Low (1400)
Grace Kramer (1500)
Sharon Carson (1600)
Art Kaehn (1600)
George Foisy (1700)
Sean Sharpe (1900)
Barry Smith (1900)
Patrick Harkness (2000)
Brian Taylor (2000)
Carol Paulsen (2100)
Renee Poley (2100)
Ron Morley (2400)
John MacLucas (2500)
Mark Poiré (2500)
Susan Powell (2600)
Doug Ramsfield (2600)
Al Cocola (2700)
Lynda Hoel (2700)
Sharon Stewart (2700)

Zoom Observers:

Gary Casperson (300)
Lawrence Johnson (600)
Marilyn Melville (800)
Ann Barry (1200)
Edwin Forbes (1200)
Diane McWilliams (1200)
Susan McGreish (1600)
Ken Schendel (1700)
Michelle Schilling (1700)

Gurkiran Sidhu (2100)
Brenda Forbes (2300)
Sandy Lewke (2400)
Glenn Robinson (2400)
Ian Bedford (2700)
Valeska Campbell (2700)
John Roche (2700)
Murray Jacobs
James Little

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“We acknowledge that we are meeting virtually from locations throughout the traditional territories of the Indigenous Peoples of British Columbia, and do so with gratitude for their care and sustenance of these lands.”

CALL TO ORDER, DECLARATION OF QUORUM, INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS, CODE OF CONDUCT, ZOOM PARTICIPATION*

Wilf Brodrick chaired and welcomed everyone present in person and on Zoom

Brian spoke briefly. He will finish this term, but will not be running for President at AGM in the Spring

Approval of Agenda – M/S Patrick Harkness/Dave Dyck that the agenda as presented be accepted. Carried.

TABLE OFFICERS / COMMITTEE REPORTS

- PRESIDENT – see attached report
- 1ST VICE PRESIDENT – see attached -
- 2nd VICE PRESIDENT- Communications – see attached – The Pen - prize for finding the “jade” in the last edition goes to Ken/Karon Gibbard
- MEMBERSHIP / CENTRAL SUPPORT - see attached. Looking into a group travel package for members. Tall ships – Venice to Rome – see our website or Trip Merchant
- RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION – Bonnie Billington - see attached.
- TREASURER’S AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT –see attached
- TRUSTEE – see attached.

Motion to accept the reports as presented – M/S Morgan Bridger/Sue Powell. Carried

RESOLUTIONS: (See attached for details)

1. Honorarium – M/S Johanna Morrow/Sue Powell that \$21,850 in annual honorariums for 2025 be approved. Carried.
2. Increase of dues – see attached - M/S Al Barclay/Carol Paulson. 75% required. 98 % in favour. Carried.
3. Term of Past President – see attached. M/S Tammy Welch/Lynda Hoel. 75% required. 100% in favor. Carried.

PRESENTATION by FOLKS DIGITAL

The Benefits and Pitfalls of Facebook

GOOD and ORDER and CLOSING REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

11:00. – 1:00 – BREAK FOR LUNCH – DIRECTORS MEETING TO FOLLOW

President's Report – EGM and Directors' Meeting – Brian Green

This report covers the period from April until October. During these months I was involved in the various initiatives that are discussed in other table officer reports as well as working on building alliances with our "sister" organizations.

In September I was unexpectedly hospitalized for two weeks with a resultant serious heart related diagnosis. While I have been released from hospital I will need ongoing treatment and lifestyle adjustments while I am mobile and generally up and about I need to reconfigure my life to adjust to the "new normal" which many of us have to deal with from time to time as we age. Consequently, I will not be standing for office in the spring. Over the next six months I intend to remain involved with the BCGREA but in a lesser capacity, health permitting.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow table officers who have stepped up given this unexpected turn of events. The BCGREA is in good hands. I would also like to thank those who sent personal messages of encouragement

1st Vice-President Report to October 2025 EGM/Directors' Meeting – Wilf Brodrick

I want to start by saying that I am happy that Brian is on the mend and that I sincerely hope he is feeling well enough to return to his duties as President soon.

As you are aware this meeting is divided into two parts, the first being the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). The reason for the EGM is we need to consider resolutions that require the authority of an AGM or EGM.

The first resolution proposes a one time annual Dues increase of \$5.00 per year. We have not had a dues increase for many years, and with the very large increase in membership, and increasing technical demands to properly serve our members at the level they expect, the Table Officers believe this increase is both moderate and necessary. I should mention that the members were strongly in favour of this level of dues increase when asked about in the recent survey.

The second resolution addresses housekeeping changes related to the position of Immediate Past President. We currently make the Immediate Past-President hold the position, with its mandated duties until there is another change in President. That can be many years, no matter how much the person would like to leave. The resolution proposes utilizing the expertise and knowledge of the Immediate Past-President for one year and then letting them move on. The Table Officers have discussed both of these resolutions and support both.

Additionally, there is the housekeeping resolution dealing with Honorariums. This resolution needs to be adopted if Table Officers and Branch Executive members are to receive the specified honorariums for 2026.

For the Directors' meeting part of the day, I hope that we can hear the questions and concerns of those attending. We will do our best to answer your questions and try to address any concerns you may have. If we can't immediately answer any questions, we will do our best to find the answer and communicate it to the members.

On area that I feel needs some discussion is the relevance of some sections of our Bylaws. I would be interested in hearing members' ideas on how we can make the BCGREA work even better.

Recent Activities

I would like to give you a brief recap of some of my activities in recent days. I attended the BC Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA) Conference on behalf of president Brian Green. The guest speakers were very interesting and informative.

Devona Putland, of Moosomin, Saskatchewan gave a very interesting and informative presentation on Age Friendly Cities, and how to make that designation more than just a title.

Crawford Killian, Writer and Tyee Columnist discussed teaching from the stone age to the age of AI, with implications for the future.

Vicki Robinson gave an informative talk on Steps To Consider Before The End (and I don't mean the end of the world).

As a Delegate to COSCO BC, I worked as a volunteer at the COSCO BC Conference, Human Rights and Ageing: Advocating for an Equitable Future. I would like to again thank the BCGREA for being a major sponsor and ensuring the outstanding success of this important event.

There were many powerful speakers and panellists speaking at this Conference. Some of the speakers were:

Susue Chant MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors and Long-Term Care

Margaret Gillis President International Longevity Centre (ILC) Canada and Co-Founder Canadian Coalition Against Ageism

Stephanie McLean MP, Secretary of State for Seniors

Kasari Govender, BC Human rights Commissioner

Dan Levitt, BC Seniors Advocate

Eric Doherty *Transportation Planner, Human Rights, Ageing and Transportation*

The Panel Discussions covered the following topics:

Ageism and Human Rights

Continuum of Seniors Care In The Community

Understanding Inequality for Seniors in BC

Seniors Centres: At The Nexus Of Aging And Community

Transportation

In addition, a dinner was held to celebrate COSCO BC's 75th Anniversary. Comedian Charlie Demers entertained the participants, and a new video produced by Simon Fraser University about the long history of COSCO BC was premiered at the event.

Immediately following this event I attended the National Pensioners' Federation (NPF) Convention, representing the BCGREA. I was joined as a Delegate by 2nd Vice-President Tammy Welch and Langley/Surrey Branch VP & COSCO BC Treasurer Renee Poley (replacing Brian Green). Your Delegates played an active role in the discussion and activities during the Convention.

In addition to discussion on issues of interest to seniors guest speakers included:

Zena Simces Board Member, International Longevity Centre
Dan Levitt, BC Seniors' Advocate
Alex Hemingway, *Senior Economist at BC Policy Solutions*
Chris Chan, TransLink

I believe that this was the first NPF Convention that the BCGREA has sent Delegates representing the organization directly, rather than through COSCO BC, and I feel that it was a worthwhile effort. As I said, I believe our Delegates played an active role in ensuring seniors' issues will be forcefully presented on a National level.

My personal recommendation would be that we continue to affiliate to the NPF, and to take an active role in their activities and campaigns.

BCGREA 2nd Vice President Report for EGM – Tammy Welch

Affinity Partners

I've reached out to the volunteers from our 2025 survey, and we've had several responses to form a committee dedicated to working with our Affinity Partners. This team will have its first meeting in November. The committee will focus on identifying and engaging with potential new partners to secure additional discounts for our members.

Regarding Belair, Lisa Hansen has transitioned to a new role with the BC Retired Teachers' Association. Travis Melnychuk will now be our representative for Belair.

Social Media

We are currently collaborating with Folks Digital to establish our social media presence, including appropriate security and privacy filters, enhance our website's Google visibility, and update the website to feature a dedicated page for webinars, videos, and other relevant information. We are hopeful to complete much of this work by the 2026 AGM.

Conferences/Conventions

I attended the COSCO Conference from October 3-5 and the NPF Convention from October 5-7, both held in Richmond this year. Both events featured packed agendas with many insightful speakers, topics, workshops and networking opportunities. Comprehensive summary reports will be included in the winter edition of The PEN.

Communications Committee/The PEN

Our latest committee meeting was held on September 22, which included six new members from the volunteer list. They are highly engaged and are already working diligently on the winter edition of The PEN. I've heard that many members are looking forward to part two of a couple of articles. Get ready, because they are coming to you in December!

Membership Report to Directors' Meeting – 2025-10-15 – Al Barclay

This report will be brief as it is only 6 months since the AGM.

Membership has decreased to 11,163 at the end of August. Part of the reason for the decrease has been the removal of members who have not paid their dues for the last several years and have not responded to requests for payment.

Following up on the general membership survey that was conducted in March 2025 and reported on by Dr. Richard Brown at the AGM, we requested a breakdown of responses for the Victoria Branch as it is the largest branch in the association. The results were sent to the Victoria Branch executive members in June. Another outcome from the survey was compilation of a list of potential volunteers for committees or roles in the BCGREA at the branch and the provincial level. Reaching out to those potential volunteers is progressing slowly but is ongoing.

The resolution to increase single member dues to \$25 **while holding dues for a couple at \$40** is largely to provide an incentive to have both the contributing member and his or her partner join the association. This should increase our total membership and also help the partners feel that they are participating, active members, with the potential to become involved by volunteering in a role that they enjoy. It also helps to convince a potential new member to sign up their partner at the discounted rate, in the same way that retailers offer “Buy one and get the second at ½ price”, or 60% in this case.

Some branches continue to have difficulty attracting members to serve as new executive members and we are working with those branches to attempt to ensure that the branches continue. Support may be available from the table officers or the recruitment and retention committee for branches experiencing challenges.

Central Support Report

Jodine Ducs continued to expand her role in Central Support (CS). She has shown a willingness to take on additional duties while working with branch executive members to reduce the workload on those volunteers.

When requested, she will coordinate the collection of dues from members who are not on automatic dues deductions from their public service pension cheques and has set up a system that allows people to pay easily using their credit cards. She has also worked with several branches to ensure that meeting notices are sent to all branch members who have subscribed to the Branch News email preferences. This is particularly helpful for smaller branches who do not have a dedicated communications person or for branches that are not comfortable working with the database platform. She attended several branch gatherings in person as a guest speaker and offered branches support to arrange guest speakers for their gatherings.

A recent task that she completed was working with the Nanaimo Mid-Island Branch to publish their branch newsletter (see it at this link: <https://bcgre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Br-600-Newsletter-Fall-2025-Final-for-Email.pdf>). She is willing to assist other branches if they would like to prepare a newsletter for their branch but do not have the experience or computer knowledge.

Another initiative that Jodine continues to work on is the Tall Ships Sailing Expedition in partnership with Trip Merchant. This looks like a great holiday and is an opportunity to travel with other BCGREA members or to invite family and friends to join you. Details are found at: [Join Central Support Jodine Ducs on a BCGREA Hosted Tall Ship Sailing Expedition – British Columbia Government Retired Employees' Association](#)

I am very happy that Jodine has expanded the CS role and worked with the provincial executive and branch executives to reduce the volunteer workload. Any support we can offer these volunteers makes it easier to recruit new volunteers and reduces the burn-out of the current ones.

Recruitment and Retention – Bonnie Billington

Since the AGM in April the R & R Committee welcomed two new members, Terry Dobrozdravich from Vancouver Branch and Sue Powell from Cowichan Valley Branch. We thank Barbara Golder from Victoria Branch who has stepped down from the committee.

The All Branch Chairs Committee held three zoom meetings thus far in 2025, led by George Bowden from Victoria Branch. Topics of discussion have included a proposed BCGREA name change, volunteer recruitment initiatives such as online courses for succession planning and preparing individuals stepping into key roles as well as strategies for distributing BCGREA brochures to potential members. The next zoom meeting is scheduled for Wed. October 29th. Those who have not yet joined this committee are encouraged to contact George Bowden at chair.branch1200@bcgre.ca

Al Coccola and Larry Martin manned a BCGREA booth at the 55+ Games in Nanaimo on September 9th, attracting a few new members to our association and drawing attention from the public as well as interaction with retired teachers and municipal workers at nearby booths. Subsequently Larry received a note of appreciation from MPRA President Gord Ditchburn for visiting their booth, highlighting the value placed on these types of events. Next year the games will be held in Kamloops. Reminder to branch members: Sign up for the *BCGREA Athletics* notices on the BCGREA Members Portal (Email Out section) to receive information on events of interest from around the province.

