

Western Communities Branch #2700
Minutes of Planning Session May 5, 2023

ZOOM Meeting

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

Meeting came to order at 1:35 pm

Membership Report: 295 members. Valeska reported that we are down 1 member who transferred to the Peninsula branch.

Financial Report: Current balance \$440.57. The Miscellaneous revenue of \$940 includes \$240 from ticket sales for the June luncheon. We have 1 manual pay person (not on DCO) and the \$20 will be forwarded to Provincial. Tammy asked that receipts be in by May 31st.

Agenda Items:

Old Business:

- **Executive Elections** - We have two new members on our executive - Helen Myer and Dale Chandler. The current executive is re-elected for a total of eight people.
- **May hike** - Al & Dale plan to hike Matheson Lake trail again and will get more pictures. The e-blast goes out next week and will include election results.
- **June wind up** -
 1. **Tickets** - Tammy sent a ticket to Brian Greene and will set aside 2 additional tickets for Johanna Morrow who would like to attend. Brian will get a free ticket instead of a thank-you card for being a speaker. Johanna will pay for her tickets.
 2. **Postal Code Game** - Valeska will send out what she has put together so far to get feedback. She suggested an add-on - do you know the district names for postal codes, i.e. V0R, V9B?
 3. **Tickets sold** - So far we have 13 people attending not including Johanna & her husband. If any of the executive have made a connection with a member, ask them if they are attending.
 4. **Door prizes** - Lynda reported that Bernie at Dinter Nursery will select 6 plants and decorate them for the tables. Lynda will pick them up and bring them to the event.
 5. **Life member** - We have 1 life member. We don't have start dates for a lot of our members so there could be more. Josie is collecting start dates for our new database. On the next e-blast, Al will ask members to let us know if they have 20 or more years. We can do whatever we want for recognition. It used to be that life members would get a free membership for the rest of their lives. Victoria branch gave out pins and pen sets. Al will invite our current life member for a free lunch at

our wind-up event. We will also provide a pen and certificate and possibly a pin. Valeska will ask the Victoria branch if they would be willing to sell 5-6 pins.

New Business:

➤ **Report on the EGM and Director's Meeting** - Attended by Al and Lynda. Overall impression was good. Most of the discussion was on the constitution and new by-laws. Lynda provided an overview:

- All were in agreement that BCGREA should be a 'member funded society'. There are some purpose statements required by the Societies Act. All language is going forward to the Constitution and Bylaws committee.
- The term of all elected officials will change from 1 to 2 years.
- Branches are considered sub-roots of the Society, the root being the Provincial body. The root has fiduciary responsibility and is responsible for collecting dues. Some branches have significant funds and will not receive money from dues until their branch reserves are reduced. Johanna has asked branches to provide their February bank statement in order to determine what portion of the dues they should receive. This will be based on branches maintaining a balance of no more than \$10/member. For our branch, this means that we will receive \$2,679.43 from this year's dues.
- Day 2 was focused on 6 items -

Charitable donations - need to be non-partisan and provide some benefit to members. A synopsis will be drafted to provide guidelines.

Meeting delegates - There were four options for determining the number of delegates from each branch for Provincial meetings. These included 1 delegate for every 300 members (up to 1500 members); and, every branch gets 2 delegates regardless of size. No consensus was reached and it will be decided by a new committee.

Officers and trustees - Should the treasurer, and the membership and recruitment officer be elected or appointed? What about the Pension Board trustee? These decisions are going forward to a committee chaired by Ken Pendergast.

Branch dissolution - There should be clear direction in policy and procedures. Al talked about new branch start-ups and was asked to put together the process that he used for formation of the Western Communities Branch and to forward it to the R&R committee who will draft the bylaw.

Plain language - Changing to simple language/wording in documents.

Membership - Discussion on the definition of honored, life and associate members. Honored members are exempt from dues and include members who were nominated by their branch for service. We have none in our branch. Associate members do not receive a public service pension. This category is proposed to be retired and the current Associate members will convert to 'active' members. Referral to Resolutions committee to bring forward to AGM. Spouses of members who receive a public service pension - this category will go forward to the membership committee for decision on whether spouses can continue when the 'active' member dies.

Lynda's name was put forward for the bylaws and constitution committee.

- **Special e-Blast for BCSC** - There is a reunion being held for former BCSC employees. To help get the word out, Al and Valeska will work on a special e-blast to be sent out.

Our next planning session will be Thursday June 1st, 2023 at 1:30 pm at Tammy's house - 862 Cecil Blogg Drive.

Meeting adjourned around 3:30 pm.

Action Items:

- Al to prepare the next e-blast with information on the hike, wind-up luncheon, election results and 20 year members.
- All - contact members you have made a connection with to ask if they are coming to the year-end luncheon.
- Valeska - send out a draft of the postal code game to executive for review.
- Al will contact the life member about the luncheon.
- Valeska to contact Jane at the Victoria branch to possibly buy 5-6 pins for life members.
- Al & Valeska to send out an e-blast about the BCSC re-union.