

BCGREA BRANCH 900 MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2023
OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AUDITORIUM

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 with Maurice Davidson in the chair and 29 members present.

Frances introduced our speaker for the meeting, beekeeper Tim Bowmeister. Tim developed a passion for bees while studying entomology and apiculture at the University of Guelph in the late 1980's. In 1995 he moved to the Okanagan and set up his first apiary on the Naramata Bench, which has now grown to approximately 90 hives in the Naramata and Penticton area. He currently works for the Ministry of Agriculture as the Apiary Inspector for the South Okanagan, Similkameen and Western Boundary areas.

His honey is made from a combination of apple blossoms, acacia, vetch, sumac, sweet clover and other local desert flowers—and is sold under the name of “Desert Flower Honey.”

Some interesting ‘bee’ facts:

- One bee can make a couple grams of honey; a hive can make about 100 lbs. of honey.
- In the Peace River area a hive can produce 250-300 lbs. of honey—because of the long summer days.
- Drone bees live for 3-4 weeks; queen bees for 3-4 years.
- Last winter there was about a 50% mortality of bees—because of cold temperatures.
- There are approximately 600 species of native bees in Canada—of which 450 are in the Okanagan.
- Raspberries are excellent producers of pollen for bees.
- “The Bees in Your Backyard” is an excellent book to learn more.

This definitely was an interesting topic and speaker!

After a short break for coffee and catching up, the business portion of the meeting commenced.

The **minutes of October 18th, 2023** were distributed via e-mail. A correction was made to reflect the correct time of the meeting. A motion to accept the amended minutes was made by Paul Perkins, seconded by Imre Horvath. Carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Imre advised that the current bank balance is \$1,188.00. There will be more action on the account over the next month with the Christmas luncheon expenses and income. Moved by Sharon Hudson and seconded by Elvy Karlstrom to accept the report. Carried.

Membership Report: Bill advised that we have 279 members. Motion by Linda Jones and seconded by John Dame to accept the report. Carried.

Old Business: Imre and Maurice attended the Remembrance Day ceremony and laid the wreath in the name of the BCGREA.

New Business:

- 1.) Branch election of table officers was held with Larry Martin chairing the process.
 - Nominations were called for the positions of Chair, 1st Vice and 2nd Vice-Chair.
 - Chair: Maurice Davidson (by acclamation)
 - 1st Vice-Chair: John Dame (by acclamation)
 - 2nd Vice-Chair: Paul Perkins (by acclamation)

Darcy McGifford has accepted a position as Director at Large.

Once again the executive is 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. Of special concern are the treasurer and membership director as these would be difficult for anyone to take over without some experience.

- 2.) Report on the Provincial AGM by Maurice – see attached

- 3.) Report on the Provincial Treasurer's meeting by Imre – see attached.

Health and Wellness: nothing to report

Good of the Order: Sharon advised that Frank DeKezel and Rosemary Edge, spouses of BCGREA members recently passed away.

60/40 Draws: Bernice Allen was the winner of \$36.00 and Penny Armstrong the winner of \$24.00. Kip Demmings was the winner of an insulated BCGREA bag.

Thank-you: Frances expressed her thanks for the donations that were brought for St. Vincent DePaul Food Bank.

Upcoming Events:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023: (11:00-2:00) ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY.

VENUE: PENTICTON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB.

TICKETS: MEMBERS: \$30.00 AND NON-MEMBERS \$40.00

PLEASE CONTACT MAURICE DAVIDSON (250-493-1538) FOR TICKETS.

LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TICKETS IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (Speaker to be announced.)

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

Report on the Provincial Treasurer's Meeting (Imre Horvath)

Talked to branch Budget requirements.

Explained why Christmas Party tickets are more expensive.

Because of CRA regulations and the way the dues are spent some changes must be made, this does not affect individual members.

Donations must be for local, senior supporting organizations.

How \$10 per member will affect the budget limits for the branch.

For our 285 members, we will receive \$ 2850 less the bank balance at year-end.

Fiscal year end will be changed to Calendar year end, to facilitate accounting and receiving dues earlier in the year.

Due to general expense costs for the Association, dues will likely rise in 2025.

Notes on provincial AGM Oct.18, 2023:

- Provincial table officers elected by acclamation:

Brian Greene – President

George Bowden – 1st Vice Pres.

Patrick Harkness – 2nd Vice Pres.

- The main business of the meeting was the discussion and voting on six motions as follows:

Motion 1, Bylaw 24(b) voting to include use of remote access for things like zoom meetings. Motion passed.

Motion 2, Bylaw 27 changed to include the Membership Secretary in the list of directors of the association. Motion passed.

Motion 3, Bylaw 29 changed to include the Membership Secretary in the list of officers of the association. Motion passed.

Motion 4, Bylaw 30 a motion to change the term of each elected position from one year to a staggered 2 year term. Motion failed.

Motion 5, Bylaw 31 a motion to have secretary, membership director and treasurer will be elected during the AGM. Motion failed.

Motion 6, Bylaw 56 a motion regarding the number of members required to establish a new branch. Number increased from 25 to 100 of which 5 will stand for an exec. for a period of at least two years. Motion passed.

Motion to change our fiscal year to Jan.1st to Dec.31st from the current July 1st to June 30th. Motion carried.

Keynote speakers: Tom Vincent, chair of the board of directors and Stuart Morgan from the PSPP. Spoke about the health of our pension plan (funded to 109.6%). They also spoke about how the plan works, plan governance and responsible investment.