

Recruitment & Retention Committee Report

Director's Meeting Oct 15, 2025

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

Bonnie Billington, Chair