

# BCGREA Branch 2000 Cheam View General Meeting Minutes for May 2022, held at Chilliwack Curling Club, Chilliwack; Tuesday May 17, 2022.

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1. **Meeting was called to order** by Gord Griffeth, Chair, at 12:05 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. In addition we remember those lost, suffering, fighting and giving aid in Ukraine. We shall not forget them.
3. **Grace** was given by Peter Maguire.
4. **Opening Remarks** by chair Gord Griffeth;
  - A warm welcome and thank you to all members attending today at our first General Meeting since COVID shut us down after our Feb. 18 2020 meeting. Thank you to Peter Maguire for making an extensive search, reviewing and considering our needs selecting the Chilliwack Curling Club as our new venue.
  - We send our thoughts and best wishes for a speedy recovery to long time member, meeting regular and past executive member Val, who could not join us today as she has recently fallen and broken her hip.
5. **Minutes of Last General Meeting** held Feb. 18, 2020 at Canton Garden were not read. Summary of executive meetings and major BCGREA business since that meeting given by Secretary. Introduction of all attending Executive Members.

**We paused for lunch served buffet style including a choice of two soups, assorted sandwiches, and a green salad with a choice of two dressings and coffee.**

## 6. Reports:

**Chair:** provided by Gord Griffeth;

- The BCGREA is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and Branch 2000 has purchased a new banner using the new 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo. Once we get it operational, it will be displayed at meetings and any other occasions such as senior fairs etc.
- A sincere Thank you to all the Executive for their efforts in maintaining the branch through COVID until the return to regular in person meetings, addressing any BCGREA and Branch 2000 business to date.

**Vice-Chair:** Patrick Harkness

- Patrick will be speaking as our Guest Speaker today, in his additional new role as second vice President of the BCGREA Provincial executive. See Guest Speaker.

**Treasurer:** Brian Taylor absent, provided by back up treasurer, Lynne Burger;

- Reviewed the details of the March 2022 financial statement, opening balance of \$4263.67 with 3 cents interest and expense of membership in stamps etc. Final balance confirmed by bank statement, \$4,183.82. Financial Report MSC to accept as read (Peter Maguire seconded) Carried.

**Membership:** provided by Lynne Dennis;

- Membership for Branch 2000 is at 142 members, including two members that have moved and may be changing branches.
- Lynne has produced a May Newsletter full of interesting items including a article from our deceased long time member and gardener extraordinaire, Jack Kouwenhoven. It will be posted on our Branch website, in addition to printed copies being available today. Thanks Lynne.

**Secretary:** Dawn Stuble;

- Dawn gave an overview of the executive's meetings, 15 in total, one held in March 2020 after our last Feb 2020 general meeting, then resuming in October 2020 switching to zoom for a further 14 meetings. At each meeting we consistently had 6 to 7 executive participants. Meeting minutes were taken at each of those meetings. In light of the COVID 19 protocols and no general meetings for new elections, your executive with the support of the Provincial, volunteered to continue on in their positions, to ensure the continuation of Branch 2000. In September of 2021, after many years supporting the Branch and its' executive, Joe Hahn, stepped down from executive. Thank you Joe, for many years of service to the BCGREA Branch 2000 and support to the executive and members.

Other significant items over the last 26 months included the redo of the BCGREA website. The decision to discontinue Branch 2000's own website BCGREACH to rejoin the new revised website. This also included providing review and feedback to the web designers to the Branch layout to ensure it worked for us and our members.

Membership Management revised with provincial talking on larger role in membership listings etc. At the AGM in September of 2021 Provincial Executive elected a new President Brian Green, 1<sup>st</sup> vice President Vince Sherry and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president our own Patrick Harkness. Johanna Morrow was elected Pension Plan Trustee. Part of the new

website and changes to membership management was the introduction of “Campaigner” software for communicating to members. Campaigner training was taken by Dawn, Patrick and Richard with Bill Meyers. The first ever virtual Christmas Party/General meeting was attempted by Executive. Dawn and Patrick, on the request of COSCO, composed letters protesting the return to pay parking at hospitals and forwarded them to the office of the Premier and Minister of Health Adrian Dix. The Provincial forward a Survey to all BCGREA members for feedback. Patrick will provide more information in his upcoming presentation. And with the reconvening of General Meetings and changes in our previous provider due to staffing and cost issues after COVID, resulted in a search for a new lunch meeting venue. Provincial committee requesting assistance in reviewing very outdated bylaws and constitution. Anyone interested, please contact Pat Harkness.

**Transportation:** If you need a ride to meetings or if we can assist in any way, please contact Past Chair and new transportation coordinator Peter Maguire at [pastchair.branch2000@bcgre.ca](mailto:pastchair.branch2000@bcgre.ca) , or any of the executive.

- Nothing further at this time.

**COSCO (Council of Seniors Citizens’ Organizations of BC):** COSCO website [www.coscobc.ca](http://www.coscobc.ca) The BCGREA is a COSCO affiliate and meets monthly at Hastings Community Centre, Vancouver. Branch 2000 contact: Patrick Harkness.

- Patrick attends the monthly zoom COSCO meetings and reports to the executive meeting following. More in Patrick’s upcoming presentation.
- See Handout on the Personal Planning Series. Offered weekly via zoom: June 1 to July 13 2022. Each one needs to be signed up individually but recommended that all are worthwhile. 7 sessions, 7 topics Personal Planning; Advance care planning; powers of attorney; representation agreements; advance directives; palliative care; wills. To register for the session go to this link: <https://seniorshelpingseniors.ca/summer-2022-personal-planning-workshops/>
- Patrick’s involvement with COSCO has let into workshop facilitator. He’s recently facilitating “Stay on the Road” workshops. A great driving review for everyone especially when you turn 80 years old, you’ll have to have a check every 2 years.

