

BCGREA Branch 2000 Cheam View General Meeting Minutes for April 2023, held at Chilliwack Curling Club, Chilliwack; Tuesday Apr. 18, 2023.

1. **Meeting was called to order** by Gord Griffeth, Chair, at 12:03 pm with 16 in attendance.
2. **Moment of Silence** to honour and remember: past members, friends and family; our military and those we rely on in emergency services. We shall not forget them.
3. **Grace** was given by Pat Harkness.
4. **Opening Remarks** by chair Gord Griffeth;
 - Gord and executive welcomed guest and possible new member, Brian T. Rhodes.
5. **Minutes of Last General Meeting** held Tuesday Mar. 21, 2023 at the Chilliwack Curling Club prepared by Secretary Dawn Stuble, were posted on our website, with extra copies printed and available at the sign in table. No errors or omissions noted, accepted as published on the Branch website.

We paused for lunch served buffet style of soup, assorted sandwiches, and green salad with coffee/tea.

6. **Introduction of Guest Speaker:**

Unfortunately the Chilliwack Museum Representative, S. Belley, cancelled with not enough notice to get a replacement guest speaker.

Fortunately, this allowed us the opportunity to have a very interesting time learning a little bit about each attending member, covering a huge diversity in careers, career changes, locations and backgrounds.

Our small group covered: Highways; Traffic engineering; Road construction; Highways Surveyor; Social Services; Financial Assistant; Youth Worker; BC transit; Heavy duty mechanic; Electrical Inspectors; BC Ferries; First Aid Attendant; Health; various office positions; Field Operations; Safety Officers; Warehousing; Fleet management; Liquor Control; Search and Rescue; Diving with Body Recovery; Reforestation, Tree Seed Centre; Army service; BCIT graduates and teachers; Provincial Emergency program; Defensive driving.

WOW, what an amazing group. Thank you all for sharing. I'm sure we would all agree, we can't wait to hear from more members.

7. **Reports:**

Chair: provided by Gord Griffeth;

- Nothing at this time.

Vice-Chair (and second vice president BCGREA): Patrick Harkness

- Marked by millions worldwide, World Earth Day is an annual event highlighting the serious environmental problems we face, from climate crisis to plastic pollution and deforestation. This year, on April 22nd, organizers are calling to “Invest in our Planet” to high light the urgency for stronger climate action.

Treasurer: Brian Taylor;

- Opening balance for March was \$3,932.73; closing balance was \$3,371.76. Expenses included February (\$416.70) and March (\$546.30) charges for meeting room and lunches at the Curling Club. Income covered interest (\$.03) Deposits of member dues (\$60.00) meals (\$300.00) and 50/50 draw (\$42.00) for a total income of (\$402.00). Accepted as read, C. Rosales seconded.
- “Together with the Provincial executive, we are currently discussing a new funding model for the branches. The current top up of membership in the branches, due to the COVID years and lack of meetings locally, now sees the branches with a lot of money their accounts, and with major initiatives by Provincial (such as a new website, bylaw and constitution review, new member recruitment campaign, new membership system to name a few) a shortage in the Provincial account. We have a designation as a non-profit society, which according to the Society’s Act is just like it says, non-profit! The high branch balances, flies in the face of the Act, and it puts in jeopardy our non-profit status. Branch 2000’s bank balance should actually be about \$1,290.00 based on our current paying membership of 129 x \$10 per member. We now have \$3,371.76. With the current paying membership of 129 with another 96 new members, who will not pay dues until next year (under our new member sign up agreement), with the proposed plan, we will not receive any top-ups from membership dues from Provincial until our branch account balance is reduced to the \$10 per member allowance.” It should be noted we are not being asked to give back money. This proposal will be voted on at the upcoming April Director’s meeting.

Membership: provided by Lynne Dennis;

- Lynne reports that the current membership is at 188. Since the successful recruitment of new members exceeded the capacity of the Campaigner and Sync systems, new alternatives have been tested and a new membership management system has been

selected. We are hopeful that by next meeting that the membership system that has been in transition and somewhat messy will be rectified.

- Lynne regrets to announce that she will be stepping down from her role as Membership director in May.
- Lynne has spent nearly 14 years in this position and should be recognized and commended for her many years of excellent service to Branch 2000.

