



Strathcona Branch 595

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2017

PRESENT: From the Executive: Comrades James Simpson, Derk Duermeyer, Greg Devine, Janet Waitman, Victor Dowie, Rob Mantle, Bruce Brown.

Members at Large: Brian Madden, Ken Bonnell, Harold Pretty, Paul Bendus, James Sookhbirsingh, Colin Downes, Dom Baldwin, Gemma Brown, Richard Johnston

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:
MOTION**

Comrade Simpson announced the following new members were present for initiation:

Gemma Brown - Associate

Richard Johnston – Associate

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 27th, 2017 were distributed.

MOTION

Moved by Comrade Derk Duermeyer and seconded by Comrade Victor Dowie 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: Ontario Command has issued a document called "By-laws for Branches" We will not be updating our Bylaws until this document has been reviewed by our Branch, and a determination has been made whether all branches are obligated to use the Bylaws issued by Ontario Command. Individual changes would then be Branch policies or rules, rather than Bylaws.

A question was asked by Comrade Greg Devine about item #9 in the minutes, which was a motion reading as follows:

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

There was some discussion and Comrade Waitman, as recorder of tonight's minutes, was asked to revise the wording of the motion. However, after subsequent email discussion, this item has been left for clarification at the October Executive meeting.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT: Comrade Dennis Sirman

In the absence of our Treasurer Comrade Dennis Sirman, Comrade Simpson provided the financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2017. At the last meeting serious concerns were expressed about our on-going financial status. However, we seem to be making improvements. We currently are showing a profit for the year to date of \$1,244.33 after several years of losses. The improvement is attributed partly to the fact that we had events over the summer months, and also to the income brought in by our new pool table.

Comrade Brian Madden stated that he was very impressed that the finances had been turned around, and that the finances had gone into the black, especially as it happened over the summer months. He offered his congratulations to the current Executive for their hard work.

6. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

President, Comrade James Simpson

The President introduced the new chair of the Poppy Campaign: Comrade Brian Madden, who is, among other things, a former President of our Branch.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND BUSINESS ARISING THEREFROM:

None

8. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

(a) Legion Seniors – Comrade Toulia Pouris

No report.

(b) Membership - Comrade Helen Fraser

No report.

(c) Poppy – Comrade Brian Madden

Verbal Report. The 2017 Poppy Campaign is October 27-November 10th. Weekend Poppy Distributing is managed by the cadets. Brian will need all Legion members to help with distribution of poppies.

(d) Public Relations and Publicity – Grant Yusak

No report.

- (e) **Sports and Track and Field – Comrade Greg Devine**
Comrade Devine stated that any registration for Legion sports events at other branches is made through him.
- (f) **Training and Organizational Development - Comrade Tom Feeley**
No report.
- (g) **Veterans’ Services - Comrade Vic Dowie**
No report.
- (h) **Bar - Comrade Helen Fraser**
Comrade Fraser reported the bar is running smoothly.
- (i) **Bylaws and Branch Regulations - Comrade Wanda Riddell**
No report.
- (j) **Cadet Liaison – Comrade Rob Mantle**
Comrade Mantle reported the cadets were involved with the Freedom of the City Parade, and also in the Canadian Army run.
- (k) **Event Planning – Comrades Greg Devine and Toula Pouris (Coordinators)**
No report.
- (l) **Hall Rentals – Comrade Greg Devine**
Comrade Devine reported that hall rentals are going well, although he is still looking for Christmas party bookings for December. Saturdays are booked for October and November.
- (m) **House – Comrade Dennis Sirman**
No report.
- (n) **Honours and Awards - Comrade Derk Duermeyer**
Comrade Duermeyer reported Honours and Awards evening on September 19th went well; Comrade Derk himself was awarded the Legionnaire of the year award, much to his surprise.
- (o) **Legion Retail – Comrade Derk Duermeyer**
Comrade Duermeyer reported everything going smoothly. He advised that there is a veteran’s bar available for \$5 to be placed on the Legion Uniform of veterans. He also has Branch numbers available to go on berets for \$1.00 each.
- (p) **Member Communications – Comrade Janet Waitman**
No report.
- (q) **Supplies and Services – Comrade Robin Brown**
No report.

- (r) **Youth Education and Bursary - Comrade Bruce Brown**
Comrade Brown reported six bursaries were issued in September. The information for the essay and poster contest has been distributed to the schools. A date for judging will be set after Remembrance Day. Help will be needed.
- (s) **Ways & Means - Comrade Tom Feeley**
No report.
- (t) **Catch the Ace – President James Simpson standing in for Comrade Dennis Sirman**
Comrade Simpson reported the application was finished and has been reviewed by the City. There has been a meeting with the City’s Lottery License authorities to get the snags worked out. The forms were completed today and taken in, but since the elevator was not working, they were not delivered. A tentative start date has been set for mid to late October.

9. **MOTION TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS**

Moved by Comrade Brian Madden and seconded by Comrade Vic Dowie that all reports be accepted.
Motion carried.

10. **GENERAL AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Comrade Paul Bendus inquired about the increased costs that will be arising when the Ontario minimum wage increases. Specifically he asked about the possibility of staffing or partially staffing the bar with volunteers. He was told that to do this requires a large pool of qualified and willing bar tenders and that unfortunately we have never been able to recruit a sufficient number. It would appear that the present situation is our best one at the moment.

11. **TABLING OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

None.

12. **MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:09 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: October 24, 2017

James Simpson
President

Helen Fraser
Secretary