**Communications/Web Master:** Rick Porcina.

- The new redesigned BCGREA Website has some changes and we believe it’s a good upgrade. The new Campaigner software, now used for communication with our members, is a learning process. Membership lists and email mail out listings now all are

generated provincially and used for Branch mail outs. Richard has been trained on it as well as Pat and Dawn. You can communicate with Branch executive through the BCGREA website, but clicking on the email button, using unique email addresses for each executive.

- If you haven't already, do check out the new BCGREA web site at BCGREA.ca.

**Guest Speakers:** facilitated by Delores Hiles;

- Delores advised she is ready to go with guest speakers lined up and waiting for the opportunity to speak to us.

**Directors/Past Chairs:** Peter Maguire;

- Peter thanked everyone for coming, it's been a long two years. Fifteen locations were investigated to select a new venue for our General Luncheon meetings. Things considered included location; facility (room size, washrooms, projection screen, sound system); accessibility; parking availability; facility cost; lunch cost and content; availability (open hours); and the willingness to work with us. Chilliwack Curling Club checked all the boxes. We look forward to working with the club and have so far booked the club for the June and Septembers General meetings.

#### **7. Introduction of Guest Speaker:**

We welcome our own vice Chair, COSCO rep and now Provincial 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, Patrick Harkness as today's guest speaker.

As Provincial 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President one of Patrick's duties is editor of the Pen, BCGREA's official Newsletter. The first thing he did was hire a copy writer. That was a huge help. There's a big edition upcoming celebrating the BCGREA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The BCGREA started in 1947 with 50 original members with the desire to request a cost – of – living bonus and to receive free hospitalization and medical care for pensioners between 60 and 70 and to make some provisions for the chronically ill. Pensions back then stopped at age 70.

The BCGREA surveyed members from December 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 to January 22, 2022. The purpose of the survey was to collect data regarding the activities that are a priority for members, and what communication tools and frequency of communications are preferred by members when receiving information from the Association. The analysis of the province-wide survey of the BCGREA membership is now complete. Provincial participation was over 37% which is considered an excellent response. Results are available on the website [www.BCGREA.ca](http://www.BCGREA.ca) under news. There are several breakdowns

from a one page Province-wide Membership Survey, to individual Branch results to all the results. A copy of the one page summary was distributed at the meeting (see below). Our new venue is great for meetings, hosting guest speakers and building social connections.

At our recent Provincial Directors meeting held in person in Prince George April 27, 2022, President's Report spoke about new members and the focus for members is on the three "I's" Insurance, Information and Involvement. There are 24 active branches and 20 branches had involvement at the Delegates meeting.

The BCGEU has now changed their name to better reflect its' members. BCGEU is no longer the BC government employees union but now the abbreviation for the British Columbia **General** Employees Union.

**8. Old Business:**

- See previous reports.

**9. New Business:**

- Feedback from member on issues with extensive use of electronic means of communication to members and some security concerns. This was also reflected in results in Provincial Survey. Rick responded. Many members share this concern including the Senior Advocate.
- Executive elections will be held next meeting. Executive would welcome any member interested in helping out, replacing or joining the executive as a general director.
- Gord concluded the meeting with a joke.

**10. 50/50 Draw:** the winning ticket for \$25.50 was won by Richard Porcina. Congratulations **BCGREA 75 Anniversary swag of 3 fabric eyeglass cleaners were first drawn and tickets returned for the 50/50 cash draw.**

**11. Meeting adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

**The next executive meeting date June 17 via Zoom or if available the Chilliwack Library; General meeting June 21, 2020 at the Chilliwack Curling Club.**

## Highlights of the Survey Findings

Response: 2,858 out of 7,668 members responded; that's 37.3%. Member completion rate was high making the census within +/- 1.45 points and accurate 19 times out of 20.

You've spoken and we've learned what members value and want from their association. In summary,

### **You Consider BCGREA's Most Important Services**

- Representation on the Public Service Pension Plan Board of Trustees
- Newsletters
- Membership in advocacy associations

### **You Want BCGREA to Expand their Efforts to Include**

- Advocating for pension and benefits
- Negotiating for member discounts
- Cooperating with related pension associations

### **You Would Like Your BCGREA Branch Offices to Provide**

- Guest speakers on topics of interest
- Social connections (luncheons, goodwill)

Overwhelmingly, members request that provincial and branch office communications arrive quarterly via email. Understandably, some members over 85 prefer communication via mail.

## **Cheam View Branch BCGREA #2000 Financial Statement March 2022**

<b>1. Opening Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,263.67</b>
<b>2. Income</b>	
a) Interest on Account	\$ 0.03
b) 50/50	
c) Collected for meals	
d) Dues 0 @ \$20	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$0.03</b>
 <b>BALANCE</b>	 <b>\$ 4563.70</b>
<b>3. Expenses</b>	
a) ck #00? L. Dennis postage, envelopes, cards	\$79.88
b)	
c)	
d)	_____
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 79.88</b>

**BALANCE**

**\$ 4,183.82**

**4. Confirmed Bank Balance**

**\$ 4,183.82**