



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, JUNE 27TH, 2017

PRESENT: From the Executive: Comrades James Simpson, Helen Fraser, Wanda Riddell, Derk Duermeyer, ennis Sirman, Greg Devine, Toulia Pouris, Janet Waitman. Excused: Bruce Brown, Grant Yusak, Vic Dowie..Absent: Martin Maltais, Tom Feeley, Robin Brown. Rob Mantle
Members at Large: Howard Keck, Joanne McNeil, Ron Barrie, Harold Pretty, Ken Bonell, Robert Buss, Bernadette Greene and David McEvoy

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 for initiation:
Bernadette Frances Greene - Associate
David Patrick McEvoy – 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 25th, 2016 were distributed.

MOTION

Moved by Comrade Derk Duermeyer and seconded by Comrade Janet Waitman to accept the minutes as circulated.

CARRIED

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

Tabling of By-laws from last general meeting carried forward: Motion to be tabled at September meeting to update the Strathcona By-laws and if necessary the Branch Regulations. If the Regulations have to be updated that must go through Ontario Command. By-laws to be posted on Branch's website and distributed through Newsletter and request comments back by August 15, 2017.

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT: Comrade James Simpson**

Comrade Simpson provided the financial statements for the period ending May 31, 2017. The financial statements are attached to the Branch and Secretary's copies of the minutes.

6. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

President, Comrade James Simpson

Big deficit every year – must turn things around; we have \$95k in the bank but if we lose \$30,000 the year we are in and again next year we are toast because we will have expenses to terminate the lease; Ontario

Command will not provide any funds on dissolution, has to be covered by members; I have set myself the goal of reducing our losses to \$15k in the coming year. That is a tall task but I think we do it; however, we have been doing things essentially the same way since we came here and obviously it is not working; one change we can try is to get the hall filled with people who will spend at the bar; one way that I am proposing is that we radically reduce our hall rental costs for renters who use our bar. I have suggested to the executive that we have a basic rental fee to cover our cleaning costs then have a minimum bar tab depending upon number of people; obviously, the treasurer and I will be involved in this but I am inviting participation from the membership to join in on a committee to work out the details. We will need other ways of getting people in - more sports related events – pool and dart tournaments, cribbage? Anything like that. If you have ideas on how we can do that please get involved. More people means more participation in our upcoming catch the ace program that Dennis will be talking about which means more profit from that source. Unfortunately, the premier of Ontario has not helped our cause by radically increasing the minimum wage we have to pay our bar stewards. On October 1 it will go up a small amount - \$0.20 but by January 1, 2018 it will rise 20% and by January 1, 2019 - 31.6%. This means our wage costs in 2018 will be \$8000 higher than the year just ended and in 2019 they will be \$12000 higher. This almost makes it essential that we get some volunteer help at the bar. There is no way we can go all volunteers at the bar as Barrhaven has done because they started that way, they have a large volunteer base and they have 600 members to draw from. But we have a very capable head bar steward and if we could get down to say 2 regular bar stewards and a number of volunteers to help out we could overcome this latest hit from the province. Now, I know this sounds pretty gloomy but i am convinced that if we are resourceful, get some more hall rentals in here, get some more revenue generation ideas and get more participation in them we not only stem the losses, we can turn things around. The word “participation” is key, we need more people taking part in the things we do that can earn us money.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND BUSINESS ARISING THEREFROM:

None

8. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

(a) Legion Seniors – Comrade Toula Pouris

No report.

(b) Membership - Comrade Helen Fraser

As at June 27th, 2017: Total Membership – 343

STATUS	# RECORDS
PAID UP	244
LAPSED 1&2	99
TOTALS	343

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

(c) Poppy – Comrades Martin Maltais

Absent -No report.

(d) Public Relations and Publicity – Grant Yusak

Excused -No report.

(e) Sports and Track and Field – Comrade Greg Devine

Comrade Devine explained to the new members how to register for a Legion sports tournament.

- (f) **Training and Organizational Development - Comrade Tom Feeley**
Absent - No report.
- (g) **Veterans' Services - Comrade Vic Dowie (Alternate Comrade James Simpson)**
Comrade Dowie is recovering from an operation. Comrade Simpson reported that we have not received any requests for assistance.
- (h) **Bar - Comrade Helen Fraser**
Comrade Fraser reported the resignation of Pauline Walker and Liza Ggospodarenko from the Bar. Comrade Fraser announced the hiring of two bar stewards, Nathalie Lajoie and Nick Manseau. Nick worked a party with SylviAnne St-Aubin on Saturday evening and Nathalie will start next Thursday. (Nathalie has since resigned and we are looking for a 4th bar steward).
- (i) **Bylaws and Branch Regulations - Comrade Wanda Riddell**
Comrade Riddell reported that the Branch Bylaws are being worked on and will be presented at the next Executive meeting for review.
- (j) **Cadet Liaison – Comrade Rob Mantle**
Absent - No report.
- (k) **Event Planning – Comrades Greg Devine and Toula Pouris (Coordinators)**
No report.
- (l) **Hall Rentals – Comrade Wanda Riddell**
Comrade Wanda reported that rentals are going well.
- (m) **House – Comrade Dennis Sirman**
No report.
- (n) **Honours and Awards - Comrade Martin Maltais**
Absent - 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 twice a month.
- (p) **Member Communications – Comrade Janet Waitman**
No report.
- (q) **Supplies and Services – Comrade Robin Brown**
Absent - No report.
- (r) **Youth Education and Bursary - Comrade Bruce Brown**
Excused - No report.
- (s) **Ways & Means - Comrade Tom Feeley**
Absent - No report.
- (t) **Catch the Ace – Comrade Dennis Sirman**
Comrade Dennis explained how the Catch the Ace program will work. There were several questions.

9. **GENERAL AND NEW BUSINESS:**

The President appointed Howard Keck, Robert Buss and James Simpson to the Financial Review Committee.

MOTION

Moved by Comrade Derk Duermeyer and seconded by Comrade David McEvoy that the above Financial Review Committee appointments be approved.

CARRIED

MOTION

Moved by Comrade Dennis Sirman and seconded by Comrade Wanda Riddell that bartender be gone by 7 pm and last call be given by bartender at 6:15 on nights of executive and general meetings be approved and that the Executive meetings start at 7 pm instead of 6:30 pm

CARRIED

Comrade Derk Duermeyer requested that signs be posted at kitchen entrance stating “admittance by authorized personnel only”.

Comrade Sirman advised that the premises insurance inspector visited on June 27th and suggested the Branch keep a log in on health or safety related issues, ie when the entrance is shoveled, etc.

Comrade Sirman advised that the Civitan Club will be using Branch premises on the first Tuesday of every month for their meetings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. He also advised the Veteran Bikers’ Club will meet every Wednesday afternoon and Comrade Sirman will bbq hamburgers for \$5, open to everyone.

10. **TABLING OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

The Notice of Motion re amendments to the Bylaws that was tabled at the previous General Meeting was re-tabled at this meeting.

11. **MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:10 pm the President declared that the business of the meeting having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

12. **CLOSING CEREMONY:**

Comrade James Simpson conducted the “Closing Ritual”.

Next General Meeting: September 26, 2017

James Simpson
President

Helen Fraser
Secretary