

Western Communities Branch #2700
Minutes of Executive Meeting August 30, 2022
ZOOM Meeting

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

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am

Membership Report:

Valeska noted we now have 81 members. Some are brand new applications. Valeska gave Josie Byington feedback on the new membership database as it does not count spouses. Al is hopeful that we will get 25-30 new members a year if the trend continues.

Financial Report:

We have spent approximately half of the \$700 startup we received from Provincial. There are no extra expenses coming up. Since we have only three meetings in September, November and February, we should be okay. We will receive money from Provincial for membership dues in March. Tammy will talk to Johanna Morrow and request that dues for our new members not be waived until 2024. If not possible, can Provincial make up the difference? Al could also ask for additional start-up money.

Secretarial Report:

Colleen received access to the branch website and has posted minutes, eBlasts and the meeting in September. Executive minutes will be posted for now. The new branch executive can decide if they wish to keep them on the website. The title 'Meetings' will be changed to 'Meetings & Events' and include planned hikes and other outings.

Unfinished Business:

- **Meeting places** - Al looked into rentals at St. John the Baptiste and the Anglican Churches in Colwood. The Anglican Church was quite expensive. At this point, the Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall 50 & Up Club will work for the November meeting.
- **Publicity about the branch** - Patrick has announced September 30th as the deadline for entries for The PEN. Al and Colleen will do a write-up about the new branch and pass to Tammy for review. The Provincial is not planning to do a press release. Al will draft something for the local papers and pass by the executive. Local papers include Goldstream Gazette, Sooke Mirror and Westshore News.
- **September 20th Meeting** - Al has nametags and raffle tickets. Nametags can be kept in a shoe box and picked up at meetings. Tammy will present the flipcharts. Five are planned: Speakers; Activities; Walks - suggestions and voting on a location for October 25th (Iron Mine Bay, Whiffen Spit, Albert Head Lagoon, Devonian Park); 'What would you like to focus

on' & 'What would you **not** like to focus on'; Open Forum. Snacks - to be provided by Valeska and Colleen. Door prize - bottle of wine in BCGREA insulated bag.

Other Business:

- **Christmas Luncheon** - The Christmas event should be booked by the end of September for December 13th.

Our next executive meeting will be November 1st, 2022 from 1 – 3 pm at Colleen & Al's house - 945 Aqua Court.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary