



Strathcona Branch 595

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 23rd, 2015

PRESENT: Comrades Bruce Brown, James Simpson, Wanda Riddell, Ethel Benson, Helen Fraser, Gerry Chamberlain, Pat Chamberlain, Ray Moloughney, Connie Bennett, Brian Madden, Martin Maltais, Ron Oakley, Toulas Pouris, Bothtawee Kelly, Tom Feeley, Wavey Bennett, Ken Harrison, Dennis Sirman, Katherine Winters, Georges Winters, John Carter, Glenn Bell, Mary Smith, David Brush, Errol Choo, M.H. Lewis, J.A. Grady, Bill Carisse, Bot Kelly, Tim Hanley, Wavey Bennett, Glenn Bell

EXCUSED: Greg Devine, Grant Yusak

ABSENT: Joanne McNeil, Ken Parker

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

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

Comrade Georges Winters assumed the responsibilities of the Chair for the meeting.

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

MOTION

Comrade Helen Fraser moved to approve the following members and the motion was seconded by Comrade Wanda Riddell.

Adeline A. Levasseur	Associate
Robert A. Levasseur	Associate
Michael Lord	Ordinary
Timothy John Hanley	Ordinary

CARRIED

Comrade Helen Fraser announced the following new members were present for initiation:

William Carisse – Affiliate

Timothy John Hanley - Ordinary

Robert A. Levasseur – Associate

Adeline A. Levasseur – Associate

Michael Lord - Ordinary

The President conducted the swearing in ceremony of the above new members after which they were welcomed by the Members.

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

The minutes of the last meeting held on April 23rd, 2015 were distributed.

MOTION

Moved by Comrade Wanda Riddell and seconded by Comrade John Carter to accept the minutes as circulated.

CARRIED

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

Financial Review Committee Report – see President's report

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President, Comrade Dennis Sirman

One of the first duties of a new president is to select and Appoint of executive chairs, so with the assistance of Comrades Winters, Madden and Maltais I have appointed the following to lead or chair:

Comrade and 1st Vice Martin Maltais, as Sgt of Arms, Poppy Chair and Bar Manager

Comrade Greg Devine and 2nd Vice will be our Entertainment Chair

Comrade Grant Yusak and 3rd Vice will be our Sports Officer, assist Martin on Bar Committee and manage our Legion and Dart retail business

Comrade Helen Fraser will continue as our Secretary, Chair the Membership team and assist Martin on the Bar Committee

Comrade Jim Simpson will continue as Treasurer

Comrade Joanne McNeil will take on the responsibility of Training/Organization Development as well as be responsible for Hall Rentals

Comrade Bruce Brown will continue to be responsible for the Youth Program and Bursaries with the assistance of Brian Madden (who by the way is on the Ottawa Poppy Committee)

Comrade Mary Smith will be our lead in Public Relations and Communication

Padre George Winters has agreed to act as our Veterans Service Officer as well as Chair all meetings

Ways and Means will be led by Comrade Tom Feeley, supported by Comrade Ethel Benson

Comrade Wavey Bennett will take the Kitchen Services position, and

Comrade Glenn Bell will take on the position as House Officer, and finally

with our growing association with the 2 cadet leagues it has become necessary to create a new position which Comrade Bot Kelly has agreed to fill, that of Cadet Liaison Officer

This past year The Executive had taken steps to address sustainability and accountability. The Executive asked the Financial Review Committee consisting of Comrades Ron Barrie, Howard Keck and John MacDonald to go beyond the traditional financial review and openly criticize and recommend improvements to our business operation.

The result was a 6 page report with 12 recommendations to strengthen our financial accountability, be more open and visible about expenses and their reporting and to establish a 5 year plan. In response to these recommendations I can say we have incorporated most of them into our work plan for the upcoming year.

Most notably, Bar management is a committee of three, Bar inventories will be conducted independently of bar staff, our investments/GIC pre-approved and reported upon, reporting and accountability has been built into each portfolio such that expenditures are pre-approved. The use of emails and having the Secretary co-ordinate and input for the next executive meeting is being instituted and a complete inventory of Legion assets will be completed over the summer.

Finally the Recommendations of re-instating the ad-hoc group to investigate cost saving and revenue generation was addressed with the formation of "Profitability Sub Committee" comprised of the following Legion Members: John MacDonald acting as Committee Chair with Dave Brush, Ron Barrie, Robert Buss and Howard Keck.

Their report was turned in at the conclusion of the previous executive but with sufficient time to review and enable the new Executive to incorporate many of its findings such as:

Increase bar prices to be more in line with our competition, additional cost for bar services for large groups renting the hall, creating a special hall rental liquor purchase fees, investigation of Nevada ticket opportunity, establishing an entertainment committee and increased forecast and planning of events, and finally reviewing our rental agreement with our landlord.

These two groups have invested a tremendous amount of time and knowledge to assist 595 into becoming a sustainable business. I thank the individuals personally and professionally for their work.

The past Executive also developed and delivered a membership survey, led by Comrade Jim Simpson. Although the response was approximately only 10% it did give the executive some insight into preparing our plan for the upcoming year. Thank you Comrade Jim for time and effort and providing us with the summation.

The past executive worked very hard at producing a very active schedule and provided many opportunities for us to improve on our business operation and activity schedule and to them on behalf of the membership I thank each and every one of you. I am looking forward to working with those that chose to take on a leadership role, your new executive and making the upcoming year an exciting and hopefully a profitable one.

The first formal function that I represented 595 was at the 2784 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps "Governor General Foot Guards" and their 49th annual review/parade with Comrades Kelly, Martin, Winters and Madden with Comrade Madden presenting the "Legion Medal of Excellence". As we enter our 15th year of support, Padre Winters, Comrades Brian and Bot are working to fostering a greater more endearing relationship with the cadet corps. Having these young men and women assist us during the poppy campaign and our own special remembrance parade is fantastic. Cadets offers the opportunity for our youth to learn and be an active in our community, country in a very positive way, through our support of activities such as this fulfills one of the main goals of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Last year 595's poppy campaign was the most successful ever. This year through the Ottawa Poppy fund we are able to contribute to youth more than ever before. I just rec'd a thank you from the "Charitable Foundation and Bursary Program" and Comrade Brian tells me we are able to make a one time special donation to each of the 2 cadet corps we support; "GGFG and the Falkland Group to help built their band program.

We have a new web site or should I say revamped giving additional links and information, ease of access. Look forward to seeing our minutes posted on the notice board by to the left of the bar, including both general and executive minutes.

Our PRO has been busy producing a more visible communication and announcement board which can be seen on the TV in the hall and on our computer.

Traditionally, June begins the wind down for the summer and of course with less activities, less income and further debt is incurred. On the 30th I invite you to participate in a planning meeting that hopefully will initiate activities over the summer and forecast a very busy year. The meeting is here next Tuesday at 7 pm.

In closing I say, thanks Ken and the Executive of 2014-15 for the work this past year and to the new executive, looking forward to working with you, and to the membership, I ask that you all participate and enjoy the year we plan to deliver.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Comrade James Simpson

The financial statements for the last fiscal year ending May 31st, 2015 were presented and a copy is attached to the Branch and Secretary's copies. Comrade Simpson reported the yearly loss is greater than the previous year. The executive is taking the losses seriously to keep them in check for the coming year. Comrade Grady asked whether a budget is in place and Comrade Simpson responded yes.

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

None

8. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

(a) **Bar - Comrade Martin Maltais**

Comrade Maltais here, good evening Comrades. As the new bar manager, I would like to first and foremost thank the bar stewarts that have been serving us (Legionnaires and non-Legion members) with dedication and respect. Respect them and they'll respect you, this is true in any organization. The onus is on the stewarts to see that everyone gets to their destinations safely, so if they feel that someone has had too many, it is within their rights to stop serving that person and call them a cab. What is illegal out there, is also illegal in here!!

For the immediate future, there are not going to be many changes to the operations of the bar, as you may or may not know, we have moved summer hours, meaning bar opens at 1200hrs and closes between 1800-2000hrs at the discretion of the bar stewarts.

Access behind the bar is prohibited to everyone. Those members of the executives with mail boxes in the bar area are to access their mail via the back door to check their mail!!

Cabinet access is also to be controlled, treasurers will be afforded access. If a member of the executive requires a key (storage room), they shall ask for it.

Something that I do not agree with, is the word of mouth with it comes to suggestions / improvement or complaints. We all know how that goes, we've been around long enough; so and so said, and so on... by the time it gets to me, it's not at all what was said in the beginning. There is a box located near the bar area, I'll put a pen and pad of paper by it. Write down your thoughts, with your name and I'll get back to you with an answer. No names, no answers!!

In conclusion, we have a very good thing going here. Let us not ruin it by being abusive and not being respectful towards other patrons and that includes the bar stewarts.

(b) **Poppy – Comrades Martin Maltais/Brian Madden**

Comrade Maltais reported a while back we mentioned that the Ottawa Poppy Fund (OPF) was in the process of writing over the constitution for the OPF. We have yet to receive the final version of the paper, that once received will be presented to the general body of this branch for the document's approval/discussion.

The boundary discussions are on hold for now, 595 will go with the eastern boundary of Montgomery, which is the east side of Bank Street from the 417 to the transitway... can you picture it.... TD Place is ours and as far as I know there is nothing that Montgomery can do about it!!

There will be a Service Officer/Poppy Chairman Seminar to be held on October 3 and 4, 2015 at the Orleans branch.

Finally, the material order for this year poppy campaign has to be in by the end of June, which I will see to it that it gets done.

(c) **Entertainment – Comrade Greg Devine**

Comrade Devine reported all going well. Entertainment will begin again in September on a bi-weekly basis and suppers will be on a weekly basis starting in September as well.

(d) **Sports and Track and Field - Comrade Grant Yusak**

Comrade Yusak reported as a new sports officer I have looked at a ton of info. I have agreed to let Greg keep up the golf tournaments since he is doing a great job, I do not want to mess up his mojo.

I will look into a Branch 595 golf around league in July through September. Based on the Montgomery one that is very successful.

There are no sports now. There is a golf event on July 25th in Morrisburg and I will try and get two teams to join in on. The provincials are in Owen Sound in September- I am sure we can find 8 members.

Greg has introduced me to Cindy Muir, Zone Sports Officer.

The next tournament will be held at Hylands on Friday, September 25th.

(e) **Dart and Legion Retail**

I will do an inventory of dart supplies by the end of July. I have accessed the files.

Legion retail figures have some problems and are being worked out.

(f) **House - Comrade Glenn Bell**

Comrade Bell reported no real progress to report at this time but I can assure you the wheels are in motion. Comrade Sirman and I have taken the broken wooden chairs to his garage and will repair them there. The plan this weekend is to install shelving in the hallway to the kitchen. A very good suggestion made by Pat Chamberlain to put a board on the side of the pantry to keep track what of the kitchen requires in terms of supply. The largest job to tackle this summer is to re-paint the legion. This task will require as many hands as possible. I believe a crew to remove all wall hangings and clean them. Another crew needed to wash the walls and of course a crew to paint. That’s really all for now any suggestions would be gratefully accepted.

(g) **Hall Rentals - Comrade Joanne McNeil**

No report.

(h) **Training and Organizational Development - Comrade Joanne McNeil**

No report.

(i) **Membership Communications, Public Relations and Publicity - Comrade Mary Smith**

Comrade Smith reported

Accomplishments

First Newsletter was sent Monday June 15 for the week of June 15 to June 21st.

Second Newsletter was sent out Tuesday, June 23rd; New Slideshow presentation has been created, currently running on the computer and TV screening the Legion Hall; Posters for the June 19th dinner were completed.

In the Works

Two new banners have been ordered for the front windows to capitalize on the current traffic in the strip mall area.

Future Plans

Currently looking to establish what will be required of this portfolio for the future.

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

As at June 22nd, 2015: Total Membership – 342

STATUS	# RECORDS
PAID UP	288
LAPSED 1	37
LAPSED 2	18
TOTALS	342

(k) **Honours and Awards - Vacant**

No report.

- (l) **Veterans' Services - Comrade Georges Winters**
Comrade Winters reported has two folios in progress to help veterans.
- (m) **Legion Seniors - Vacant**
No report.
- (n) **Branch Regulations - Comrade Dennis Sirman**
No report.
- (o) **Youth Education - Comrade Bruce Brown**
Comrade Brown reported work will commence for the Legion's Poster and Literary Contests in September when the schools are back. Comrade Madden explained the bursary requirements for the Poppy Fund scholarships.
- (p) **Ways & Means - Comrade Tom Feeley/Ethel!**
Comrade Feeley reported Comrade Ethel is feeling better and will take the co-lead with him. The craft sale is in November and the meat draw is going very well, \$232 to the Legion since the start last March.
- (q) **Kitchen Services – Comrade Wavey Bennett**
No report.
- (r) **Cadet Liaison – Bot Kelly**
No report.

9. **MOTION TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS**

Moved by Comrade Jon Carter and seconded by Comrade Brian Madden that all reports be accepted.
Motion carried.

10. **GENERAL AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Comrade Dave Brush suggested replacing the TV for a larger one for sporting events to draw more people into the Legion. Comrade Errol Choo suggested a projector TV with drop down screen due to space constraints.

President Sirman asked all members to join the volunteer committee for events in the Branch.

11. **TABLING OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

None.

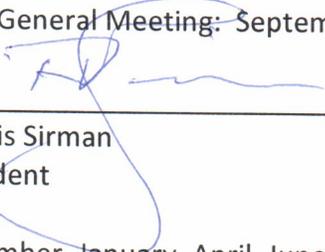
12. **MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:10 pm Comrade Martin Winters, Branch Chair, declared the business of the meeting having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

13. **CLOSING CEREMONY:**

Comrade Dennis Sirman conducted the "Closing Ritual".

Next General Meeting: September 22, 2015



Dennis Sirman
President



Helen Fraser
Secretary

November, January, April, June, September, October