

**BCGREA – Victoria Executive Meeting**  
**September 30, 2021 via Zoom**  
**MINUTES**

**Present: Sarf Ahmed, Brian Green, Gerry Buydens, Valeska Campbell, Laura Lam, Terry Prentice, Sonja Ruffell, Marilyn Spencer, Tammy Welch, Vicki White.**  
**ABSENT: Barbara Golder**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Acting Chair Sarf Ahmed @ 10: 35 a.m.  
Minute of Silence to acknowledge missing indigenous children

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **M/S Gerry/Tammy. Carried.**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the Executive meeting of August 24, 2021 were approved as submitted. Although honorarium went from 5-6 Directors now, no change in amount in budget as Secretary's budget figure is currently empty,  
so that amount covers the extra Director.

**M/S Terry/Gerry. Carried.**

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PRIOR MINUTES:

a) BCGREA Roles and Responsibilities Handbook revision – in process – As per Terry, Barbara will update us with changes.

5. CORRESPONDENCE: None. Barbara has responded to the request for our members to join a protest.

6. DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

a) Treasurer's Report (Tammy) (See attached budget).  
Not much change reported. There is \$5.95 interest in savings account.  
Sarf asked if the \$30,000 Savings account notation could be moved out of expenses and moved to cash balances. This will show on the next report.

b) Membership (Valeska) (See attached)

Membership report was accepted as presented. We are allowed to have a small group at the BCGEU office to help with going through our old file records and blocking out SIN numbers.

Valeska asked for one more additional volunteer as she has 2 already to do this work; Marilyn volunteered. This is for October 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am – 12 PM followed by lunch.

**Motion for the lunch to be covered by BCGREA for Valeska and her three helpers. M/S Sarf/Tammy. Carried.**

c) Communications (email, newsletter) (Brian/Laura)

1) Laura discussed the two campaigns so far – the Ebulletin and the Cosco send out had a successful delivery rate of 95%. Hardly any hard bounces- 7 for the e-bulletin and 0 for the Cosco notice.

It appears that our members are reading our campaigns based on the readership percentages hitting the hyperlinks. All hyperlinks can be tracked and recorded.

2) Cosco- we received 2 requests from members for reimbursement which were sent to the Treasurer.

3) It was agreed to add the Old Cemeteries Society and Gluu Technology to the e-bulletin/website for our members' interest. It was noted that Retired teachers have an alliance with Gluu Technology.

4) The photo contest should be promoted some more and have an extension date of November 11, so that people can remember easily.

5) Once Barbara records her video, our Technical support will upload to our website.

d) Provincial Report (Brian) (see attached)

Brian updated the Board on Provincial activities regarding AGM planning due to tighter restrictions now no longer an in-person meeting but a Zoom meeting.

They will proceed with Isobel McKenzie as Guest Speaker and truncate the sessions into morning and afternoon.

There will be motions to vote on the logo as well as the Elections of Table officers. The Elections will be done via polls using Zoom technology.

No one has applied for Editor in Chief / Vice President. The Association is also looking for a nomination for Trustee for the Public Service Pension Plan as Laurence's term ends March 2022.

There has been one Inter Association meeting, Teachers can do a send out to all retired teachers in their sector. The colleges have done the same.

Tom Vincent noted that the pre-retirement seminars will now be on-line, will need to start working on that with Helen McArthur (Liaison with the Trustees, and BC Pension Corporation).

BC Health Coalition invited the Association to be on a steering committee, that

will be of interest to our members who have an association with Healthcare.

Two of our groups (Vernon, Cheam) are conducting a membership survey; participated on a Zoom call with Sarf. Al Cocolla is involved with the Retention Committee- several branches are having problems recruiting for Executive members.

There was a recommendation that all branches send in last financial bank statements at end of the year (30<sup>th</sup> of June) to the Provincial Treasurer.

Also topic for future speaker presentations for our branch is Heart Pharmacy-Special Authorities/ Drug Reviews for Spring.

e) Program (Gerry)

Gerry provided a verbal update. Regarding upcoming Speakers:

October - Colleen Woodger (ICBC). Also, we should get her to discuss a larger range of issues like ICBC claims, Personal Injury changes, rebates/claims etc to appeal to our broader membership.

November - Isobel McKenzie has been requested, waiting to hear from her office.

In the New Year, for January – Ocean Sciences

February - we would like to get John Adams to discuss his book re: Chinese Immigration to Victoria.

March – Karen Martin (CRA)

April – May – nothing yet but this would be a good time for a Heart Pharmacy presentation.

f) Telephone (Sonja)

Pretty quiet other than 2 members of the phone committee left, so the workload was spread out to the 4 remaining members which amounts to 15-20 calls for each person.

g) Goodwill (Sonja)

7 condolence notes were sent to families of deceased members this month. It was decided not to send out one for a member who passed away in 2018.

h) Social/House (Marilyn).

Christmas lunch at Vista 18 – meeting with the chef this week to determine if they will accommodate us or not. Marilyn is dealing with a new person, and the hotel has been experiencing staff shortages and with

tighter Covid restrictions, we don't know whether people would want to attend- as it is 6 per table, with no inter-mingling, and mask wearing when not eating/drinking,

There was a discussion whether the Board should decide now to go ahead with the lunch considering that the Executive Board isn't meeting

in-person and we are a much smaller group.  
The hotel would need a minimum of people which we can't guarantee.  
After much discussion it was decided that the Board with heavy hearts- **will not go ahead with the Christmas lunch and this will be communicated via the November e-Bulletin.**

**Motion: The Board will not proceed with a in-person Christmas luncheon.  
M/S: Terry/Tammy. Carried.**

Sarf will communicate this to Barbara.

For another discussion at the next Executive meeting we can discuss a virtual Christmas get together, discuss the Christmas draw, rather than have gift baskets, have more gift cards so that people have choices. Or reimbursement of Christmas lunches up to a certain \$ amount like Butchart Gardens.

Tammy and Marilyn to discuss gifts. And Brian/Vicki to discuss virtual Christmas activities or event.

There was also some talk of donating to a Seniors Organization, but Tammy reminded us that this is not an option due to legal opinion given at the Provincial level.

#### 7. PROJECT UPDATES:

- a) Draw for members gift cards this month. Valeska has cleared off the previous winners of gift cards from the database to reflect winners as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

5X\$25.00:

*1020 - EARL LUND  
1272 - RONALD NICHOLSON  
1048 - RAYMOND BIGAUSKAS  
1538 - CHERYL SANDERSON  
1381 - SHELIA PIOTROWICZ*

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS:

This was already covered in the Provincial Report from Brian.

#### 9. OTHER BUSINESS:

Gerry will pick up some gift cards from Bolen Books for the three speakers. Tammy to provide thank you cards.

**Motion: To use Tammy as source of our thank you cards.**

**M/S: Brian/Vicki. Carried.**

**10. NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:**

**October 26, 2021, at 10:30am** via Zoom. Valeska has graciously volunteered to take minutes.

Sarf wanted to communicate to Barbara some intel as to how the Board felt about in-person/Zoom Meetings.

A discussion occurred where the majority liked the Zoom meetings for reasons such as: travel time being non-existent, the time frame works better, and Covid related - prolonged mask-wearing could be fatiguing.

**12. ADJOURNMENT: M/S: Tammy/Gerry @ 11:51 p.m.**

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Acting Chair: Sarf Ahmed

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Acting Secretary: Laura Lam

\_\_October 26, 2021\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved Date

