

BCGREA Branch 2000 Cheam View General Meeting Minutes for February 2023, held at Chilliwack Curling Club, Chilliwack; Tuesday Feb. 21, 2023.

1. **Meeting was called to order** by Gord Griffeth, Chair, at 12:00 pm with 20 in attendance (16 members, 3 member spouses, 1 guest).
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 Peter Maguire.
4. **Opening Remarks** by chair Gord Griffeth;
 - Welcome back. We're all extremely sorry that due to the snow storm Dec 20, our Three in One, Christmas, BCGREA's 75th Anniversary and Branch 2000's 25 Anniversary function had to be cancelled. The city also closed all of the recreational buildings and activities that day.
 - Gord and executive welcomed six new members in attendance.
5. **Minutes of Last General Meeting** held Monday Nov. 15, 2022 at the Chilliwack Curling Club were read by Secretary Dawn Stublely. No errors or omissions, accepted as read.

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

6. **Introduction of Guest Speaker:** Patrick Harkness, deferred to later in the meeting.
7. **Reports:**

Chair: provided by Gord Griffeth;

- Gord received a 40 page email attachment providing the Society Act in Preparation for continuing discussions and a joint meeting with the spring Directors meeting, regarding the BCGREA Constitution, Bylaws and policies review (in order to comply with the Society act). The meeting will be held April 25/26 at the Coast Hotel in Tsawwassen.

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

- To follow up on Gord's report, Pat outlined the differences of the BCGREA current Constitution and bylaws compared to the proposed wording changes which would update our constitution to be reflective of the current way we operate. With the

changes we would also meet the requirements of the Society Act. The BCGREA needs to be correctly identified as a member funded society.

Pat forwarded the motion that Branch 2000 support the changes in the Constitution of the Association as outlined. Peter Maguire seconded. No further discussion was requested and the motion was passed by unanimous approval.

Pat forwarded the motion that Branch 2000 support the proposed changes to the BCGREA bylaws as outlined. Brian Taylor seconded. No further discussion was requested and the motion was passed by unanimous approval.

- As second vice president, Pat is also responsible for the BCGREA Newsletter the Pen. There is a new electronic format coming out for information distribution called an “eblast”. Those members using email should be seeing the first edition soon.

Treasurer: Brian Taylor;

- Brian’s report covered the financial statements of November, December 2022 and January 2023. November having the most expenditures including postage, office supplies, Canada post box rental, meeting room costs, with December including COSCO dues. Interest for November was four cents with Dec. and Jan. three cents each month.
- Brian shared our current income and expenditures showing us with an opening November balance of \$4,278.38 and the balance at the end of January at \$3,717.17. Brian moved to have the financial statements accepted as read, Peter seconded, all in favour, passed.
- Brian also would like to thank all the members and branch executive that put so much into the planning for the December’s Christmas, BCGREA and Branch 2000 Anniversary celebration, cut short by inclement weather.

Membership: provided by Lynne Dennis;

- Lynne reports that the membership management system is in flux. Branch 2000 now appears to have 224 members, including those new members not paying until 2024. Membership for Branch 2000 was reported in November at 139 members.
- Sorry to report that Fred Denyer, a Branch 2000 member who was living in Salmon Arm, is deceased.
- Pat reported that the BCGREA recruitment initiative (free membership until 2024) has been overwhelmingly successful from having Provincial membership at 7,400 in October 2022 to 11,000 in February 2023. The huge success has impacted our new Membership reporting system negatively and alternatives are currently being tested.

- Lynne has produced a Branch 2000 February newsletter for us and copies were made available at the sign in desk.

Secretary: Dawn Stublely;

- One of the processes that many organizations are now using as a means to reduce the more formal part of general meetings is to not read the previous minutes out loud at a meeting. Meeting minutes are posted electronically and some printed copies are made available at the next meeting for those not using the branch website. The minutes are referenced, members queried for errors or omissions then accepted as published. If anyone has any feedback to this process please advise executive. Not receiving any negative response, executive will review before initiating.

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.

- See Pat's COSCO report attached below of the AGM Meeting Feb. 10, 2023, where Pat was elected one of four Members-at- Large.

