



## British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association Western Communities Branch 2700

ZOOM Meeting March 14, 2023

At 1:00 pm Al Coccola welcomed everyone to the ZOOM Meeting. There were 16 people in attendance.

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

New attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

Al introduced the guest speaker - Mark Costales, Group Benefits Consultant, Johnson Inc. Johnson Inc. is an affinity partner that offers group insurance for such things as health, dental, and travel. Mark gave a very interesting presentation about the Health Benefit plan and travel insurance options. Johnson Inc. provided a lovely picnic blanket as a door prize which was won by Timothy Leslie-Spinks.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tammy Welch gave the Treasurer's Report. There is a bank balance of \$250.57. We will receive a money transfer from the Provincial body for the annual 'dues check-off' at the end of April. This amounts to \$8 per member.

**Membership Report:** Valeska Campbell reported that we have 293 members.

**Facebook Report:** Sharon reported that there are now 22 members in our private Facebook group. To find it in Facebook, search BCGREA, then click on "BCGREA - Western Communities Branch 2700."

### **Up-coming Activities:**

- ❖ **Social Gathering on April 4** at 1 pm at Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall. Our Guest Speaker is Bernie Dinter from DINTER Nursery in Duncan. His presentation will be on 'Spring Gardening - making it easy'.
- ❖ **Element Casino tours - April 11 and April 13** at 1 pm. Elements Casino has offered to give our members a tour of their operations. Respond to [chair.branch2700@bcgre.ca](mailto:chair.branch2700@bcgre.ca) if you would like to attend one of these tours
- ❖ **Zoom Meeting - May 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 1 pm. Presentation by Tom Mclean from Trip Merchants will feature highlights of some upcoming travel opportunities.
- ❖ **Year/end gathering - June 13.** More information to follow.

In response to a question, Al talked about the benefits of being a BCGREA member. Provincially, there are four benefits:

- Representation on the Pension Board
- Association with other retiree organizations for advocacy
- Strong affinity partners. See video on BCGREA home page for more information
- Relevant information for retirees is passed directly to members

At the branch level:

- Interesting guest speakers
- Social connection with other retirees
- Local information disseminated

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary