



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association
Western Communities Branch 2700

May 7, 2024

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 22 members in attendance.

New attendees and guests were asked to introduce themselves and Al Coccola introduced George Bowden member of the Victoria branch and Table Officer for the BCGREA Provincial Committee.

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

Sharon Stewart introduced the guest speaker, Chris Palliser, Community Engagement Manager from *SHIFT ENERGY GROUP*. Chris works both in the community and online on solar growth and awareness.

Chris delivered a fun and interesting presentation on solar energy and provided demonstrations in the mini solar house he towed onsite.

Sharon thanked Chris for his informative talk and presented him with a handmade thank-you card and a gift to show our appreciation.

There was a break for refreshments, followed by a short business meeting.

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 \$3162.66

Membership Report (Valeska Campbell): Our current membership is 327 members.

Face Book Report (Al Coccola): There are now 83 members on Face Book.

Report on Hike to Sooke & back (Dale Chandler): Next stage of the hike is scheduled for May 22nd at 1pm. We will meet in the parking lot at Matheson Lake and walk back to the 28km marker where we turned around at the last hike. We will have two more stages to go in our hike and then we will arrive in Sooke! New participants will need to sign a waiver.

Al asked if anyone in the room would like to be added to the hike list and Manjeet Baines asked to be included.

Up-Coming Activities:

- ❖ **Stage VII Hike to Sooke & back** – May 22nd at 1 pm.
- ❖ **General Meeting** –June 11th at noon - Social Gathering and catered lunch. No guest speakers, just fun, food and games. Ticket sales are open \$20 for members and \$35 for non-members. Al Cocola informed that if spouses joined as a member with the first year free, they would qualify for the member ticket price. Etransfer to the treasurers email or see Tammy at the meeting to get your ticket.

Attendance Incentive Draw: The amount of the draw was \$90. Dorothy Ward'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 \$100.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30pm. Members then went outside to see the demonstration by Chris Palliser in the mini solar house.

Minutes recorded by Lynda Hoel, Director at Large