

**BCGREA BRANCH 900 MEETING APRIL 19, 2023  
OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AUDITORIUM**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 with Maurice Davidson in the chair and 24 members present.

***Frances introduced our speaker for the meeting—Miyoko McKeown from the Penticton Fire Department's FireSmart team.***

Miyoko's presentation began with some history of the larger wildfires in BC—from 2003 to recent years. She then focused on how homeowners can protect their homes from wildfires. (Sparks and embers can be thrown up to 2 km ahead of a wildfire. These can ignite materials on or near your home, which can be potentially devastating.) Removing vegetation that can easily ignite and replacing it with FireSmart plants is a step that can be taken. FireSmart plant tagging is currently being done at Garden Works, Home Hardware (Penticton), and Flowers on the Bench (Penticton).

A Wildfire Mitigation Specialist can come to your home and provide a free assessment of your property. They will prepare a report with tips for how to make your property more likely to survive a wildfire. Contact the Penticton Fire Department to book an assessment, or if you live in the RDOS, bookings are done on-line through the RDOS website.

Both the City of Penticton (under Fire Services) and RDOS websites (under Emergencies, Fires & Floods) have numerous videos and links on how to prepare for emergencies.

Miyoko also stressed the importance of having a "Grab and Go Bag" ready in the event you are requested to leave your home on short notice.

After a short coffee break the meeting reconvened.

***Minutes of March 2023 meeting:*** Jean advised that the minutes of the last meeting were distributed via e-mail. Moved by Linda Roberge that the minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Cindy Davidson. Carried.

***Treasurer's Report:*** Imre reported that the current bank balance is \$1,838.05. Moved by Paul Perkins and seconded by Elvy Karlstrom that the report be accepted. Carried. Imre gave a brief summary of changes that may be occurring to the financial 'workings' of the Provincial as well as Branch finances. More information will be presented after the EGM and Director's meeting next week.

***Membership Report:*** Frances reported that Branch 900 currently has 272 members. A tidbit of membership data: 42 (15%) of our current members are spousal members, meaning that their partner is the pension recipient. Motion to accept the membership report as read was made by Sharon Hudson and seconded by Bill Burke. Carried.

***Old Business:***

Arrangements to make the annual memorial donation (for 2022) will be made this month. It will go to the Penticton & District Hospice Association in the amount of \$500.00.

***New Business:***

***Resolution for the AGM in the fall:***

Moved by Maurice Davidson, seconded by Lou DiLorenzo.

Whereas: Sharon Hudson has organized and been managing the telephone committee that gets out meeting notices and other information to our members that do not have an e mail address for 20 years, starting from a time when computers were not that common among retired persons.

Over the years as members of her phone committee dropped out and volunteers could not be found to replace them she has gladly taken on further phoning responsibilities herself.

During her membership in Branch 900 she has also planned and participated in many of our social functions.

Therefore: Be it resolved that Branch 900 recommends that Sharon Hudson be awarded honoured member status with the BC Government Retired Employees Association.

Motion passed unanimously.

***Health and Wellness:*** Terri Chambers not present to give report. Sydney Boulton is now at the Summerland Senior Village.

***Good of the Order:*** Larry did a quick recap of the stick-curling championship event in Nanaimo that his team participated in.

***60/40 Draw:*** Once again Frances was the big winner of \$30.00; and Eric Madsen the winner of \$20.00.

***Upcoming Events:***

April 25 and 26: EGM and director's meeting in Tsawwassen. (Maurice attending on behalf of Branch 900.)

***Saturday, May 6:*** The FireSmart Ember Stomp is happening in Rotary Park from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Queen City Eats will be on site serving up food. Come check out BC Wildfire, a FireSmart demo garden, WASP sprinklers, and even goats while you listen to the talented Joshua Smith.

***Next Meeting:*** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. (Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.) Guest speaker will be the Coordinator of the Meadowlark Festival: Paul Lockington.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.