BCGREA Branch 900 Meeting – October 21, 2026
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Auditorium

Darcy McGifford (Co-Chair) welcomed everyone back after the summer break, and called the meeting to order. 20 members and guests were present.

Kip Demmings, a member who was evacuated from Summerland due to the Bald Range Wildfire was introduced as our speaker.

The day was unremarkable until a knock on their condo door during dinner changed things. A neighbor, noticed a large plume of smoke coming over the mountain. (At that time Kip estimated it was 1-1.5 km away—opposite the view from his unit, so he was unaware of the situation.)

Realizing that there were probably a number of residents in their building who also were unaware of what was happening, he and two other Strata Council members started knocking on doors to advise their neighbors to prepare to leave the building. The Council members continued to monitor what was happening, including patrolling the exterior of the building. Some residents were quick to react, packed necessities and drove away.

At about 10:30 it was decided that they would go through the building again and advise people they needed to leave NOW. Some residents did not answer their doors, and some were taking their time to pack up, at 12:15 when the Order came down to leave Summerland, about ½ of the building's residents had already gone. It was about that time that the smoke started to lower, and there was a lot of ash coming down. As Kip and his wife were leaving the area they noticed a person who was alongside the road, unsuccessfully attempting to catch a ride out of the area. They picked him up and took him to Penticton.

They spent their time evacuated with friends in the Cranbrook area.

Their home was not damaged, however repairs to the HVAC system as well as the elevator were required, ash covered exterior areas.

Kip emphasized that communication with neighbors is key in an emergency event such as this.

Elvy Karlstrom as well as Elizabeth Rennie also spoke on their evacuation experience.

All three spoke about how Fire Smart was a very worthwhile program to give residents direction on how to make changes to property giving it the best chance to survive a wildfire.
As well, they expressed appreciation for the assistance of neighboring communities, and how welcome all evacuees felt during a very vulnerable time.
Evacuees who lost their homes were supported by ESS (on a short-term basis), the Red Cross, and Samaritan's Purse. Insurance companies are assisting those who had insurance. (There are residents in Faulder who did not have insurance.)

After a break for some goodies provided by Cindy and Beth, the business portion of the meeting took place.

Membership Report: (Attached to the minutes)
Currently Branch 900 has 270 members.
Financial Report:

Beth reported that the current bank balance is $1,108.44. (Expenses such as rent and insurance have been paid for the year.)
Moved by Maurice Davidson and Elvy Karlstrom that the report be accepted. Carried.

Old Business Beth McGifford gave a quick overview of the spring Lawn Bowling event.

New Business:
--Branch 900 is looking for a volunteer to coordinate guest speakers. (Each year there are 6 meetings.) Please contact Maurice or Darcy if you would like more information, or have ideas or suggestions for guest speakers.

– A Membership Director is also required for the Branch. Beth provided a description of the position. Contact a member of Branch 900 executive if you are interested in this position.

-We want to thank Bill Myers for the work he has done as the Membership Director for the Branch; and we are happy that he will continue as the Communication person.

--Larry Martin gave an update on the Recruitment and Retention Committee that he is involved with. The PEN is looking for stories for the spring edition relaying evacuation experiences and how to prepare for the 2027 wildfire season. (Check with Maurice, Darcy or Martin if you are able to contribute to this publication.)
Larry is also very active in the 55+ games and encouraged members to participate…either as an athlete or as a score keeper.

--The BCGREA Directors Meeting was held via ZOOM recently. Maurice gave a brief update on discussions.

-A new APP is being rolled out: Endless Savings. This gives information on discounts that are available to members.

-Recruitment and Membership: The Provincial Executive are looking at various options/ideas to increase association membership.

-Financial status of the PSPP: Doing very well with investments. Current funding indicate that it can fund pensions for about 75 years.

--The Annual Christmas Luncheon has been booked for Wednesday, December 2, 2026 at the Penticton Golf and Country Club. (A traditional turkey dinner, door prizes and Darcy's Deals) Tickets are $40.00/person and will be available at the Nov. meeting. Keep those items for Darcy’s Deals handy—for more fun to the afternoon!

--Remembrance Day: A donation has been made to the Poppy Fund, and Maurice will place a wreath at the Remembrance Day Services. Unlike previous years, only one service will be held outdoors at the cenotaph. (Note that shuttle bus service will be available from the PTCC to the ceremony. Check media releases for further information.)

Health and Wellness: *Janet Dekezel is in Hospice on the Lower Mainland.*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, November 11, 2026: Remembrance Day Services in local communities.
Wednesday, November 18, 2026: Regular monthly meeting of Branch 900. (Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Penticton) Speaker: TBA
(Christmas Luncheon tickets available to purchase at that time.)
Wednesday, December 2, 2026: Christmas Luncheon (Penticton Golf and Country Club) 11:00-2:00.

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BCGREA BRANCH 900 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MEETING October 21, 2026

VALID FROM April 12, 2026 to October 17,2026

Current Membership

Members	Shared Couple	Total
244 (247)	**26**	**270** (275)
Life 20+ Years	Honorary	Associate
53	**7**	**0**

Membership Changes

New	Resigned	Deceased	Transferred[1]
1	**0**	**1**	**1**

[1]Transferred – during the previous calendar month(s)

Membership Communities

Osoyoos	Oliver	Okanagan Falls	Kaleden
17	**21**	**8**	**10**
Penticton	Naramata	Summerland	Keremeos
132	**4**	**40**	**19**
Princeton	Peachland	Other BC	Outside BC
1	**3**	**9**	**1**

Details

Description	Total	Opened①	Delivered②	Blocked	Bounce
Minutes (Apr 2026) **BR900Apr2026Minutes**	194	140 | 72%	52	0	2 | 1.0%
Notice **BR900Oct2026Notice**	193	132 | 68%	57	0	4 | 2.0%
Benchmarks		46%			0.5%

Members without email addresses	**25**
Invalid Emails (list of members attached)	**4**

New Members

FirstName	LastName	Email	Phone	City	MemberSinceDate	Shared Couple
Elmira	**Ferreira**	[redacted]		**Penticton**	**07/02/2026**	**Yes**

Members Deceased

FirstName	LastName	Email	Phone	City	MemberSinceDate	Date Deceased
Lorne	**Briere**	[redacted]		**Keremeos**	**12/10/2022**	**07/31/2026**

Members that may have invalid emails [based on last campaign bounce]

ToName	ToEmail	Campaign	Reason
Ruth Manning	**rufusmanning@shaw.ca**	**BR900Oct2026Notice**	**Bounced Address**
Joyce L Sutherland	**joysuther@telus.net**	**BR900Oct2026Notice**	**Bounced Address**
Sallie L Dodd	**sallie_dodd@shaw.ca**	**BR900Oct2026Notice**	**Bounced Address**
Doreen Delores Hecimovic	**ddsmart@telus.net**	**BR900Oct2026Notice**	**Bounced Address**

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① Opened - Clicking the email: The core action is the recipient opening and viewing the email.

② Delivered - The receiving server has acknowledged and accepted the email. At this stage, the email is in the recipient's server's queue to be placed in their inbox or spam folder.