



## Strathcona Branch 595

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### MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

**PRESENT:** Comrades Helen Fraser, Toulia Pouris, Ron Oakley, Ron Barrie, Brian Madden, Malph Maltais, Katherine Winters, Georges Winters, Bruce Brown, Ethel Benson, Robert MacLean, Denis Amyotte, Dom Baldwin, Derk Duermeyer, Dennis Sirman, Gregory Sirman, Tom Feeley, David Morrison, Andy Wilkins, Wanda Riddell, Janet Waitman, Paul Bendus, Pauline Walker, Steven Walker, Paul Louiseize, James Simpson

**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 James Simpson 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:

David Morrison - Affiliate  
Gregory Sirman – Associate  
Pauline Walker – Associate  
Steven Walker – Associate  
Andre (Andy) Wilkins – 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 June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 were distributed.

**MOTION**

Moved by Comrade Robert MacLean and seconded by Comrade Paul Bendus to accept the minutes as circulated.

**CARRIED**

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

None.

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

**President, Comrade Martin Maltais**

Summer is over and now being the time to get back into a routine. Some of us have been with the branch during the summer, seeing the highs and the lows of slower than normal periods. To those I say thank you for your dedication.

There are many positions at the branch that need to be filled and if you are so inclined to donate some of your time, it would be very much appreciated. If you are interested in any of the vacant positions, please approach any member of the Executive.

The white board, by the bar, "Hospital Visit" is empty (or was at the time of the Awards). Meanwhile a name that should have been on that board is that of Comrade John Carter, our Treasurer. He's had an operation and I'm sure would have appreciated a visit from any member of the branch. Let's make sure that everyone is visited during an hospital stay. You do not have to be on the Executives to visit a Comrade.

Poppy Campaign is soon going to start, next month that is!! Everyone, no exception has repeated these words "to promote the work of the organization including active participation in the Poppy campaign." I don't know about you, but I meant those words when I repeated them at my initiation!! The VETERANS benefit from the campaign and we should get a sense of accomplishment from it.

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

Comrade Carter has 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 August 31.

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 Connie Bennett resigned suddenly in August and Liz also resigned in August upon giving 2 weeks' notice.

Until new bartenders were hired, Comrade Dennis Sirman volunteered many additional hours to the Branch working behind the bar until new staff were hired and trained.

Two bartenders have now been hired, SylviAnne St-Aubin and Matthew Madden and together with Pauline Walker, the bar is running smoothly. SylviAnne has also taken over the cleaning contract for the Branch.

Comrade Fraser reported the installation of a six tap draught bridge tower system has been completed and the draught is selling well.

(b) **Entertainment – Vacant**

No report.

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

No report.

(d) **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. Trained Sylvie Anne (new bar staff) on Legion Merchandise sales, computer and the online catalogue to get pricing, not in house. Ordered items needed for Honours and Awards. Completed Darts Merchandise Inventory.

(e) **House - Vacant**

No report.

(f) **Hall Rentals – Wanda Riddell**

Comrade Riddell reported rentals are going well.

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

No report.

(h) **Communications, Public Relations and Publicity - Vacant**

Comrade Grant Yusak expressed an interest in chairing this portfolio.

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

As at September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016: Total Membership – 354

STATUS	# RECORDS
PAID UP	290
LAPSED 1&2	64
TOTALS	354

Per capita tax sent to Dominion Command since last General Meeting \$1,341.05.

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

Comrade Maltais reported that Comrade Georges Winters attended the Poppy Committee meeting held September 8, 2016 at which Doug Coody was re-elected Chairman and Comrade Brian Madden was re-elected Vice- Chairman. Cheques were issued for the Air and Sea Cadets for \$500 each and for the Governor General Foot Guards, \$1,125 from the Ottawa Poppy Fund.

Demarches have already started to take place for the 2016 Poppy Campaign. It cannot be stressed enough that for a campaign to be successful, the people have to make it happen. The beneficiary from a successful campaign are the VETERANS and their families. You are the

Legion and you can make it happen! Don't be sorry if you can only contribute three (3) hours, I'll take those.

Comrade Madden reported that The Ottawa Poppy Fund (OPF) has met and a budget has been formulated for the upcoming 2016-2017 season. You should all have a copy of it. This is presented to you this evening for acceptance or rejection by you the general body of Strathcona and the same will be done by Westboro at their next general meeting. When both branches have agreed to accept the budget then it will be the guideline with the OPF will abide by.

**MOTION**

Moved by Comrade Derk Duermeyer and seconded by Comrade Janet Waitman that the budget for the Ottawa Poppy Fund as presented to the membership be approved.

**CARRIED**

Comrade Dennis Sirman commented that more funds should be allocated to the cadets.

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

Comrade Sirman reported 33 members and non-members attended the evening. Special awards were awarded by our President, Martin Maltais, to Comrade Ron Barrie (Legion volunteer medal), Comrade Katherine Winters (Legion volunteer medal) and the volunteer of the year award went to Comrade Helen Fraser.

Special long service awards were given to those members in attendance, namely Comrade Ethel Benson (65 years).

The volunteer plaque names were read out and it was mentioned that Anastasia Bendus's name was missing but it will be added before the plaque goes up.

All of the costs are not in yet but the costs to date are \$125 for food, \$26 for engraving and the pins and medals are forthcoming.

Special thanks to Comrade SylvieAnn St-Aubin for assisting me in preparation and serving the snacks and thanks to Pelee Wines for their generous donation.

(l) **Veterans' Services - Comrade James Simpson**

Comrade Simpson reported no requests for service have been received *in the last two months*.

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

Comrade Sirman reported on September 21st a focus group for seniors was held with only 3 members in attendance. Thanks to Laura Polegato, Regional ElderCare Advisor, Eastern Ontario Help for Mom, Canada's ElderCare Navigator, for her efforts and the generous gifts she gave to those that participated.

At this time and based on the amount of interest shown there are no further activities planned.

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

Comrade Simpson reported that the Regulations are up to date.

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

Comrade Brown reported the information on the Remembrance contests for the 2016 year is being disseminated to the schools. All schools should have received the information by the end of the week. The website is being 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.

Comrade Brown requested that members volunteer to judge the essays and posters submitted by the schools.

An awards ceremony for the winners in Strathcona's Poster and Literary contest will be held in January 2017.

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

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

Comrade Feeley reported although he is presently busy with his work, he will attempt to schedule some special events in the future. Regarding the fall craft and bake sale, he asked the members present for their views on participation in a bake sale. The matter was left unresolved. He also informed he will organize a Halloween Party on October 29, 2016.

*This segment was really confusing but this is how I recall it,*

(q) **Cadet Liaison – Comrade Rob Mantle**

No report.

9. **MOTION TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS**

Moved by Comrade Wanda Riddell and seconded by Comrade Toula Pouris that all reports be accepted.

**CARRIED**

10. **GENERAL AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Comrade Ethel Benson suggested general meetings should be held on Sunday afternoons to get more members to attend and was told that this has been tried in the past and even less members attended.

President Martin Maltais presented the Past President medal to Comrade Dennis Sirman and the Legion Volunteer Medals (which had not arrived in time for the Honours and Awards Ceremony) were presented to Comrades Ron Barrie and Katherine Winters.

Comrade Toula Pouris suggested that an executive member should be present at all dinners. She also requested information on the process regarding harassment. She was advised to submit in writing her concerns and it will be discussed at the executive meeting.

Comrade Tom Feeley spoke regarding donations of food for Remembrance Day. Organization of this matter will be discussed at the next executive meeting.

Comrade Bob MacLean noted that in some Legion branches the Chaplain is a member of the Executive. The Chair commented that this is not automatic and it requires the Chaplain to be specially appointed.

Comrade Paul Bendus had some suggestions regarding Friday evening meals which will be discussed at the next executive meeting.

11. **TABLING OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

None.

12. **MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:15 pm the Branch Chair declared that the business of the meeting having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

13. **CLOSING CEREMONY:**

President Martin Maltais conducted the "Closing Ritual".

Next General Meeting: October 25, 2016

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Martin Maltais  
President

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Helen Fraser  
Secretary

January, April, June, September, October, November