The Merchandise Committee has been on vacation this summer as most branches have reduced activities. This committee remains the largest within the BCGREA, engaging 20 branch contacts currently. Chairperson Al Coccola expresses thanks and appreciation for their support and involvement. A number of new items will be brought in later this year to help branches celebrate the year end. A decision on the proposed BCGREA name change will impact future plans.

At the last R & R meeting on Sept 11th, the committee discussed the need to move forward on practical strategies for sustainable recruitment, namely a grassroots approach at the branch level and reaching out to the employers of potential members in outside agencies. The committee also approved a joint recruitment funding proposal from Rocky Mountain (Cranbrook) branch and Shuswap/Columbia (Salmon Arm) branch for a luncheon event in Golden on Sept 29, 2025, commending their efforts to reach existing and potential new members from that area.

The next R & R zoom meeting is scheduled for Thursday Nov 20th

Treasurer's Report – Johanna Morrow

Prepared: October 6, 2025

As of September 30th, the provincial finances are on budget for most items and we expect our year end shortfall to be slightly less than projected.

Over the last several years we have been reducing our historical surplus. This had two advantages. Under the Income Tax act, a registered non-profit risks losing its tax exempt status if it "*accumulates excess*

income beyond what is considered reasonable in relation to the needs of the association”¹. Eliminating the surplus removed this risk. The surplus, while it lasted, has also allowed us to avoid increasing our member dues, even while costs were rising. Our dues have remained at \$20 per member, per year, since 2008 while the cumulative cost of living has increased by 46% over this same period².

It is now time to consider a modest dues increase. Without either increasing dues revenue or reducing program spending we could run out of funds by late 2026 or 2027.

I will be presenting our 2025 year end financial statements and 2026 budget at our Annual General Meeting in April 2026. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments, you can reach me by e-mail at: treasurer@bcgre.ca.

¹ Income Tax Bulletin 496R Non-Profit Organizations Section 9. [it496r-e.pdf](#)

¹ Bank of Canada Inflation Calculator [Inflation Calculator - Bank of Canada](#)

Trustee for the BC Public Service Pension Plan Report – Johanna Morrow

Prepared: October 6, 2025

I am pleased to report that our pension plan continues to be well funded and well managed. As of April 30th 2025, our most recent year end, we were 113.4% funded. We have exceeded our actuarial return objective over the one, five and ten year periods. This is good news especially considering the volatile and uncertain economic times we are facing. For more information about how our plan is positioned to weather U.S. tariffs and trade wars, please read the [message from the Chair of the Public Service Pension Board of Trustees](#).

And for those interested in learning more about where our pension funds are invested, our Annual Report provides great information ³about our assets (public markets, private equity, real estate, infrastructure and renewable resources), responsible investing, views on divestment and engagement, and managing investment costs. The 2025 Annual report will be available later in November on the [Public Service Pension Plan website](#).

Due to the ongoing BC General Employees’ Union labour disruption and the nationwide Canada Post strike, physical mail services are currently on hold. This affects the delivery of pension documents and other mailed communications.

For anyone not yet registered with Pensions BC *MyAccount*, now is a good time to do so. Simply go to the [MyAccount website](#) click ‘register now’ and follow the steps. *MyAccount* allows you to view your pension payment details and history, review your retirement health care and/or dental coverage, download your annual tax information, and update your banking information. It also offers a secure communication link with Pension Corporation staff.

Johanna Morrow, MTMS*
Trustee, BC Public Service Pension Plan

**Master of Trust Management Standards (MTMS) credential from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans*

RESOLUTIONS

2025 Honorarium Motion

As per BCGREA policy, I move we approve the payment of \$21,850 for 2025 honorariums for the following positions:

Provincial Level		
	\$ 3,000	President
	\$ 3,000	Secretary
	\$ 3,000	Treasurer
	\$ 1,000	Editor of The PEN
	\$ 1,000	Recruitment & Retention Committee Chair
	\$ 750	Membership Committee Chair
	\$ 1,000	Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chair
	\$ 450	Finance Committee Chair
BR# 100	Fraser Valley (Abbotsford)	
	\$ 500	Past Chair
BR# 200	North Island and Sunshine Coast	
	\$ 400	Chair
	\$ 300	Secretary
	\$ 200	Treasurer
	\$ 200	Director at Large
	\$ 100	Membership
BR# 300	Rocky Mountain (Cranbrook)	
	NIL	
BR# 400	Grand Forks	
	NIL	
BR# 500	Kamloops	
	NIL	
BR# 600	Nanaimo/Mid-Island	
	NIL	
BR# 700	Kootenays (Nelson)	
	NIL	
BR# 800	New Westminster & District	
	NIL	
BR# 900	South Okanagan/Similkameen (Penticton)	
	\$ 200	Chair
	\$ 100	1st Vice Chair

