

**BCGREA BRANCH 900 MEETING JANUARY 18, 2023
OUR REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH AUDITORIUM**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 with Maurice Davidson in the chair. 18 members present.

Frances Monro introduced the speaker for the meeting: Bernadette Parrott of Wishbook Vacations. Bernadette is an independent travel specialist who, after a 1 ½ year course began her career in explained some of the challenges that travellers (and agents) have had since COVID as well as explaining how a travel agent can assist with complications that could arise during travel. (Such as the snowstorms of this past December.) Purchasing travel medical insurance as well as trip cancellation and interruption insurance when planning a trip is essential these days.

After a coffee break, the business portion of the meeting continued.

Membership Report: Frances presented the membership report (attached.) Moved by Judy Barillaro and seconded by Lou DiLorenzo that the report be accepted. Members attending their first meeting introduced themselves and they were welcomed to the Branch!

Treasurer's Report: Imre reported that the bank balance is \$1,904.01. The main expense since the last meeting was the Christmas luncheon. 28 members and 13 guests were present. Tickets purchases amounted to \$1,090.00 and raffle tickets were \$127.00. The cost of the event was \$1,875.67.

Moved by Bruce Shepherd and seconded by Sharon Hudson the report be accepted.

Health and Wellness: A sympathy card was sent to Judi Ritcey on the passing of her husband.

Old Business: (from the 2022 AGM)

While several branches still struggle to maintain an executive, the BCGREA welcomed Branch 2700 (Western Communities) with 87 members. This is a new branch on the Island that encompasses communities to the west and north of Victoria.)

A resolution to make DCO mandatory for all members was tabled, and after some discussion was voted down.

New Business:

The cola (cost of living allowance) for the year has been announced as 6.5%.

Pension Statements should be in the mail shortly (along with your T4A statement.). Please make note of the Person ID: # in the top right corner of the Statement—an 8 digit number which is required when dealing with the Public Pension Service.

Larry Martin gave a quick presentation about incentives through sports (whether playing or cheering) that promote the BCGREA organization.

Question with regard to the Branch's Facebook page. Imre promised to look into the profile and updates.

60/40 Draw: Frances Monro was the winner of \$22.25 and Cindy Davidson the winner of \$14.75.

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 10:30 am. (Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

B.C.G.R.E.A. Branch 900 Membership Chair Report (for December & January)

Meeting January 18/2023

1. Current Membership

Members – 263

Life Members (20+ years) – 77 (29%)

Honorary Members – 2

We have 5 members achieving Life Membership in 2023:

Larry Bellman (lives in Cambridge, Ontario)

Sallie Dodd (OK Falls)

Bob Lincoln (Kaleden)

Joan Luckhart (Penticton)

Angie Nash (Penticton)

(Ask new LMs to stand or raise their hands.)

2. New Members

In 2021, thanks to the pandemic and our inability to meet or take any other group actions, we welcomed 5 new members. Since October, thanks to the recent provincial recruitment initiative, we have a total of 75 new members! We are delighted to welcome all our new members and hope that you will enjoy our meetings and become active participants in the association.

Some of you introduced yourselves at our last meeting in November but, if there are other new members here today, we'd love to know who you are, which ministry you worked for and any other tidbits of information about you which you'd care to share.

(Ask new members to stand and tell us their names and which government ministry they worked for)

3. Members Leaving

I'm not aware of any members who have left the South Okanagan-Similkameen area in the past two months.

4. Deceased Members

Now that my database is finally up-to-date, I want to mention a few more of our members who have died over the past years while we were unable to meet:

Wayne Harrop of Williams Lake

Charles Horton of Langley

Bill Kelley of Penticton

Don James Kidd of Naramata

Greg McGowan of Summerland

William A. Miller of Victoria

Wayne Rose of Penticton

5. Other

I thought it might be time, with our updated demographic, to give you an update of where the membership of Branch 900 is from:

132 (50%) of our members are in Penticton

32 (12%) are from Summerland

21 (8%) are from Oliver

18 (7%) each from Keremeos and Osoyoos

11 (4%) are from Okanagan Falls

8 (3%) are from Kaleden

4 (2%) are from Naramata

2 are from Princeton

1 is from Peachland

Then we have 16 members (6%) who don't live in the South Okanagan/Similkameen.

Nine are elsewhere in B.C., while 5 live in Alberta, one is in Ontario and one, interestingly, has no fixed address!

6. Any Questions or Comments?

7. Motion to accept the membership report as read