



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association
Western Communities Branch 2700

March 4, 2025

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 23 members in attendance including Sue Powell, board chair from the newly formed Cowichan Valley Branch, and George Bowden, the board chair of the Victoria Branch.

Al introduced the members of the branch executive. There were 3 first-time attendees who introduced themselves.

Al acknowledged the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations communities on which we live.

Sharon Stewart introduced the guest speaker, Glenn Garry from the Victoria Electric Vehicles Association.

Glenn gave a very interesting presentation on the merits of owning an electric vehicle. He presented a number of statistics showing that electric vehicles are more cost effective, efficient and environmentally friendly than ICE (internal combustion engine) vehicles. For information on government rebates and incentives visit [Home - CleanBC](#).

Sharon thanked Glenn for his informative talk and presented him with a handmade thank-you note and gift card.

Al called for a moment of silence for our members who are dealing with personal and health issues.

Treasurer's Report (Tammy Welch): The current bank balance is \$2,307.43. We have received the DCO (dues check-off) funds from Provincial.

Membership Report (Valeska Campbell): Our current membership is 292. Forty-three of our members transferred over to the Cowichan Valley Branch.

Face Book Report (Sharon Stewart): There are currently 97 members on Face Book. The 100th person to join will receive a prize.

Report on Hike (Dale Chandler): The next hike is scheduled for Mar. 20th at 1pm at Thetis Lake Regional Park. We will meet in the parking lot on Six Mile Road in View Royal. Parking is free. We will walk for about an hour, followed by coffee and refreshments.

Cowichan Valley Branch: Al announced that the newly formed Cowichan Valley Branch has 297 members. Although some of our members were automatically transferred over, this location will better serve the members who live nearby and is good for the organization as a whole.

Next Social Event: on Tuesday, April 8th at HCP (Horticultural Centre for the Pacific). Please sign up if you are interested in a guided tour of the gardens. The cost is \$10/person (subsidized by the branch). The group is restricted to 12 people.

Attendance Incentive Draw: The amount of the draw was \$80. Paul Smith's name was selected, but unfortunately he was not present. \$20 will be added to the pot and the amount to be won at the next meeting will be \$100.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary