

Federal Superannuates National Association

Nanaimo & Area

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August, 2005



NEXT MEETING

Thursday 15th September, 2005

Location: 256 Royal Canadian Legion Branch at 1630 East Wellington Street, which is located between Bowen and Townsite Road. Doors will open at 10 a.m.

The short business meeting will start at about 11 a.m, following which, there will be a meal of Roast Pork with all the trimmings, including veggies, with pie and ice cream. Tea, coffe and milk will also be available. The cost will be \$14.00 per person.

Following the meal, at about 1 p.m., Superintendent McKinstry of the BC Ambulance Service will outline the services they make available in the Central Island and demonstrate some of the equipment

You will be asked by your local telephoner if you plan to attend and reserve your meal and, if you do, you are reminded of our cancellation policy. As we are required to pay for all meals we order, if you find you are unable to attend, you are asked to cancel your reservation to avoid being charged for the meal. To do so, please call **Pat Mason** at 753-6008 or **Barb Campbell** at 954-0733. The last date for cancellation to avoid billing will be Thursday, 9th September, 2004.

DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAG!

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Now that summer on the coast has finally shown its face, I hope that you all are availing yourselves of the good weather, bearing in mind the late and cool spring we experienced. As I am writing this piece in early August I wish that we could have a good fall also.

Our last General Meeting in Port Alberni at the Barclay Hotel was very well attended and it exceeded expectations with the meals, as usual, being excellent. Our guest speaker was Corporal Foster, Community Relations Officer from the Alberni detachment of the RCMP. His topic was frauds perpetrated against seniors. We all learned a great deal from his presentation. On behalf of our branch and the FSNA we thank him very much for his efforts! I would also like to thank our Area Director Marge Pierce for her work in organising this meeting for us.

Since our last newsletter both court challenges are proceeding at the usual pace through the court system. The PSHCP negotiations are still ongoing but with agreement to continue the present plan until a new one can be finalised. If no agreement can be reached by 01 November of this year, the three parties have agreed that the dispute resolution process (mediation and arbitration) will be initiated. In addition National undertook a study on liability insurance market. It was concluded that our present carrier PRO LINK was still our best option. This report also identified areas of concern to all branches where they can be more prudent. A copy has been provided to those members of the Executive where the recommendations are better applied. The NBOD met in May with several initiatives being undertaken. Marg Mostowy and myself attended the Regional Meeting in Duncan on 27th June last. Unfortunately Vic Ashdown was unable to attend due to illness. I intend to cover this meeting and the NBOD meeting in greater detail at the September General Meeting.

We are issuing our first call for elections for the November AGM. Bearing this in mind we must be cognisant of the fact that your Executive are not the EverReady Bunny! They just cannot keep going and going and going. Please step up to the plate and offer your services to the branch in this instance. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. As usual we are still in need of phoners, especially for the Parksville/Qualicum Beach area.

In closing I would hope to see you all at the September General Meeting. We wish you all continued good health and keep yourselves safe.

Bob Hoogerbrug



So much for the goldfish. Now,
where's the canary?



Your Historian, John Ablett, is trying to establish a complete record of the Branch and, to do this, is looking for copies of the FSNA Nanaimo Minutes, Agendas and other formal documentation from the 1980's and 1990's.

It would be also useful to obtain copies of the Newsletter prior to 2003.

If you can help, please contact John, or any director and we will be pleased to make arrangements for pick up

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

as at 14 Jul 2004



ASSETS

Bank Balances	1325.54
Petty Cash Balance	100.00
Float Due—Membership	100.00
Float Due—Marg Mostowy	1000.00
Prepaid Stationery & Postage	425.83
G.I.C. Investments	14200.00
Accounts Receivable	4440.08
DOB Contingency Fund	2,000.00
Equipment	7649.38
Less Depreciation -6,469.22	1,180.17
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	24771.62

LIABILITIES

Per Capital Payable	66.50
TOTAL LIABILITIES	66.50

EQUITY

Retained Earnings	19,787.50
Current Earnings	4917.62
TOTAL EQUITY	24705.12

24771.62
(Liabilities & Equity)



WEB-BASED MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM (WMS)

The WMS continues to improve and should be available for general use in FSNA by summer 2006. Our Region is arranging to have National Office run a training session for Island Branches this fall or early next year.

DUES

For those paying at Branch, billing notices for your 2006 dues are enclosed with this newsletter

How to Contact Your Executive



President—Bob Hoogerbrug 751-8735

r-choog@shaw.ca

Vice President & Membership—

Vic Ashdown 248-2027

ashdown@shaw.ca

Past President—Marg Mostowy 756-1069

fsnananaimo@shaw.ca

Treasurer—Bob Stitt 758-7681

stittar@shaw.ca

Secretary—Cathey Hoogerbrug 751-8735

Membership Secretary - Doris Grieves 716-1952

dgrieves@shaw.ca

Recruiting and Retention— Al Heinrich 738-0192

agh@shaw.ca

Historian, Nominations Committee and Volunteer Coordinator— John Ablett 752-7572

Program Director—Pat Mason 753-6008

Awards/Speakers—Charles Scrivener 758-2240

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Registration- Susanne Body 729-9588

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Services & PSHCP/PSDO Liason—

Leroy Wood 758-0078

woodsie@shaw.ca

Newsletter— Ron Gladstone 751-2940

gldstone@shaw.ca

Hospital Visiting Nanaimo— Alex Kohuch

755-3040

Parksville Harold Goodman 248-3269

Port Alberni—Marg Pierce 723-9791

Phone Chairs & Area Coordinators, etc

Qualicum Beach Sherwood Moore

Parksville Barbara Campbell 954-0733

campbellba@shaw.ca

Ucluelet Sandy Henry 726-7086

macfunnelcover@telus.net

Port Alberni—Marg Pierce 723-9791

Cards

Parksville, Qualicum & Nanoose 468-7706

Freida Mason

freidam@shaw.ca

Nanaimo & Area June Wiebe 756-4873

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Port Alberni, Ucluelet, Tofino Marg Pierce

723-9791



MEMBERSHIP REPORT



MEMBER NUMBER COUNT

As of August 11th, 2005, the Nanaimo and Area Branch had 1658 members comprising 1096 superannuates and 562 spouses. There are 1258 on DDS and 400 pay at Branch. Since the last Newsletter Report (May 19th), the following membership changes have taken place:

NEW OR REINSTATED MEMBERS (89)

Denman Island: H Fraser

Lantzville: Bruce & Sandra Madu

Nanaimo: Frank & Christa Barrett; John & Wendy Bechdholt; D & Carmen Bowhey; Doug & Joan Blackwell; Mary-Jane Burns; Thomas & Judith Curran; Bonnie Dimitry; B Dupuis; Howard & Kathleen Fick; Hannah Green; B Harmon & James Cook; Terrance & Suzanne Hayes; T & Anita Hickman; Gunther & Gladys John; Pauline King; J & Eva MacKinnon; T & T McCaskill; Edward & Karen Pearce; Donald & Marjorie Pelton; Rose Mary Pettigrew; Hank & Shirley Seltzer; T & Leona Smith; Jack & Elizabeth Smith; Paul Surette; David & Isabelle Wesner; Linda Wiltse; Joan Winters.

Nanoose Bay: Ronald & Carolyn Dodd; Peter & Terry Fischer; Bruce Gordon.

Parksville: Elsa & Michael Cane; J A & Anne Eggleston; Peter Hann; Kathleen & Ronald Legrove; Claude & Audrey Moseley; Pete & Jacqueline Petersen; Judith & Robert Rowe; Patricia & S Stephen; M Walker; Stanley Wilcox.

Port Alberni/Ucluelet: Patrick Littleton (Ucluelet); Dan & Jeannie Moyles; Henk & H Slots; Louisa Taylor.

Qualicum Beach: R W & Agnes Bayley; John & Kathy Burgess; Ellory Faulkner; K & Shirley Ledrew; Mavis Martin; James Purdon & Carollyne Haynes; Peter & Di-
anne Ushko.

Other: Dorothy Coleby, Whitehorse, YT

TRANSFERRED IN (12)

Geraldine & Ken Calthorpe, Qualicum Beach, from MB48 Lakehead

Des Davidge, Parksville, from ON43 Ottawa

William & Georgina King, Parksville, from (not specified)

Vern Larsen, Port Alberni, from AB17 Edmonton

Ken & Elaine MacKinnon, Port Alberni, from ON40 London

Henricus & Martha Van Galen, Nanaimo, from BC09 Victoria-Fred Whitehouse

William & Sandra Veenstra, Qualicum Beach, from BC11 Okanagan North

TRANSFERRED OUT (4)

Al & Ruth Scott, Qualicum Beach, to BC06 North Vancouver Island

James Searle, Qualicum Beach, to BC04 Fraser Valley West

Irene Field, Nanaimo, to BC08 Vancouver

MEMBERSHIP CANCELLATIONS (13)

Glen & Peggy Archibald, Gabriola

Shirley Bilton, Bowen Island

Tom Buckley, Nanaimo

Flora Dawson, Kingcome Inlet

Ina France, Qualicum Beach

Mark Keith-Murray & Janet Gorham, Qualicum Beach

Verna Nicholson, Qualicum Beach

Francis & Audrey Reyno, Qualicum Beach

Rudolph Sellars, Parksville

Emma Torkko, Nanaimo

IN MEMORIAM (10)

Michael Bignell, Port Alberni, survived by wife Kirsten

Andrew Meacock, Nanaimo, survived by wife Joyce

Doris Tetrault, Parksville, survived by husband Noel

Laurie Donaldson, Nanaimo, survived by wife Thelma

Fred Graham, Nanaimo

Donald Laird, Parksville, survived by wife Elsie

Donald McCord, Nanaimo, survived by wife Irene

Ellen Wilder, Nanaimo, survived by husband Daniel Miron

Jack Wootten, Nanaimo

Robert Young, Qualicum Beach, survived by wife Frances

Odds & Ends

WE GET E-MAIL

From: "Liz & Peter"

Subject: Canadian Government Policy

Date: Thursday, 21 July, 2005 9:46 AM

It is interesting that the federal government provides a single refugee with a monthly allowance of \$1,890.00 and each can get an additional \$580.00 in social assistance for a total of \$2,470.00. This compares very well to a single pensioner who, after contributing to the growth and development of Canada for 40 or 50 years, can only receive a monthly maximum of \$1,012.00 in old age pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement.

Maybe our pensioners should apply as refugees Let's send this thought to as many Canadians as we can and maybe we can get the refugees cut back to \$1,012.00 and the pensioners up to \$2,470.00, so they can enjoy the money they were forced to submit to the Canadian government for those 40 to 50 years.

(Editor: This is the opinion of the originator(s) and does not reflect official FSNA opinion. It is, however, a topic worth thinking about)

NEVER BE LOCKED OUT AGAIN

Thanks to Don Grenon for this interesting information!!!

" Locked your keys in your car???? If you lock your keys in the car and the spare clicker is at home, call home on your cell phone.

Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the other person at your home press the unlock button of your key fob (clicker), holding it near the phone on their end. Your car doors will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you.

Distance is no object, you could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other "remote" for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk!).

Editor's Note * It does work, although I can't guarantee it for all cars. We tried it out, and it unlocked a friend's car. (Our old jalopy is steam driven and has no locks on the doors—we're hoping somebody will steal it!)



"I'm busy. Call me later"

From: John Dunsmore

ICE - In Case of Emergency - great idea!

A campaign encouraging people to enter an emergency contact number in their mobile phone's memory under the heading ICE (In Case of Emergency), has rapidly spread throughout the world as a particular consequence of the terrorist attacks in London. Originally established as a nation-wide campaign in the UK, ICE allows paramedics or police to be able to contact a designated relative /next-of-kin in an emergency situation.

The idea is the brainchild of East Anglian Ambulance Service paramedic Bob Brotchie and was launched in May this year. Bob, 41, who has been a paramedic for 13 years, said: "I was reflecting on some of the calls I've attended at the roadside where I had to look through the mobile phone contacts struggling for information on a shocked or injured person. Almost everyone carries a mobile phone now, and with ICE we'd know immediately who to contact and what number to ring. The person may even know of their medical history."

By adopting the ICE advice, your mobile will help the rescue services quickly contact a friend or relative - which could be vital in a life or death situation. It only takes a few seconds to do, and it could easily help save your life. Why not put ICE in your phone now? Simply select a new contact in your phone book, enter the word 'ICE' and the number of the person you wish to be contacted. For more than one Next of Kin use ICE1, ICE2, ICE3 and so on. If you think this is a good idea please pass it on to everyone in your address book. get you family and friends involved. It is Easy, Free, and could save your life, or at least let you family know what's going on.



THE WORD FROM NATIONAL

Public Service Health Care Plan Negotiations

There were two full days of negotiations on June 23-24 and further negotiations sessions were held during the week of July 18. As mentioned in previous Bulletin to Branches, the negotiations are confidential. It is expected that the plan design as well as the plan funding formula are going to be the focus of the negotiations. An agreement must be reached not later than November 1, 2005. If not, the three parties have agreed that the dispute resolution process (mediation and arbitration) will be initiated.

National Joint Council Annual Seminar

Again this year, the National President and the Executive Director have been invited to and will attend the National Joint Council Seminar being held this year on September 21 to 23, in Edmonton. Participation in this seminar provides FSNA representatives to meet and discuss issues of importance to pensioners with key senior government officials and representatives of the bargaining agents. The support of both the employer and of bargaining agents is critical to our success on many issues, including, for example the Public Service Health Care Plan.

Supreme Court Decision: Health Care System in Québec

There have been many questions raised in relation to the impact of a Supreme Court decision that in effect provides for private sector involvement in the provision of health care services. This, many fear, will lead to the privatization of our health care system. Some members have written to the National Office asking if FSNA is or should react to the Court's decision. This is a matter of policy that needs to be decided by the National Board of Directors. It will be placed as a major item of discussion at the Board's meeting in October. In the meantime, FSNA's policy remains the one that was tabled at both the Romanow Commission and the Senate Committee (Kirby) that examined and made recommendations on the health care system. Basically, FSNA's position is that it supports a publicly funded and administered health care system and gave its support to the recommendations of Romanow.

FSNA is very much opposed to a two-tier health care system. The NBOD will review this position in light of the Supreme Court decision. It is not expected that there will be any changes to the current health care system in the foreseeable future. One thing for certain, the health care system might very well be, again, the major issue during the next federal election that is expected in late January 2006.

Public Service and Canadian Forces Supplementary Death Benefit Class Actions

Both the Public Service Class Action and the Canadian Forces Class Action went to trial on the common issues at the Law Courts in Vancouver on June 13, 2005. The evidence has been completed. The oral argument is presently scheduled for September 2005. Both actions allege that portions of the pension legislation governing payment of death benefits discriminate on the basis of age. The plaintiffs in the two actions say the legislation decreases death benefits for surviving spouses and other beneficiaries in a manner contrary to the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. For further information on these actions please visit the site of the law firm that represent the plaintiffs at:

www.branmac.com/classactions/deathbenefits.htm.

(Editor's Note). Still trying to get a picture of the new National premises now it is not under twenty feet of snow, so I've gone back to the old picture out of respect for them sweltering in their current heat wave!



IT'S TIME TO HELP RAISE THE FLAG!

Ron Gladstone

Your Association Needs YOU

With the end of Summer fast approaching its time to face the fact that we will be seeking members to volunteer to run for election to keep our Branch going with the same energy and vitality we have all come to expect. This year, having completed two glorious years as President, Bob Hoogerbrug will be stepping down and, if Vic Ashdown is elected to that office, we will need a new Vice President. Charles Scrivener will also be leaving having put a lot of work into our Awards Program and ensuring we have interesting speakers at our meetings and, if you have been following my column for the last two issues you will know I am anxious to have a break from the newsletter responsibility. There are lots of other opportunities to serve and we always need telephoners and people to staff the registration tables at meetings.

