



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association
Western Communities Branch 2700

April 4, 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 15 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 moment of silence for our members who are dealing with personal and health issues. New attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

Lynda Hoel introduced the guest speaker, Bernie Dinter from Dinter Nursery in Duncan. Bernie's father began Dinter's Nursery in 1973 and Bernie has been managing nursery operations since 1976.

Bernie gave a presentation on 'Spring Gardening - Making it Easy'. He talked about things to do in the garden this time of the year in order to produce a healthy and beautiful garden, providing tips on the most manageable and popular plants and the best fertilizers.

Lynda thanked Bernie for the informative talk and presented him with a handmade thank-you card to show our appreciation. Bernie brought a pot of beautiful mini daffodils to give away. Attendees were numbered and Valeska used a random number generator to pick a winner. The flowers were won by Al Coccola.

There was a break for refreshments, followed by a short business meeting. Kate La Vertu provided some wonderful baked Easter goodies for all to enjoy.

Treasurer's Report: Tammy Welch gave the Treasurer's Report. There is a bank balance of \$200.57.

Membership Report: Valeska Campbell reported that we have 296 members.

Up-Coming Activities:

- ❖ **Casino Tours** - April 11th & 13th at 1 pm. Elements casino will provide tours of their facilities. Tours are limited to 10 people. RSVP to chair.branch2700@bcgrea.ca
- ❖ **Zoom Meeting** - May 2nd 1 pm. Tom McLean from Travel Merchants will discuss highlights of up-coming trips.
- ❖ **Matheson Lake Hike** - May 18th 1pm. More information to follow.
- ❖ **Next Social Gathering** - June 13th.

Al reminded members to check out our webpage for a list of coming events.

Facebook Page: Sharon Stewart set up and maintains a Facebook page for our branch. Lynda Hoel is the back-up administrator. Sharon recently posted pictures to the site from our Iron Mine Bay hike. It was brought to our attention that pictures of people should not be posted without their permission. We will be sure to do so in the future.

Attendance Incentive Draw: The amount of the draw was \$20. A random number generator was used to pick a name and the member must be at the meeting to win. Dawn Levert's name was selected, but unfortunately she was not present to claim the prize. \$10 will be added to the pot and the amount to be won at the next meeting will be \$30.

Al announced that we will be holding branch elections for the board soon. He invited members to attend a short planning session to follow this meeting as an observer. If anyone is interested in possibly joining the Branch planning team, it will provide a sense of our processes.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary