



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association
Western Communities Branch 2700

September 20, 2022

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 15 people 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.

Treasurer's Report: Tammy Welch gave the Treasurer's Report. There is a bank balance of \$341.98. BCGREA Provincial provided start-up funds of \$700. Money has been spent on hall rentals, supplies and entry fees for the 55+ Lifestyles Show. We will receive our next payment from Provincial in March. This will amount to \$8 per member from the \$20 membership dues.

Membership Report: Valeska Campbell reported, as of mid September, we have 86 members. Thirteen people are new to the BCGREA, while the rest are transfers from other branches.

Secretary/Communication Report: Colleen Coccola will post meeting minutes to the branch website at www.bcgrea.ca. Comments on the website are welcome.

Al spoke briefly about the formation of the Western Communities branch - the first new branch in the last 15 years. This is significant as our association has experienced the closing of a few branches and this year marks the 75th anniversary of the BCGREA. There will be an official acknowledgement of our branch at the AGM on October 18-19th and an article in the next PEN newsletter.

Information Sharing: Attendees introduced themselves. The meeting was then turned over to Tammy Welch who asked members to record their thoughts on five different flip charts that included the following topics: Potential Outings, Speakers, Activities (Christmas, summer, other), Priorities/Focus and Open Forum. Members were invited to partake in refreshments.

Up-Coming Activities:

- ❖ There will be a hike on October 25th. The location to be determined by the response on the flip chart. Information will be provided by email.
- ❖ The next meeting will be held on November 15th. The location to be determined based on our membership numbers at that time.

Door Prize: A BCGREA insulated shopping bag, lens cleaning cloth, and bottle of wine were won by Kate La Vertu.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15 pm.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary