



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, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 2015

PRESENT: Comrades Greg Devine, Bruce Brown, James Simpson, Wanda Riddell, Ethel Benson, Helen Fraser, Gerry Chamberlain, Pat Chamberlain, Ray Moloughney, Connie Bennett, Brian Madden, Ron Barrie, Bothtawee Kelly, Wavey Bennett, Eli Bennett, Dennis Sirman, Katherine Winters, Georges Winters, Robert Joly, Marjorie Joly, John Carter, Debra Lortie, Glenn Bell, Mary Smith, Ron Oakley, Jim Grady, Vic Dowie, Susan Paquette, Jean-Pierre Paquette, Bernie Connelly, D'Arcy Guthrie, Janet Waitman, Dave Brush, Sherry Brush and Jim Laking

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.

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

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

MOTION

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

D'Arcy Guthrie – Affiliate

Marjorie Joly - Affiliate

James Laking – Affiliate

Jean-Pierre Paquette – Ordinary

Patricia Paquette – Associate

Richard Patry – Affiliate

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 June 23rd, 2015 were distributed.

MOTION

Moved by Comrade Wanda Riddell and seconded by Comrade Mary Smith to accept the minutes as circulated.

CARRIED

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

None.

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President, Comrade Dennis Sirman

President Sirman reported August went by fast and thanks to Dave Brush we were able to get some special events in. September was kicked off with "Comedy for Quality Of Life" tour which, with only 36 attendees was still a great success. Mike MacDonald, one of Ottawa's own, from Brookfield Road, 5 minutes from our Branch, donated 20 minutes of his time. The Roast beef Dinner was a grand success and we raised \$605.00 for Vets PTSD treatment. They may be coming back in the Spring of 2016.

We opened our fall season with a "Surf and Turf" dinner, followed by our favourite Elvis impersonator, Dan Burgess. Over 80 people enjoyed the dinner and more than 50 people were still here after 11pm. Another great success and thank you to all those that worked.

The Financial Review has been completed and we had our inspection by Zone Command on the 15th of September. I wish to thank Comrades Howard Keck, John Carter, Ron Barrie and Dave Brush for their dedication, skill and time in completing their review. I will ask that all members of the Executive take the time to read and we will discuss the recommendations at the next executive meeting. Although I am waiting for the official report on September 24th, Zone Command indicated that they are very pleased with the changes and direction we are going.

Our annual awards and volunteer event was held last Sunday with about 50 people in the hall. Comrades Helen Fraser and Wavey Bennett organized, prepared and served a wonderful "Wine and Cheese" event during our recognition of special members. Comrade Brian Madden worked hard identifying members who have given freely their time and skills in support of 595 as well MC'd the presentation. The "Legionnaire of the Year" award went to Comrade Grant Yusak. Grant has been our PRO, special fundraiser for community activities such as Cadet support and Camp Merrywood, Retail specialist in selling Legion regalia and introduced a dart cabinet for the sale of dart supplies to our 3 leagues. Almost monthly he has organized, prepared and served a Friday dinner. Grant has stood out as an exceptional volunteer and 595 has benefitted from his tireless energy.

Please bookmark rcl595.ca, it is your primary beacon into what's happening at 595. Comrade Smith's weekly newsletter provides a warm light reading into what we have done and where we are going. The Executive and small band of volunteers have done an amazing job of keeping this hall busy. We definitely need more volunteers and would welcome new ideas but better yet come on out and enjoy 595.

Working with house I would like to put a plan in to modify the Branch in key areas. First an 8 foot wall separating the lounge and hall area, and secondly moving the bar/kitchen wall 4 feet towards the bar area to give additional preparation and storage area. Several members have already volunteered their time and talents.

Painting would be extra but we have already approved a plan and have \$100.00 in donations for paint. Helen and I spoke with the contractor who redid our floors at home, which by the way we were very pleased with, and he is willing to resurface our parquet flooring as a gift to 595. This has been timed

for the 3rd-4th of October. The Branch will be closed for those two days. Hall painting has been deferred.

Poppy season is coming fast, please make every effort to donate your precious time to support this campaign.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Comrade James Simpson

The financial statements for the period ending August 31st, 2015 were presented and a copy is attached to the Branch and Secretary's copies.

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

None

8. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

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

Comrade Fraser reported the hiring of a new bartender, Chuck MacCormick who will be a spare when backup is required. All is running smoothly.

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

Comrade Devine reported all going well. Booking entertainment every 2nd Friday. Flyers have been posted at local grocery stores.

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

Comrade Yusak reported I have reviewed for upcoming information on the new season of sports and all that was available was on the Dominion Command website. However what is there has not been updated and only lists old information and the 2014 or 2015 championship dates -with no results from spring 2015.

I will advise as soon as I hear anything. We will be hosting the Zones in March 2016.

I will also post and communicate a sign up sheet for cribbage on one night, maybe Tuesdays opposite the weeks of our meetings.

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

(d) **Legion and Dart Retail - Comrade Grant Yusak**

Comrade Yusak reported I have reviewed the dart supplies and made a small order to fill the gaps. I have not ordered any retail, only a few branch needs for honours and awards.

Renewals are out for the new Fall Legion Placemats. We have received payment of (\$750, \$250 plus \$32.50 HST from three sponsors to date): Carleton Tavern, Soloway Wright (who has bought a second square adjacent to theirs for a really great top centre double profile) and Beneci Pizza. We have confirmed that the following will be renewing: Dumouchel, Olgas, Prescott Hotel, Fireside Pub and Kelly's. Likely are Al's Fencing and Lauren Mechanical. We have two new sales: Surgenor Auto and Leasing thanks to Dave Brush, and McCarthy Automotive thanks to William Wilkinson. Well done boys! 3 spots remain for an October print. Also Jim Simpson has confirmed Urbandale will take their two squares and would like to adjust one to

the top right corner- which has been granted and Georges Winters was asked to speak to DS Insurance by the executive meeting but I have not heard from him. And such I will have a new insurance company on board early next week.

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

Comrade Bell reported cleaning the barbeques and fans in washrooms and has taken an inventory of the furniture in the branch.

(f) **Hall Rentals - Comrade Dennis Sirman**

Nil report.

(g) **Training and Organizational Development - Vacant**

No report.

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

Comrade Smith reported newsletters are now sent out in a formalized presentation. I have added as much information as possible regarding future events in order to allow members to plan better.

Two new banners have been added to the window in hopes of attracting new clientele. A third banner advertising the brunches has been ordered.

Looking at ways to attract new members, or at least increase the numbers attending events.

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

As at September 20th, 2015: Total Membership – 354

STATUS	# RECORDS
PAID UP	302
LAPSED 1	34
LAPSED 2	18
TOTALS	354

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

Comrade Madden reported summer has been quiet and gearing up for Poppy Campaign shortly. May Court Hospice received \$5,000 donation from the Ottawa Poppy Fund for defibrillators and presentation photo will be November's Legion magazine.

(k) **Honours and Awards - Comrade Brian Madden**

We held our Honours and Awards on Sunday Sept 20 2015. This year we did something different to honour all our volunteers. With help from President Sirman, VP Yusak and myself we decided to have one special certificate with all our volunteers names on it, this way everybody is able to see who they are. This will be hung up on the wall for one year.

We handed out our Legion service pins, for the ones who were unable to make it they will be kept at the bar for pick up.

We awarded 4 Branch Service medals to Wanda Riddell, Ken Harrison, Ron Oakley and Bot Kelly for service to the branch in keeping with Rituals and Traditions of the Legion.

This year our Legionnaire of the Year for 2015 is Grant Yusak who over the last year had made a great impact on our branch with fundraising (for Camp Merrywood & our commitment to our cadet corps.) Legion Retail, Darts, Meals, advertising in our place mats.

I would like to thank Pelee Islands wines for donating all the wine for our wine and cheese held after our awards.

I would like to thank Comrades Connie Bennett, Wavey Bennett, Eli Bennett, Ray Moloughney for the preparation and serving of all the food. Would also like to thank Comrades Helen Fraser and Bob Joly for their work with the wine tasting.

(l) **Veterans' Services - Comrade Georges Winters**

Comrade Winters reported he has received three requests for help, one completed and two are in progress.

(m) **Legion Seniors - Vacant**

No report.

(n) **Branch Regulations - Comrade Dennis Sirman**

Ron Barrie introduced a resolution to amend the regulations to change the term of the executive from one to two year term.

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

Comrade Brown reported the information for the Remembrance Day contests has been sent out to the schools in Strathcona's boundary.

The deadline for entries to this year's Poster and Literary Contests is 18 November 2015. Entries are to be delivered to the Royal Canadian Legion Strathcona Branch 595, at 1940B Bank Street. An awards ceremony for the first, second, and third place finishers will be held in January 2016. Bilingual judges are required.

Ontario Command also invites students to take part in a Remembrance Video Contest. The Deadline for the Video Contest is 01 December 2015. Entries are to be emailed to Ontario Provincial Command at info@on.legion.ca.

There is also a Royal Canadian Legion Zone G5 Public Speaking Contest which will be held on March 5th, 2016 at Barrhaven Branch. A form and contest information can be found at the Youth Programs page at the Ontario Command website

Comrade Madden reported this year Ottawa Poppy has awarded 3 bursaries for our branch.

(p) **Ways & Means - Comrade Ethel Benson**

Comrade Benson reported the meat draw is ongoing and the craft sale is scheduled for November 21st, looking for volunteers to help run it.

(q) **Kitchen Services - Comrade Wavey Bennett**

Comrade Bennett reported cleaning and organizing the kitchen. Inventory sheet is up on the wall. Please do not leave personal items in fridge without a name. Kitchen inventory will be completed soon.

(r) **Cadet Liaison – Comrade Bot Kelly**

Nil report.

9. **MOTION TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS**

Moved by Comrade John Carter and seconded by Comrade Janet Waitman that all reports be accepted.
Motion carried.

10. **GENERAL AND NEW BUSINESS:**

President Sirman advised Comrade Simpson's retirement as Treasurer and announced the appointment of Comrade John Carter as the Branch's new Treasurer.

MOTION

It was moved by Comrade Dennis Sirman and seconded by Comrade Wanda Riddell that \$1,000 for renovations to move north wall behind bar and erect a wall between lounge and hall be approved. Vote yielded 24 in favour and 5 against.

CARRIED

11. **TABLING OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

Comrade Ron Barrie tabled a motion, seconded by Comrade Wanda Riddell, to change the term of the executive from 1 year to 2 years.

Comrade Dave Brush tabled a motion, seconded by Comrade Wanda Riddell, to increase membership fees by \$10.00 to \$65.00 yearly, effective December 1, 2015 (once early bird period is terminated) for the 2016 calendar year.

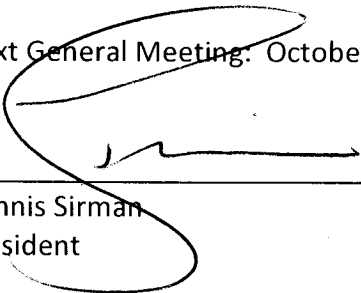
12. **MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:30 pm Comrade Georges Winters, Branch Chair, declared the business of the meeting having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

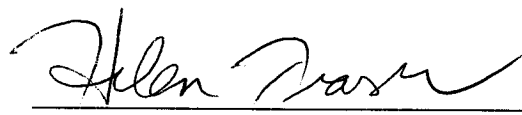
13. **CLOSING CEREMONY:**

Comrade Dennis Sirman conducted the "Closing Ritual".

Next General Meeting: October 27, 2015



Dennis Sirman
President



Helen Fraser
Secretary

January, April, June, September, October, November