People have often told me that I seem to have such a good time putting this newsletter together that it would be difficult to think of me wanting to give it up. This is so true, not only for me, but for all the others on the Executive. Lets face it, the work is not hard but it provides outstanding rewards in the area of knowing you have done something to help the cause of Federal Superannuates in our district. Its not just that we feel the jobs more difficult as we get inevitably older. What is really frightening is the prospect of what happens if one person has a job too long and nobody has a chance to get to know what its all about. In the "Death of Arthur" the poet had the King say—"The old order changeth, giving place to new lest one good custom should corrupt the world" No matter how great, or how rotten, at your job you are, change is always for the better and people tend to grow into the positions they occupy.. I have seen many organizations in my lifetime where the passing of a long time worker has been followed by chaos. But the fact of the matter it is that it is inevitable,. Nobody wants to step forward and volunteer to replace a long standing incumbent then suddenly ill-health strikes or the need arises for the them to leave the area and—Whamo! - suddenly somebody **has** to take over. It is then that the miracle occurs. You find out that nobody is irreplaceable, its just one's better than others.

What we need is for you to make life easier for all of us and step forward now so that future transitions are easier. One thing I can promise you is that you will enjoy yourself. You will enjoy the work, the company and, above all, the knowledge that you are doing something for your community. Step forward now and let Bob Hoogerbrug, Marg Mostowy or any member of the Executive know you are willing to serve and we will be overjoyed to welcome you.

The Association Skeleton

The body of any organization has four kinds of bones.

There are the wishbones who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work.

There are the jawbones who do all the talking but nothing else.

There are the knuckle bones who knock everything that everybody else tries to do.

Finally, there are the backbones who get under the load and do all the work.

Ask yourself,. Which one am I?

Seniors On-line

At this time of year we all have thoughts of “getting away from it all” At times like these its useful to have timetables at the tip of your fingers. For ferries, try

www.bcferrries.com/schedules/

For Esther and I when traveling south of the border we find the Motel 6 chain hard to beat. The rooms are clean, well furnished and, above all, you get a generous senior discount. They are at:

www.motel6.com/

Mind you, our next trip will be to French Polynesia this Fall where we will be cruising Tahiti, Bora Bora, Huahine and exotic places like that (eat your hearts out).

We get all our cruise info from:

www.susanplumpton.cruiseshipcenters.ca/Home.aspx

There are many other sources which I am sure are equally as good but this is very convenient if you live or go shopping in Nanaimo since the office is right near Costco's. Cruising is popular with us because it is all-inclusive, you get waited on hand and foot and you have nothing to worry about from the time you step on the boat until you step ashore. It can also be relatively inexpensive compared to other holidays which two-bit you to death. Be warned, however, its habit forming. Happy traveling.



The Last Word



I'm sorry there was no current financial statement. I can make a lot of things up (and some people are unkind enough to say I often do) but I draw the line at fabricating bank balances! We'll update you at the meeting.

As you will see we are trying to make an early start on stimulating enthusiasm in our members about serving on the Executive, well in time for the November elections. The reason is that it is vitally important to give all of our folk the time to think seriously about making a commitment to joining the work of running the Branch. It also gives us the opportunity to make a “change of watch” to keep it vibrant and alive. After you are in a position too long you begin to believe in your own infallibility and you go from being a thinker who is brilliant to somebody who only thinks he's brilliant.

And there's a lot to be done. Our entire organization is slowly but surely changing direction and taking a more activist stance on behalf of superannuates. We need new blood to support and encourage this rather than the old guard who are, perhaps, too imbued with the old status quo to think “outside the box”.

So give a great deal of thought to the work you can do for us all and step forward and take your place on the front line of the future.

See you at the meeting.

Ron Gladstone

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