



## Strathcona Branch 595

1940B BANK STREET, Ottawa, ON

Canada K1V 7Z8

Tel: 613-236-1575

Email: info@rcl595.ca

Website: RCL595.ca

### MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2018

- PRESENT:** Comrades James Simpson, Helen Fraser, Wanda Riddell, Derk Duermeyer, Dennis Sirman, Greg Devine, Vic Dowie, Bruce Brown, Janet Waitman, Howard Keck, Ron Barrie, Ron Oakley, Harold Pretty, Ken Bonell, Robert Buss, Carm Valiquette, Steve Young, Andre Fortier, Don Brule, Faye McDonald, Wendy Wynne-Jones, Rick Johnston, Diane Muldoon, Russ Williams, James Grady, Terry Warner
- ABSENT:** Tom Feeley, Robert Mantle
- EXCUSED:** Toulou Pouris, Brian Madden, Dom Baldwin

1. **OPENING CEREMONIES AS PER LEGION RITUAL:**

Meeting called to order and opened with the President conducting the "Opening Ritual" at 7:00 pm.

The President conducted the meeting.

2. **CEREMONY OF ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS:**

Comrade Fraser announced the following new members were present:

Andre Fortier – Ordinary

The President conducted the welcoming ceremony of the above new member after which he was welcomed by the Members.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING:**

The minutes of the last meeting held on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 were distributed.

**MOTION**

Moved by Comrade Faye McDonald and seconded by Comrade Andre Fortier to accept the minutes as circulated.

**CARRIED**

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**MOTION**

Moved by Comrade Howard Keck and seconded by Comrade Carm Valiquette to ratify the President's appointment of Dom Baldwin to the executive.

**CARRIED**

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT: Comrade Dennis Sirman**

Comrade Sirman provided the financial statements for the period ending January 31, 2018. The financial statements are attached to the Branch and Secretary's copies of the minutes.

6. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

**President, Comrade James Simpson**

As most members are probably aware, we raised our bar prices on February 1st. We had to do this because of the big jump in minimum wages legislated by the Ontario Government that came into effect on January 1. This was right after the regular smaller raise on October 1. Had we not acted, those raises would have had a profound effect on our Branch in that after several years of financial losses and just when we are close to breaking even, we are hit with these additional costs. We have calculated that the additional labour costs to the Branch in this year will be over \$8,000 so we had no alternative but to try to raise our revenues to maintain a break-even position.

We have limited the increases to the minimum we think we will need to try to maintain our break-even position. We are confident that after other bars and restaurants have raised their prices you will find that Strathcona prices are lower than what you can get elsewhere. It is worthwhile reminding everyone that our prices include HST while everywhere else it is added on.

The \$4,000 loss in January that Comrade Dennis has just reported is a step backwards but that was primarily due to a low level of activity in the Branch that month.

Another way to increase our revenues is to try to increase the use of the Branch and since many appeals to our members for attendance and participation have had limited success, we are going to try to increase our hall rental business by drastically reducing the rental rates if the renter uses our bar.

Near the end of today's Agenda, I will be tabling a Motion to end Strathcona's membership in the Ottawa Poppy Trust Fund. This action was discussed and approved at the January Executive meeting, with one member abstaining. There are many reasons for this and you will be made aware of them in an upcoming Newsletter. You will also hear them when the Motion is debated and voted upon at the next General meeting in April. According to the OPF Constitution when a fund member proposes to leave the fund the other members can be invited to the meeting when the Motion is to be discussed and to take part in the debate. This invitation has already been extended to the only other member of the fund, which is Westboro Branch. The General meeting on April 24 also happens to be our Election meeting.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE AND BUSINESS ARISING THEREFROM:**

Call for Zone Convention to be held March 25, 2018 at Eastview Branch.

8. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

(a) **Legion Seniors – Comrade Toulia Pouris**

No report.

(b) **Membership - Comrade Helen Fraser**

As at February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Total Membership – 317

STATUS	# RECORDS
PAID UP	225
LAPSED 1&2	92
TOTALS	317

The new members can now sign the book and participate in the weekly Pot of Gold draw.

- (c) **Poppy – Comrade Brian Madden**  
No report.
- (d) **Public Relations and Publicity – Comrade Dom Baldwin**  
No report.
- (e) **Sports and Track and Field – Comrade Greg Devine**  
One upcoming event on March 24<sup>th</sup>, Mixed Zone Darts at Orleans Branch.
- (f) **Training and Organizational Development - Comrade Dom Baldwin**  
No report.
- (g) **Veterans' Services - Comrade Vic Dowie**  
Comrade Dowie advised he has application forms for Veterans' Affairs available.
- (h) **Bar - Comrade Helen Fraser**  
Comrade Fraser reported the bar is running smoothly.
- (i) **Bylaws and Branch Regulations - Comrade Wanda Riddell**  
Comrade Riddell passed reporting onto Comrade Ron Barrie who advised the modification of the Branch regulations is being worked on. A draft copy has been tabled to the Executive for review and comment.
- (j) **Cadet Liaison – Comrade Rob Mantle**  
No report.
- (k) **Event Planning – Comrades Greg Devine and Toula Pouris (Coordinators)**  
Comrade Devine advised The Gnarleys and pool tournament this Sunday, St. Patrick's Day and March 23<sup>rd</sup> Winter Be Gone events are scheduled. Still looking for help with organizing meals.
- (l) **Hall Rentals – Comrade Greg Devine**  
Comrade Devine reported prices have dropped for hall rentals and has received more enquiries and activity.
- (m) **House – Comrade Dennis Sirman**  
No report.
- (n) **Honours and Awards - Comrade Derk Duermeyer**  
No report.
- (o) **Legion Retail – Comrade Derk Duermeyer**  
Comrade Duermeyer reported everything going smoothly. He advised he will make the trip to Kanata to fill orders once a month.

- (p) **Member Communications – Comrade Janet Waitman**  
Comrade Waitman advised all going well.
  
- (q) **Youth Education and Bursary - Comrade Bruce Brown**  
Comrade Brown reported on Saturday 13 January the Awards Ceremony for the Remembrance Day Contests was held at Strathcona. There were 19 students who won a prize and received a certificate. Cake and juice was provided. Approximately 70 people were in attendance. A link to photos of the event can be found on the website.  
Two of Strathcona’s first place winners also placed first at the Zone Level and moved on to the District Level.  
On Saturday 3 March Strathcona will be hosting the Zone Public Speaking Contest. Details will be provided in the next couple of weeks.
  
- (r) **Ways & Means - Comrade Dom Baldwin**  
No report.
  
- (s) **Catch the Ace – Comrade Dennis Sirman**  
Comrade Sirman reported we are in the 16<sup>th</sup> week of Catch the Ace, the pot is at \$2,000 and reserve fund is at \$2,000 to contribute to the community.

- 9. **MOTION TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS**  
Moved by Comrade Wendy Wynne-Jones and seconded by Comrade Ken Bonell that all reports be accepted. **Motion carried.**
  
- 10. **GENERAL AND NEW BUSINESS:**  
None.
  
- 11. **TABLING OF NOTICES OF MOTION**  
**MOVED** by Comrade President James Simpson and **SECONDED** by Comrade Secretary Helen Fraser that, subject to the terms of Articles 27, 28 and 29 under “Leaving the Fund” in the Constitution of the Ottawa Poppy Fund, Strathcona Branch 595 will cease to be a member of the Ottawa Poppy Fund as soon as conveniently possible.
  
- 12. **MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**  
At 7:50 pm the President, declared the business of the meeting having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned.
  
- 13. **CLOSING CEREMONY:**  
Comrade James Simpson conducted the “Closing Ritual”.

Next General Meeting: April 24, 2018

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James Simpson  
President

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Helen Fraser  
Secretary

January, April, June, September, October, November