

BCGREA BR. 900 Meeting May 15, 2024
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Auditorium

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

Maurice Davidson introduced our guest speaker, Ms. Danielle Smith, the director of resource development for Habitat for Humanity Okanagan.

Habitat for Humanity Okanagan was incorporated in 1994 and covers an area from Osoyoos to Vernon. The aim of the society is to help people obtain affordable, decent housing by offering a “hand up not a handout”.

Ms. Smith explained the selection criteria and obligations of those that are eligible to become home owners. The families selected help build their own homes and pay a Habitat mortgage geared to their income. She also discussed the society’s process for acquiring land and forming partnerships with developers to get housing constructed.

Families that are no longer struggling to maintain housing can raise children in a stable environment, learn about financial responsibility and home maintenance. Stability also creates an environment where fewer people have to keep moving to find affordable accommodation.

There are also several less obvious advantages for communities that can offer affordable alternatives for housing. Through the Re Store program 12 million pounds of useable product was diverted from the Glenmore Landfill by H.for H. Okanagan as 42 new housing units on ½ acre will be completed by this summer. If members of a community do not have to relocate to find acceptable housing many businesses can find and retain employees.

-Minutes from meeting of April 17th: Maurice summarized the highlights from the minutes of the April 17th regular branch 900 meeting, copies of which have been circulated via e mail. Motion to accept by Judy Barillaro, seconded by Mary Shaw and carried.

-Treasurer’s Report: Imre Horvath reported that we have \$2540.27 in our chequing account. Our only expense in the last month has been an \$11.00 bank charge. Moved to accept by Lou DiLorenzo, seconded by Bill Burke and carried.

-Membership Report: In the absence of Bill Myers, Maurice reported that there have been no changes in membership since last month. Membership of Branch 900 stands at 279. Moved to accept by Darcy McGilford, seconded by Sharon Hudson and carried.

-Old Business: Maurice reported on the lunch meeting that he and Imre had with Sally Caisley, of the Seniors' Health and Wellness Institute. The SHWI is a branch of Cosco and offers a selection of topics on senior's health and wellbeing that can be presented by guest speakers at our regular meetings. The branch executive will discuss possible topics for future meetings.

Once again we are asking for volunteers to take on job shadowing for our branch executive positions, specifically branch treasurer, membership director and branch chair with a plan to step into these positions in the future.

-New Business: Maurice reported on the recent spring director's meeting held via zoom last month. Imre Horvath and Larry Martin also attended virtually. The main issue was the vote on delegate/voting formula for provincial meetings. The delegates at the meeting voted to have the branch chair and one delegate from each branch regardless of the size of the branch membership to be allowed to vote at provincial meetings.

Maurice also discussed the new federal government dental plan. Since details are not clear and many dentists are not participating the advice is do not cancel any other dental plan you may be on to take advantage of the federal one, you may not qualify and will be unable to get back on your old plan.

-Good of the Order: Dana Warick has asked any interested members to sign up for the job of caddies at the upcoming bridge tournament held in Penticton. The tournament runs from June 9-16th. Caddies would be expected to work shifts and be paid \$60.00/shift. If interested please contact Dana for more details at (250) 493-3100 or anadgnad@telus.net.

-Health & Wellness: none this month

-60/40 Draw: 60% of the pot (\$30) was won by Lou Dilorenzo, 40% (\$20) was won by Angie Nash.

-Upcoming Events: Plans for the guided tour of the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre in Osoyoos on June 4th are firming up.

Please register with Darcy McGifford at (250) 493-8234 or beedarcy@hotmail.com. The tour will begin at 10:30 from the desert centre at 1000 Ranch Cr. Rd. Cost will be \$15/person.

Closed toed shoes and drinking water will be necessary.

Some carpooling will be available for those that do not want to drive to Osoyoos, please advise Darcy when contacting him.

Those that want to can join us at one of the pubs in Osoyoos for lunch after the tour, pub location will be announced after the tour.

On behalf of the Branch 900 executive we hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe summer.