Communications/Web Master: Vacant. Temporarily being covered by Pat and Dawn.

- **We are still actively looking for someone to help with posting articles, information and updates on our web page.**
- Secretary's note: With thanks to Administrative support, Josie Byington, meeting notifications and our branch website is currently being updated using campaigner and Sync when requested.

Guest Speakers: facilitated by Delores Hiles;

Directors/Past Chairs: Richard Porcina/Peter Maguire;

- Peter continues to be our liaison with the Curling Club. For the information of new members, the Chilliwack Curling Club is a relatively new lunch and meeting facility for us as after COVID restrictions were lifted, our previous long time location was no longer able to meet our needs. We're still getting used to our new facility.
- Peter, with all the executive and members (planning on attending) were very disappointed in the necessary cancellation of our December function. In preparation for

our December's special luncheon, Peter reports that the Curling Club was excellent to work with and is open to other menu options for future lunch meetings.

- Richard, nothing at this time

Guest Speaker: Pat Harkness spoke to us about three main scams that often target seniors: 1. Grandparent; 2. Romance and 3. Identity theft. Pat's talk was taken from his role as facilitator with COSCO's side arm and registered charity, the Seniors Health and Wellness Institute (SHWI). The handout to accompany Pat's presentation was posted on our Branch Website as it could not be attached to the meeting notice. Extra printouts were made available after the meeting at the sign in table. All three scams were covered with a power point presentation. In addition, one of our new members, kindly shared details of their personal experience with the Grandparent Scam. Powerful to hear from someone who very nearly was scammed themselves. Thank you so much for sharing your story with us. It really brought home how we can be so easily trapped into a scam. It's not something one should be ashamed of, but needs to be shared with authorities and others to ensure fewer victims. **To report scams and identity theft, contact the Federal Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) at #1- 888- 495- 8501.**

8. Old Business:

- See previous reports.

9. New Business:

- Our six new members attending were asked to introduce themselves and share a little bit about their background. Thank you for sharing and attending February's meeting. It was nice to meet you all and we look forward to seeing you again at upcoming meetings. We hope that one or more of you might be interested in our current or upcoming executive vacancies. It's a great way to meet other members and help out.

10. 50/50 Draw: the winning ticket for \$21.50 was won by past chair Peter Maguire, Congratulations Peter.

11. Next Meetings: Next executive meeting will be Friday March 17, 2023 via zoom, time to be announced. Next general meeting will be Tuesday, March 21 at the Chilliwack Curling Club.

12. Meeting adjourned: The meeting was adjourned with a joke from Gord at 1:45 pm.

Report of COSCO Delegates AGM Meeting 10 February 2023 – Pat Harkness

Guest Speaker:

Bénédicte Schoepflin, Executive Director, Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (CNEPA). **Elder Abuse: Know the Facts:**

Barry Jones introduced Bénédicte, and she gave a presentation about her organization, the CNPEA, with the goal to *Rethink and Reshape* how we view and incorporate aging in our communities. Empower older adults to protect themselves. Build a holistic approach to prevention, intervention, and support across sectors.

Election of Officers:

- 1st Vice-President, Barb Mikulec elected by acclamation.
- Secretary, Albert Lemonnier, elected by acclamation.
- Members-at-Large, four to be elected. Five candidates declared their candidacies but Larry Dea withdrew his. There were no further nominations from the floor.
 - Patrick Harkness, Barry Jones, Rod McIvor and Jean Sickman were elected Members-at-Large by acclamation.

Reports

- Transportation – Jerry Gosling spoke on the “Let’s Ride Initiative,” which promotes the idea of a province-wide not-for-profit public transportation. The Executive approved that COSCO BC is a supportive organization of the initiative.
- Health and Wellness Institute – Barb Mikulec (Attached) Barb announced that the Institute did 29 workshops in January and 205 workshops in 2022.
 - The workshop series “Safety” began on February 1st, with 97 people attending. It is ongoing every Wednesday.
 - AGM will be held in Hybrid on March 3, 1:30 pm, after the COSCO Executive meeting.