

**BCGREA BRANCH 900 MEETING FEBRUARY 21, 2024
OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AUDITORIUM**

The meeting was called to Order at 10:00 with Maurice Davidson in the chair and 22 members present.

Linda Jones introduced our guest speaker Major Paul Trickett of the Penticton Salvation Army. After a quick summary of the Salvation Army's history, we were given some interesting current facts.

The Salvation Army is present in 400+ communities across Canada.

They also have a presence in 134 countries around the world. Four nations: Canada, USA, New Zealand/Australia & the United Kingdom are supporters of the 134 countries.

The mandate of the Salvation Army is "Help those that are helpless"—something that is being seen more and more these days.

The Penticton Salvation Army serves people throughout the entire South Okanagan and east to Trail.

The Red Kettle Campaign, manned by volunteers raised over \$144,000.00 in 2023. Every dollar donated in this campaign goes back to the Food Bank Program.

Major Paul gave a very interesting presentation on food banks in BC—and how they operate in Penticton. Food insecurity has increased dramatically since COVID for many demographics in our society. (An interesting fact was that a survey completed indicates that less than 15% of people utilizing the food bank at the Salvation Army were unhoused.)

The cooperation between the various food bank organizations in Penticton, as well as the generosity of the grocery stores and other food providers was interesting to learn about. As well, the partnerships with farmers in the area was discussed—no food gets wasted. Meat that is donated by the grocery stores goes into the walk in freezer until it is needed to be distributed. What cannot be consumed by humans is given to farmers for their animals. In exchange the food bank is provided with food items such as fresh eggs.

The Penticton Salvation Army has partnered with the provincial government in preparing for Emergency Disasters that are happening more often. They are waiting for a new service vehicle to assist in providing food to front line workers as well as those displaced by natural disasters. In addition, some supplies are being stored at the facility in Penticton.

Pre-COVID the Salvation Army had approximately 320 volunteers. Currently they have around 140. (Volunteers have 'aged out' or left for other reasons.) The Salvation Army has a need for volunteers for many community projects that they support throughout the South Okanagan.

If you are interested in volunteering in one of the many community projects that the Salvation Army supports, please contact Rosemarie Cargill, the Volunteer Coordinator. (250-492-6494 or e-mail: pentictonvolunteercoordinator@shaw.ca; website: pentictonsa.ca)

After a short break for tea, coffee and Cindy's awesome muffins, the business portion of the meeting commenced.

Maurice introduced and welcomed Darcy McGifford as our new Director at Large.

Treasurer's Report: Imre Horvath reported that the current bank balance is \$568.09.

Moved to accept by Alice Unruh and seconded by Linda Roberge. Carried.

Financial Information provided 'post-meeting':

A summary of the income/expenses for the Christmas luncheon is as follows:

Ticket sales	\$ 1,490.00 (42 members/guests attended)
Less: Luncheon cost	\$ 1,788.40
Less: Cost of gifts	\$ 162.54
Subsidized from bank acc.	\$ 460.00

Membership Report: Bill Myers provided the membership report via e-mail, reported by Maurice. Branch 900 has 277 members with the addition of four new members since November 2023. Moved by Judy Barillaro and seconded by Terri Chambers that the report be accepted. Carried.

Old Business: The 55+ games are scheduled for September 9-15th in Salmon Arm. Stay tuned for an update by Larry Martin.

New Business:

- Pension Plan statements as well as T4A's should have been received by this time. A reminder to take note of the personal id number on your Pension Plan Statement.
- A Pension increase of 4.4% for the year.
- Results of the online vote for delegate allotment to attend Provincial meetings. The majority voted to have just the Chair and one delegate from each branch. (No matter the number of members in the branch.)
- Discussion: Looking for someone to take over coffee-duties. Thank you to Linda Roberge for her help in this role. Linda Jones volunteered to take this on.
- Discussion to change to instant coffee and have tea bags available. (We will supply the hot water, cream and sugar). It was suggested that attendees bring their own mug for coffee/tea to eliminate one-use cups.

Good of the Order: Nothing to report.

Health and Wellness: Nothing to report.

60/40 Draws:

Frances (once again) was the big winner of \$31.25

Cindy was the winner of \$20.75. (Could it be that bringing the delicious muffins has brought her luck?)

Upcoming Events:

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (Our Redeemer Lutheran Church)

Speaker: to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Enclosed: **Get Free Help with Your Income Tax Return**

Get Free Help with Your Income Tax Return

You must meet Canada Revenue Agency's income guidelines. Eligibility is based on your family size and income.

1 person \$30,000.00; 2 persons \$45,000.00 and \$2500.00 for each additional person.

Bring: proof of identity and all income and expense slips.

We do not do returns if you have interest income of more than \$100.00, if you are self-employed, have business income, have filed for bankruptcy or complete returns for a deceased person.

By Appointment Only (No Drop-Ins)

Sign up at the Seniors Drop-In Centre or
email Brigid at : bmjkh44@gmail.com

This income tax clinic is a free service at the Penticton Senior's Drop-In Centre registered with CRA's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.

Penticton Senior's Centre
2965 South Main St.
Penticton, BC

Also at:

South Okanagan Immigrant and Community Services
340 Ellis St.
Penticton, BC

Access Tax Office
2111 Main St.
Penticton, BC