

Western Communities Branch #2700

Minutes of Planning Session November 1, 2022

Location: Al & Colleen Coccola's house

Present: Al Coccola (chair), Valeska Campbell, Tammy Welch, Colleen Coccola, Sharon Stewart (guest)

Meeting came to order at 1:00 pm

AGM Update:

- The motion at the AGM to require all members to be on DCO did not pass. After sufficient notice, branches should remove non-DCO members who do not pay their dues.
- Provincial is considering making the BCGREA a member funded organization rather than a non-profit. As such, it would not be required to report out under the BC Societies Act.
- Branches will be subsidized by Provincial if they have less than the equivalent of 2 years dues in their bank account.
- The fall edition of the PEN will have a new format. The PEN will be produced twice a year in electronic and paper format. Additionally, a bulletin will be sent out twice a year by email.

Membership Report: Valeska reported that we have 87 members. At the AGM membership meeting, it was confirmed that retention of paper copies is no longer required and there is no need to mail paperwork to new branches for membership transfers. There will be a new format for monthly/quarterly branch reports and Valeska requested that the Excel report be retained.

Financial Report: Tammy reported that our bank balance, as of October 31st, is \$395.98. New members will not be added to DCO until 2024; however, our branch will receive \$8 for new members because we are a new branch and need the funds to operate.

Agenda Items:

- **Report on Mail-Out Initiative** - The promotional flyer from Provincial has been successful in recruiting members. As of October 31st, our branch acquired 36 new members. Pension Corp sent the flyers to everyone not on DCO, so some existing members received it.
- **Meeting Dates** - The decision was made to hold future General meetings on the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings will be held February 7th and April 4th.
- **2023 Calendar of Events** - Valeska prepared a calendar for our members which shows meeting dates and social events. It notes that other activities may be scheduled in non-meeting months and members will be notified by e-Bulletin. Josie (Central Support) will be sending out membership cards to new members and Valeska will ask Josie if she can include the calendar of events.

- **Guest Speakers** - Brian Green will present at our meeting in November. Al has a speaker from BC Investments for our meeting in February. Colleen was in contact with the manager of Garden Works and will reach out to her as a possible presenter in April.
- **55+ Life Styles Show** - Al suggested that the branch participate in this event on March 21st/2023 at Pearkes Arena. Provincial would pay half of the participant fee. Since we do not receive money for dues until March, the decision was made to participate only if Victoria and Peninsula branches join in and share the costs.
- **Election of Branch Officers** - The decision was made to hold the election of officers at our year/end event in June. It was suggested that we elect people to be members of the board and decide on positions they will hold afterwards. It was also suggested that there be a 3rd vice, 2nd vice and a chair person and that these people would move up a position each year with the chairperson remaining on the board as the ex-chair. No decision was made and there will be a wider discussion at a future general meeting to allow for input from our members.
- **Door Prizes & November 15 Meeting** - We have 3 door prizes - BCGREA windbreaker, BCGREA canvas bag and a portable cell phone charger. We will hand out 5 tickets to members and they will put their tickets into 3 separate jars associated with the prizes. This way, people have a better chance of winning a prize that they will use. We will include a 'welcome' to new members. Tammy will order a cake to celebrate the BCGREA 75th anniversary and also assemble a thank you gift for our guest speaker.
- **Christmas Pot Luck** - To be held December 6th at Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall. We will purchase a platter of sandwiches from Costco. Tammy will provide a boom box so we can have Christmas music. Decorations can be put up in the morning. Colleen will prepare a trivia contest using questions related to the Western communities. The winner will receive a BCGREA canvas bag with a bottle of wine. We will not specify the type of dish that people should bring. Members will be asked to bring something for the food bank and/or a pair of socks or mitts.

New Business:

- **January Event** - It was decided that we would hold a 'games' event on January 10th at Gilbert Cade hall. We will ask at the Christmas Potluck if there are particular games that members would like to play.
- **E-Bulletin** - Al will prepare an e-bulletin regarding up-coming events.

Our next planning session will be January 3rd, 2023 from 1 – 3 pm at Valeska Campbell's house

Meeting adjourned around 3 pm.