

BCGREA BRANCH 1000 Shuswap/Columbia September 17th, 2026

Meeting and Luncheon at Fifth Avenue 50 Plus Activity Centre

170 Ave. SE Salmon Arm, B.C. 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Kirstine Hill, Chairperson, welcomed 13 members in attendance and called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

Minutes of June 11, 2026 – any errors or omissions: motions to pass, Carol Swank and JoAnn Fowler

Treasurer's Report - Mary Reynolds, Treasurer reported that we have a bank balance of \$1801.68 and passed out a detailed account of debits and credits

Carol Swank, Membership, Chair reported that our Branch 1000 has 169 Members at present

Chair Report given by Kirstine Hill as follows:

a) Ad Hoc Branch Funding committee, September 15, 2026, by Zoom

At the AGM Treasurers meeting held in April 2026, there was strong support for revising the way branches are funded. There was a call for volunteers for an Ad Hoc committee tasked with defining what should be funded and developing a model to meet those needs. A committee comprised of 3 provincial executives, 5 provincial finance committee members and 9 branch representatives, of which I was one, met by Zoom on September 15, 2026. It was a general meeting for discussion and to establish the next steps. To that end, Wilf Broderick, Johanna Morrow and Sarf Ahmed will meet and develop a proposed structure for the committee.

b) Honorariums

There is a BCGREA policy on honorariums and provincial funds. As a branch of less than 400 we can apply for up to \$800. We have submitted a request for the maximum which will be used to cover costs incurred by the executive in the course of their duties and branch functions. This request needs to be voted on and approved at the annual AGM.

c) Branch Chair Meeting, September 16, 2026, by Zoom (recap by George Bowden, Chair)

The meeting of BCGREA Branch Chairs focused on preparing for the upcoming Directors meeting and discussing various operational topics. The Chairs discussed the importance of branch-sponsored activities and events, sharing ideas for increasing member participation and advertising. They also talked about the challenges of organizing events in geographically diverse branches and the need for better support and resources. Wilf provided updates on minor improvements to extended health benefits and explained proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, including the potential reduction in the number of directors and the format of further meetings. The group also discussed ways to help retirees deal with inflation, the use of

affiliate partners and the need for training and orientation for new branch executives. The conversation ended with a plan to hold the next Chairs meeting in November.

Kirstine Hill, Chair, requested input discussion on outreach meetings as our Branch 1000 has a diverse geographic area that we cover. Further discussion planned for the Spring.

Andree Maxwell suggested the possibility of a speaker presenting on Income Tax at our December meeting, all members were in favour.

Discussion on other speaker presentations for the March and June meetings also suggested and passed on to Andree Maxwell. Thank you, Andree, for taking on the task of facilitating speakers.

Jo Ann Fowler suggested Terra Stephenson from LASS (Literacy Alliance of the Shuswap Society) who was interested in coming to one of our meetings as a presenter. Terra could speak on the Dolly Parton Program (a free children's book per month until age 5). In addition, there is a Senior Tech program where Seniors can receive technical assistance with computers from Tech Assistants. She could also speak on LASS and their need for volunteers to work with children who need assistance in learning to read, a BCGREA member may be interested in volunteering.

Horticulture was another possibility that members may be interested.

Also, representatives from Belaire Direct and other Affinity Partners would be welcomed.

Our **Christmas Luncheon Meeting will be Thursday December 10th at the United Church**, please mark on your calendars, more information to come.

Meetings for the New Year 2027 will be Thursday March 11, 2027, Thursday June 10th, and Thursday September 9th, 2027, Reminder notices will be emailed before each meeting.

Our door prize winner was Karen Campbell, Askews Gift Card and Grillers Meats Gift Cards

Kirstine Hill then adjourned the meeting 12:55 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Elaine Koskimaki, Secretary, BCGREA Branch 1000 Shuswap/Columbia