	\$ 100	2nd Vice Chair
	\$ 100	Secretary
	\$ 100	Membership
	\$ 100	Treasurer
	\$ 100	Director at Large
BR# 1000	Shuswap/Columbia (Salmon Arm)	
	\$ 100	Chair
	\$ 100	Vice-Chair
BR# 1100	Vancouver	
	\$ 300	President
	\$ 300	Secretary
	\$ 300	Treasurer
	\$ 300	Membership Chair
	\$ 100	Director at Large
BR# 1200	Victoria	
	\$ 300	President
	\$ 300	Treasurer
	\$ 300	Secretary
	\$ 200	Director at Large
	\$ 200	Director at Large
	\$ 200	Director at Large
	\$ 200	Director at Large
BR# 1400	Peace River (Dawson Creek)	
	NIL	
BR# 1500	Kelowna/Vernon	
	\$ 150	Chair
	\$ 150	Vice Chair
	\$ 150	Secretary
	\$ 150	Membership Chair
	\$ 150	Treasurer
BR# 1600	Prince George	
	NIL	
BR# 1700	Cariboo (Quesnel, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House)	
	\$ 100	Co-chair
	\$ 100	Co-chair
	\$ 100	Treasurer (1/2 year)
	\$ 100	Treasurer (1/2 year)
	\$ 100	Membership/Merch/Secretary
	\$ 100	Quesnel Rep
BR# 1900	Northwest (Terrace, Smithers, Prince Rupert)	

		NIL	
BR# 2000	Cheam View (Chilliwack, Agassiz, Hope)		
	\$ 100	Chair	
	\$ 100	Secretary	
	\$ 100	Treasurer	
BR# 2100	Langley/Surrey		
		NIL	
BR# 2300	Mt. Arrowsmith (Parksville/Qualicum)		
	\$ 100	Chair	
	\$ 100	Treasurer	
	\$ 100	Secretary	
	\$ 100	Vice-Chair	
	\$ 100	Social Director	
BR# 2400	Golden Ears (Maple Ridge)		
		NIL	
BR# 2500	Peninsula & Gulf Islands (Sidney)		
		NIL	
BR# 2600	Cowichan Valley		
	\$ 150	Chair	
	\$ 150	Treasurer	
	\$ 150	Membership	
	\$ 150	Secretary	
	\$ 100	Director at Large	
	\$ 100	Director at Large	
BR# 2700	Western Communities (Langford)		
		NIL	

Increase in Fees

Whereas, pursuant to Article 5 of the BCGREA Bylaws, Annual dues and any changes thereto, shall be determined by a Special Resolution, passed by a majority of not less than 75 percent of the votes cast at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association,

And, Whereas the large increase in our membership in recent years has resulted in the necessity to hire professional help to do work that in the past could be done by volunteers,

And, Whereas over 78% of respondents to the March 2025 member survey supported a \$5 per year increase,

And, Whereas the dues of the BCGREA have remained at the current \$20.00 per year for many years while the costs of providing the level of service our members expect have been steadily rising,

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The annual membership dues of the Association be increased from \$20.00 per year to \$25.00 per year for individual members, and \$40.00 per year for couples, effective January 2nd, 2026, and Be it further resolved that this change be communicated to the British Columbia Pension Corporation so it can be implemented in time for the 2026 Dues Check-Off remittance to the 2026 Dues Check-Off remittance to the Association.

Resolution Related to the Position of Immediate Past President

Whereas the position of Immediate Past President was intended to be a temporary bridge to provide continuity when there is a change in the Officers of the Association,

and Whereas there is currently no time limit on how long a living Immediate Past President can be required to hold this position after leaving the President's position,

and Whereas the Bylaws specify and require an Immediate Past President to undertake certain duties and obligations until a subsequent new President is elected,

Therefore be it resolved that Article 27 of the Bylaws be amended to read: 27. (a) The Directors of the Association shall be the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and the Chairperson of each Branch. (b) Following the election of a new President, the Immediate Past President shall continue as a Director for one year.

And be it further resolved that Article 29 of the Bylaws be amended to read:

29. (a) The Officers of the Association shall be the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary. (b) Following the election of a new President, the Immediate Past President shall continue as an Officer for one year.

And be it further resolved that Article 42 of the Bylaws be amended to delete Section 42(c): "The past president shall chair the nominating committee." And be it resolved that Article 45 of the Bylaws be amended to read: 45(a) The Table Officers shall appoint three members to serve as a Nominating Committee, and name a Chairperson of the Committee