



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association
Western Communities Branch 2700

Social Gathering April 9, 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 11 members in attendance.

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

Colleen introduced the guest speakers, Karen Woodland and Nancy Prevost-Maurice, who belong to a non-profit organization called ReGenerateBC that focuses on climate change and education.

Nancy and Karen gave an interesting presentation on the changing climate, how to initiate conversations to engage others and how individual actions can help to make a difference. We broke into small discussion groups to discuss personal experiences.

Colleen thanked Karen and Nancy for the informative talk and presented them with handmade thank-you cards and gift cards 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.

Al mentioned up-coming branch elections and encouraged members to consider running for the planning committee. Voting will be on-line and there will be further communication on the process and timelines.

New attendees were asked to introduce themselves. There were two new members.

Finance Report (Tammy Welch): The current bank balance is \$2,898.94. Tammy reported that the branch portion of members' dues (\$2,133.59) was received. We also received \$242 from Provincial and will receive \$120 from the Victoria branch to help cover costs for our booth at the Lifestyle 55+ Show.

Membership Report (Valeska Campbell): We are holding steady at 327 members. This includes 9 new members since February.

Facebook Report (Sharon Stewart): There are now 79 members on Face Book.

Report on Hike to Sooke & back (Al Coccola): The next stage will take place on April 22nd. The meeting place is Kangaroo Road and Rocky Point Road.

Up-Coming Activities:

- ❖ **Stage VI Hike to Sooke & back** - April 22nd at 1 pm.
- ❖ **General Meeting** - May 7th at 1pm - Presentation by Chris Palliser on Solar Panels.
- ❖ **Year/end Luncheon** - June 11th at 12pm. Details to follow.

Attendance Incentive Draw: The amount of the draw was \$80. Randy Smith's name was selected, but unfortunately he 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 \$90.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 pm.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary