



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, OCTOBER 25TH, 2016

PRESENT: Comrades Helen Fraser, Toula Pouris, Ron Oakley, Ron Barrie, Brian Madden, Malph Maltais, Katherine Winters, Georges Winters, Derk Duermeyer, Dennis Sirman, Andy Wilkins, Janet Waitman, Paul Bendus, Grant Yusak, Andy Wilkins, Dave Brush, Robin Brown, Vic Dowie, Jim Simpson, Raymond Roy and Andrew Whittaker

EXCUSED:

ABSENT:

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

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

He then turned the meeting over to the Branch Chair, Comrade James Simpson

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

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

Raymond Roy - Ordinary

Andrew Whittaker – 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 September 27th, 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:**

Noted by Comrade Katherine Winters that before a name may be posted to the Hospital Visiting Board, the permission of the patient is required. Comrade David Brush volunteered to obtain the consent of any member that is hospitalized.

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President, Comrade Martin Maltais

Comrade Maltais reported our branch review which was scheduled to be done before October 31st, 2016 has been given an extension by Comrade Joel vanSnick, Commander Zone G5 to November 15th. This was as a result of the audit team not being able to get together due to various health and timing issues.

The Ottawa Senators have chosen Branch 595's Colour Party to stand on the ice as the National Anthems are sung at the game scheduled for November 11, 2016 against the LA Kings. The Colour Party will be comprised of Comrades Helen Fraser, Dennis Sirman, Terry Warner, Wanda Riddell, Ken Harrison and Brian Madden.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT: Comrade John Carter**

Comrade Carter had an operation that has made him unavailable. Acting as Treasurer while he is away, Comrade Simpson provided the financial statements for the period ending September 30.

Comrade Yusak asked that an additional column be added to the report comparing last year's month with this year's month in addition to the year to date column.

The financial statements are attached to the Branch and Secretary's copies of the minutes.

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

None

8. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

(a) **Bar - Comrade Helen Fraser**

Comrade Fraser reported bar is running smoothly.

(b) **Entertainment – Vacant**

No report.

(c) **Sports and Track and Field – Comrade Robin Brown**

No report.

(d) **House - Vacant**

Comrade Sirman reported most lights have been replaced and looking forward to completing the task very soon. Sad, expensive news, we are looking at over \$2,500.00 to repair our heating system. You might have noticed the cooler condition of the hall. Work should be complete this week. Barbeque storage shed almost complete and should be on site very soon. Flag Pole installation has been arranged and should be up prior to Nov 11th. Awaiting a couple bureaucratic details and hurdles to be resolved.

(e) **Hall Rentals – Wanda Riddell**

No report.

(f) **Training and Organizational Development - Comrade Tom Feeley**

No report.

(g) **Communications – Comrade James Simpson**
Comrade Simpson reported newsletters are going out regularly.

(h) **Public Relations and Publicity – Grant Yusak**
Comrade Yusak reported he just started. Replied to inquiry from Riverside South Ward Councillor- (left msg of interest)- no reply yet (2 business days).

Starting renewals for Placemats, looking for most to return and need 4-5 new businesses.

Building a new member touch committee to help with attendance at our events. Comrade Pauline Walker has agreed as has a couple others. He will need a current list of members phone numbers. Started a Legion marketing plan to determine opportunities. Contacted local media for events upcoming.

(i) **Legion and Dart Retail – Comrade Grant Yusak**
Comrade Yusak reported he responded to several orders placed, received and delivered to Bar Staff to contact customers. Ordered and received new merchandise –flag for cadets. Completed Darts Merchandise Inventory and emailed to Jim. Sold out of dart sets- will place a small order for a few flights and a half dozen sets.

(j) **Membership - Comrade Helen Fraser**
As at October 23rd, 2016: Total Membership – 358

STATUS	# RECORDS
PAID UP	294
LAPSED 1&2	64
TOTALS	358

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

(k) **Poppy – Comrades Martin Maltais**
Comrade Maltais reported on October 14th, we had seven members and non-members helping in the assembly of the collection boxes for the upcoming poppy campaign. It was frustrating at times, as we discover that the lids were smaller than the containers (for the white counter trays). Comrade Oakley, confirmed that the lids were 1mm smaller, making it very challenging to put together. Westboro had the same issue and the information provided by Comrade Oakley was passed up the chain. It was also mentioned that the slot on top of the boxes should be made a bit bigger for the bills to fit in better.

He is hoping to have the location board up by Friday or Saturday at the latest. Poppy routes are still available each with about 40 stops.

(l) **Honours and Awards - Comrade Dennis Sirman**

Comrade Sirman reported Comrade Helen Fraser has been selected as a poppy person and a photo shoot was held and I saw some of the pictures. They have already been used in some places, just thought it was a great honour.

(m) **Veterans' Services - Comrade Andy Wilkins**

Comrade Wilkins reported that he is brand new on the job and has not received any requests for service.

(n) **Legion Seniors – Comrade Dennis Sirman**

Comrade Sirman reported Comrade Derk Duermeyer and I are planning to serve Soup and Sandwiches to those that attended the Brantwood Gates Ceremony on the 6 of November. Plan to use a donation box rather than charge an outright fee. Contributions of food welcome. Nov 11th notice board for donations of food is up, I'll be helping but would like someone to coordinate the event. Breakfast Brunch and Euchre is being planned for the 13th of November, Wanda and I are taking the lead on this. Next Celtic Kitchen Party is going to be on the 20th of November, watch for advertising. On November 26th the Branch will be hosting a Bake and Craft Sale. Lead will be Connie Bennett, supported by Ethel Benson. Advertising been developed. 2 Afgans being raffled, draw date is the craft sale date. Planning Robbie Burns night with George Winters, set for the 21st of January, Mennie Men have been contacted, awaiting their reply. Planning a Valentines, Newfie jig night for the 11th of February. Still trying to find a lead for this, although I have many volunteer participants already.

(o) **Branch Regulations - Comrade James Simpson**

Comrade Simpson reported that the Regulations are up to date.

(p) **Youth Education and Bursary - Comrade Bruce Brown/Comrade Brian Madden**

Comrade Brown reported the information on the Remembrance contests for the 2016 was sent to all schools in the Branch's zone. The website was updated with the information on the Remembrance Contests.

The deadline for Strathcona's Poster and Literary contests is 16 November.

The deadline for the Ontario Command video contests is 1 December.

An awards ceremony for the winners in Strathcona's Poster and Literary contest will be held on January 14, 2017 between the hours of 1-3 pm.

The Zone G5 Public Speaking Contest will be held 4 March 2017 at Orleans Branch.

I received an entry for the Remembrance Contest. I received a request for a speaker at Immaculata High School for November 11 and Marie Curie School sometime before November 11.

Judging of entries will be held during the evening of November 29th.

(q) **Ways & Means - Comrade Tom Feeley**

No report.

(r) Cadet Liaison – Comrade Rob Mantle

No report.

9. MOTION TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS

Moved by Comrade Ron Oakley and seconded by Comrade Toulas Pouris that all reports be accepted.

Motion carried.

10. GENERAL AND NEW BUSINESS:**MOTION**

It was Moved by Comrade Grant Yusak and seconded by Comrade Brian Madden to nominate Comrade Ethel Benson for a life membership. Comrade Ethel Benson joined the army in 1945 at 18 years old/ she was a quack; joined Branch 244 Aug. 1951 became secretary and the first woman Bar server in a Legion in Ontario; transferred Branch 266 became secretary and Treasurer for another 15 years; Zone B2 secretary for several years; transferred Branch 595 and has been on the Executive for several years; craft and bake sale, meat draw, baskets, blankets, growing shamrocks all for Legion profit; she sits with Stanley Field at CISIS for the Poppy campaign; makes blankets for Perley Vets; hats, scarfs for the hospital and mission. She is a hands on person and has been an asset to the branch. Comrade Ethel Benson has 65 years of continuous service with the Royal Canadian Legion.

CARRIED

MOTION

It was Moved by Comrade Ron Barrie and seconded by Comrade Janet Waitman to nominate Comrade Dennis Sirman for a life membership. Comrade Dennis Sirman transferred to Branch 595 in December, 2011. He had been a member at Almonte Legion before that. He has been a member of the RCL for 31 years. Shortly after joining 595, he joined the executive and became the House Chair and put together teams to maintain the hall, fix the chairs, acquired the ATM and the list goes on. Dennis has also assisted the Treasurer of the entire period he has been a member at 595 with deposits, stepping in when needed to maintain the books. He is currently working with the Bar Manager and Treasurer in programming the "Point of Sale System" to reduce the work load and time as well as provide information such as inventory, sales reports and product sales. Recently the Branch underwent a significant upgrade which included the new Lounge area, more working space for preparation and serving of food and a complete face lift in regards to paint colour and the rug, all this was designed and led by Dennis. He has also prepared and served many meals at the Branch, at least once per month. He has catered to outside rentals making another source of significant income for 595. The monthly Brunches are another one of his ideas and services generating income to 595. Other initiatives by Dennis include the Lunch and Learn sessions that brought outside expertise to talk with our seniors about various subjects such as obtaining physical assistance to right sizing when moving into a seniors residence. He has served in many positions on the executive and was elected President in 2015. He is at the Branch practically every day overseeing the day to day operations of the Branch. Dennis Sirman's many talents have made him a most valuable member of this Branch. The Executive is grateful for the commitment and leadership Dennis has provided over the years and feels he is a most deserving recipient of a Life Membership of the Royal Canadian Legion.

CARRIED

The President had previously appointed to the Executive Comrade Grant Yusak as Public Relations Officer and Comrade Andy Wilkins as Service Officer and those appointments were ratified at the General Meeting

Comrade Georges Winters spoke regarding the Commemorative Parade being held on November 6th at Brantwood Gates, commencing at Immaculata High School and ending at St. Patrick's University.

Comrade Dennis Sirman spoke about the meeting he attended at Kanata Legion regarding Catch the Ace to bring more people into the Branch.

11. **TABLING OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

None.

12. **MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:20 pm the Branch Chair, declared the business of the meeting having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

13. **CLOSING CEREMONY:**

Comrade Martin Maltais conducted the "Closing Ritual".

Next General Meeting: November 29, 2016

Martin Maltais
President

Helen Fraser
Secretary