



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association  
Western Communities Branch 2700

February 7, 2023

At 1:00 pm Al Coccola welcomed everyone to **Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall, Langford 50 & Up Club, 2637 Sunderland Road in Langford, BC.** There were 20 members in attendance.

Al Coccola acknowledged the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations communities on which we live. This was followed by a minute of silence for our members who are dealing with personal and health issues. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tammy Welch gave the Treasurer's Report. There is a bank balance of \$364.23. We will soon receive a money transfer from the Provincial body for the annual 'dues check-off'. This amounts to \$8 per member.

**Membership Report:** Valeska Campbell reported that we have 277 members.

**Merchandise Report:** Al brought a sample of BCGREA branded merchandise (t-shirts and vests) that is available for members to purchase. Tammy is the contact for our branch.

Al introduced the guest speaker, James Stenson, who is the manager of Client Education and Development at BC Investment Management Corporation (BCI). BCI provides investment management services for the public service pension plan.

James Stenson provided a brief history of BCI, insight into the company's investment philosophy and details on how they are continuing to evolve to ensure a secure and sound financial future for all pension plan members. Al thanked James for the informative talk and presented him with a small token of our appreciation.

**Up-Coming Activities:**

- ❖ **Iron Mine Bay Hike** - March 7<sup>th</sup> 1 pm. Meet at the Pike Road parking lot which is located off East Sooke Road.
- ❖ **Zoom Meeting** - March 14<sup>th</sup> 1 pm. Mark Costales from affinity partner Johnson Inc. will discuss travel insurance and other products.
- ❖ **Next Social Gathering** - April 4<sup>th</sup>. More information to follow.

**Facebook Page:** Sharon Stewart has set up a Facebook page for our branch. To find it in Facebook, search BCGREA, then click on "BCGREA - Western Communities Branch 2700."

**Attendance Incentive Draw:** This is a cash prize that starts out at \$10. A random number generator is used to pick a name and the member **must be at the meeting** to win. Arnold Rossander's name was selected, but unfortunately he was not present to claim the prize, so it will be added to the pot for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 pm.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary