

BCGREA BRANCH 900 MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2022
OUR REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH AUDITORIUM

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 with Maurice Davidson in the chair. 23 members were present.

Frances introduced our speaker for the meeting: Mark Constales from Johnson Inc. Insurance. The company has partnered with the BCGREA to offer special insurance packages for the members.

Mr. Constales has been with the company for about 12 years and specialises in Group Benefits.

Johnson Inc. has been in operation for over 140 years and is a Canadian company that is out of St. John's Nfld. It was recently bought out by Intact, but the services and personnel with the company have remained the same as before.

Johnson Inc provides coverage for Extended Health Care, MEDOC Travel Insurance, Prestige Travel Insurance, Dental Coverage, and other types of insurance.

Home Insurance coverage for those living in condos (part of a strata) offer very competitive and often lower rates, for better coverage.

Travel Insurance has a number of different plans that cover you for travel within Canada as well as international.

Comparing the Extended Health Care Plan may be worthwhile for members who's spouses were not employed by the Province, and are currently paying premiums for their coverage.

Contact information for Johnson Group Benefits—to discuss your needs and the solutions they may be able to offer. Phone: 604-881-8840; pbservicewest@johnson.ca; or 110-9440-202nd Street, Langley, BC V1M 4A6; or check the website at: bcgreajohnson.ca.

After a coffee break, the meeting resumed at 11:22 am.

Treasurer's Report: Imre reported that the bank balance is at \$3,418.03 as of this date. Some small expenses for office supplies as well as the donation to the Poppy Fund for a Remembrance Day wreath were the only expenses over the past month. Moved by Bruce Shepherd and Seconded by Lou DiLorenzo that the report be accepted. Carried.

Membership Report: Frances reported that Branch 900 currently has 251 members. In 2021 Branch 900 gained 5 new members. Thanks to the success of a Provincial-wide incentive that involved a mailout to retired Provincial employees (who were not currently members of the BCGREA), we want to welcome 63 new members to Branch 900 this month! Present for their first meeting with us were Gordon Corner and Stu Crossan. Welcome! (Over 2,000 new members joined the BCGREA through this incentive—which has strengthened the BCGREA position on the Pension Board. Moved by Sharon Hudson and seconded by Eric Madson that the report be accepted. Carried.

Old Business:

- Maurice and Imre attended the Remembrance Day service in Penticton and laid a wreath on behalf of Branch 900.

New Business:

- Election of Officers – chaired by Imre Horvath
Nominations were called for the positions of Chair, 1st Vice-Chair and 2nd Vice-Chair.
The following nominations by members present were made:
Chair: Maurice Davidson (by acclamation)
1st Vice-Chair: vacant
2nd Vice-Chair: Paul Perkins (by acclamation)
- The executive is once again asking for members who may be interested in getting more involved with the Branch to consider 'shadowing' one of the executive members to learn more about the processes and duties of the various positions.
- Provincial AGM held in Tsawwassen. This is a 3-day event, with workshops being held on the first 2 days. Many BCGREA partners made presentations to the delegates.
- Delegates were advised that the Superannuation fund is in very good shape!

Health and Wellness:

Please watch your steps these winter days with snow and ice on the streets/sidewalks! Member Gene Desnoyers suffered a fall and is currently nursing some broken ribs (and realizing his skiing this winter may be curtailed.)

Good of the Order:

Shirley Cox will be unable to attend our monthly meetings for the next while. We need a volunteer to be the 'coffee maker' for the meetings. Please contact Maurice if you are interested, or want to know what is involved.

Opportunity to volunteer and make a difference! PRH (as well as hospitals throughout our region) rely on volunteers to support their daily operations. Many volunteers did not return to their 'positions' once Interior Health welcomed volunteers back into their facilities. From doing recycling, being an information volunteer (in a number of areas within the facility), working in the Gift Shop, making sandwiches and being a barista in the SOS café to assisting in various clinics—there is a 'job' waiting for you!! A great way to socialize with community members and feel good about helping others!! (Training and orientation supplied.) For further information call Annette Zakall at 250-492-4000 ext. 32518; or email: Annette.Zakall@interiorhealth.ca.

60/40 Draw: Joyce Sutherland was the winner of the 60% draw in the amount of \$30.60; while Lou Delarenzo was the winner of the 40% draw in the amount of \$20.40. Angie Nash was the winner of the external battery donated by Mark Constales of Johnson Inc.

Upcoming Events:

Sat. November 19, 2022 (11:00-4:00) A Christmas Café at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. (Fellowship & live music; coffee and treats; bake sale and crafting table; some vendors will also be present.)

Christmas Dinner:

Venue: Penticton Golf and Country Club

Date/time: Tuesday December 13, 2022 (11:00-2:00)

Cost of tickets: Members \$25.00 Non-members: \$30.00

Contact Maurice Davidson at 250-493-1538 to purchase tickets.

Last date to purchase tickets: November 27, 2022.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05

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

Meeting November 16/2022

1. Current Membership

Members – 251

Life Members (20+ years) – 81 (32%)

Honorary Members – 2

We have 12 new Life Members for 2022:

Judith Brown

Elizabeth Gdowski

John Griffin

Sharon Hudson

Ed Landry

Knud Madsen

Daniel & Joyce Parker

John Parsons

John & Ilene Paterson

Carol Shea

(Ask new LMs to stand or raise their hands. Then ask ALL LMs to identify themselves.)

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. This year, thanks largely to the recent provincial recruitment initiative, we have 63 new members to date! We are delighted to welcome all of our new members and hope that you will enjoy our meetings and become active participants in the association.

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

3. Members Leaving

Paulette Chamberlain, who used to work for Interior Health, moved from Okanagan Falls to Victoria. Delores Rose has moved from Penticton to Prince George. Louise Renaud moved from Oliver to North Vancouver. We also had two members move to Williams Lake – Diane Pleasance and George Foisy.

4. Deceased Members

There have been 9 members who have died in 2022 some of whom were not mentioned in my September report and I continue to work through our membership list to check on status. Deaths that we know about for 2022 are:

Barry Frederick Alcock of Penticton

Marcia Mae Batie of Richmond

Nora Burke of Kaleden

Edward Cosman of Princeton

Lois Hafstein of Penticton

Patricia Huff of Summerland

Joan Lansdell of Penticton

George Noriega of Penticton

Ray Nuttall of Penticton

5. Other

6. Any Questions or Comments?

7. Motion to accept the membership report as read