Secretary: Dawn Stublely;

- See Communication Report. Minutes of General meeting March 21 completed and forwarded to George for posting on Website. 5 copies have been printed and were available at the sign in table.
- Invitation to April's general meeting drafted and forwarded to George for distribution.
- Branch 2000 is seeking a new secretary, as the current secretary is stepping aside with the upcoming May elections. Training can be made available if requested.

COSCO (Council of Seniors Citizens' Organizations of BC): www.coscobc.ca Our branch is a COSCO affiliate. COSCO purpose is to assemble, co-ordinate and advance proposals and resolutions concerning the welfare of elder citizens, and submit them to the appropriate government bodies; and to advance the social and physical welfare of all elder citizens in the province of British Columbia.

- COSCO is affiliated with the 1,000,000 members of the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) which promotes seniors issues at the national level.
- Pat distributed COSCO News March 2023 Number 123 to attending members.
- COSCO is disappointed that the recommendations made by the BC Seniors Advocate, Isobel McKenzie, in the report, BC Seniors: Falling Behind, were largely ignored in the BC Budget. See the COSCO news for more information and lack of inclusion of BC seniors identified in the Budget. Keeping in mind that the one million seniors account for one in five residents in BC.
- COSCO has initiated a Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Communications/Web Master: George Gidora.

- George was unable to attend today's meeting but Dawn reported on his behalf. George had no trouble updating the branch's website with the General meeting minutes from March. Due to some older content on the branch site, George will review and update as needed. In his first distribution of the General Meeting invitation to members by email via Campaigner and Sync, there was a couple of small errors which resulted in the secretary not getting any members responses. George will correct that in further

communications. A new system (FINDJOO) is upcoming for membership and will also be used in email distribution.

Guest Speakers: facilitated by Delores Hiles;

- Pat Harkness provided a short video continuing on our spring theme on Fall Prevention. The video was on the 10 Myths about falls. Pat also encouraged members to exercise 30 minutes per day, which doesn't have to be all at one time and can be broken into ten minute segments with outside activities recommended.

Directors/Past Chairs: Richard Porcina/Peter Maguire;

- Richard spoke to the Curling club representative on behalf of the executive and members, regarding April's awkward round table set up and disappointing lunch content. This discussion resulted in the long rectangular table layout for Mays meeting and although only one soup variety was available there was more sandwich variety and quantity. If any of the members have any input or feedback, please see Richard.
- Peter absent.

8. Old Business:

- See previous reports.

9. New Business:

- The May general meeting will include the executive elections. No guest speaker is currently planned. New volunteers are always welcome. Training and assistance is available, Vacant positions include the secretary and membership director.

Gord spoke to the importance of having executive positions filled and keeping Branch 2000 alive.

"Much like when Peter McGuire decided he would not run for re-election for the position of Chairman, we are now face with Dawn stubley not wanting to run for Secretary. We cannot exist without a Secretary but will have to fold. We must ask, no beg, for someone to step forward and have their name put up for nomination. Elections are at May's General Meeting so please think very seriously about it."

- April 25-26 there will be a joint Provincial Directors Meeting, with additional meetings on the BCGREA Constitution and Bylaws and a provincial treasurers meeting, at the Coast Hotel in Tsawwassen. Attending from Branch 2000 will be Pat Harkness, as our vice Chair and in his role of Second Vice President of the Provincial executive and Brian Taylor, our branch treasurer. The constitution and

Bylaw (Society act compliance) portion will be by both zoom and in person. For more details see any member of the executive.

- We look forward to seeing everyone back next month and please bring a friend.

10. 50/50 Draw: the winning ticket for \$10.50 was won by Donna R., who kindly donated it back to the Branch. Thank you and Congratulations Donna.

11. Next Meetings: Next executive meeting will be Friday May 12, 2023 via zoom, time to be announced. Next general meeting will be Tuesday, May 16, at the Chilliwack Curling Club. May's meeting will include the executive elections and a collection of items for the Chilliwack Food Bank.

12. Meeting adjourned: The meeting was adjourned with a joke from Gord at 1:20 pm.