

National Association of Federal Retirees

Quarterly Newsletter

Nanaimo & Area Branch federalretirees-nanaimo.ca
 PO Box 485, Lantzville, BC V0R 2H0

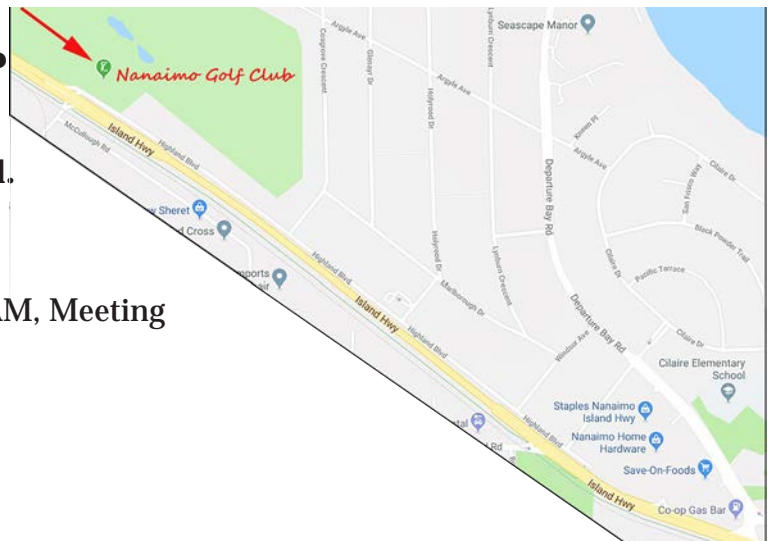
March 2020
 Tel: (250) 248-7171



November 28 Meeting at the Nanaimo Golf Club, 119 attendees.

Next Meeting - **CANCELLED**

Annual General Meeting is cancelled due to concerns over the health of our members during the current Co-VID pandemic. It will be held at a later date to be determined.



Date/Time: Thursday, TBA. Doors open 10:00 AM, Meeting starts 1100 AM.

Location: TBA

Directions: TBA

Business Meeting: 11:00-12:00

Presentation: 12:15 - 12:45 -

Luncheon -

Note: Premeeting coffee not included. To defer the cost to the branch please donate a \$1.00 for your coffee.

In-House Draw - Tickets \$2 or 3 for \$5. All proceeds to charity. We are also collecting non- perishable food or cash for the local food banks.

Reservations/Cancellations:

Your local Federal Retirees volunteer will phone you to ask whether you plan to attend the lunch. **To cancel, please call Jim Gahr at 250-585-3125.** The last date for cancellation to avoid billing is **Sunday, . Name Tags** will be available at the door for all members attending the luncheon.

Remember to leave them at the door when you leave after the meeting/ luncheon. If your name tag from the last meeting had spelling errors, please contact Charles @ 758-2240 or scrivener@shaw.ca.



EVENTS 2020

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	VENUE	Meal	Cost
May 7 2020	Volunteer Lunch	Lantzville	Legion	TBA	NVC
Sept 24 2020	General Meeting	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Newsletter President's Report

March 2020

As I am writing this, the sun is streaming into my office window and the temperature is approaching plus 8...my wife just returned from a trip to Fort St. John and Dawson Creek visiting grand children where it was minus 19 plus wind chill and blowing snow...hmmm where would you rather be?????



Some things to note in the world of Federal Retirees:

1. Meetings

Date for both Provincial and Federal Association meetings have been finalized. The BC/YT Annual Conference themed the Association, Road to 2030 will be held at the RCMP Training Center in Chilliwack from Thursday May 21 to Saturday May 23rd. The agenda is still being finalized but will be heavy on Advocacy and Membership and Recruitment. Myself and two other Directors will be attending. The Associations National All Members Meeting will be in Ottawa May 8th to 12th. I will be representing our Branch. Detailed information regarding the outcomes of these gatherings will be widely shared.

2. Vancouver Island Recruiting Campaign

Initial planning has started on a campaign to raise our Association's visibility on Vancouver Island. Discussed items to date have included posters, enhanced banners and kiosks, and participation at more senior orientated events and increased participation in Public Service Week.

3. Advocacy

Advocacy continues to be the number one priority of our Association. Your Advocacy Committee ably led by Marg Smith have designed a questionnaire to receive your input into what senior issues are important. Members who have email should have received this survey via Survey Monkey...those without email can fill out the survey located in this Newsletter....I would strongly encourage you to give us your thoughts on these critical issues.

4. Election

Thank you to the Directors who have let their names stand at our Annual Meeting....but there is always room for more....please consider getting involved...the work is light...the rewards are tremendous.

5. Bob Willis and Ken Jones

These two gentlemen (yes Bob and Ken I mean you) are stepping down from the Directors after many years of service...Bob as Past President, President and sometime as the Provincial Advocacy Officer, Ken as President. Vice President and Treasurer. Both have been tremendous mentors for all of the Directors, willingly sharing their knowledge and expertise. We will miss them. Thank you for your service.

See you at our AGM!



Annual General Meeting 2020 - List to be Elected

It is the policy of our Branch that elections for the President and Treasurer be held on odd-numbered years, and the Vice-President and Secretary be held on even-numbered years.

The same procedure is applied to Director positions. This system avoids the embarrassment of having all the Officers and Directors up for election in the same year, at the same time.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held 26 March, 2020, and highlight our annual election of Officers and Directors.

List of Officers to be Elected 26 March, 2020:

Vice-President: 2 year term:

Secretary: 2 year term:

Candidates to date for Officer positions:

Vice-President: **VACANT AT THIS TIME**

Secretary: **Sheila Wilson has volunteered**

Candidates to date for Director positions (2 year term):

Vic Ashdown, Jim Gahr, Fran Graham,
Sharon Whalen

Vacant Positions: Individual(s) with enhanced computer skills to serve as Director(s)

Nominations are now open for Officer positions.

Nominations for Director positions are now accepted and can be accepted from the floor at the Branch AGM. Please indicate your intention to Bob Willis, Nomination Chair, or Nominating Committee members, Vic Ashdown, or Fran Graham.

This list prepared 15 February 2020.

Robert (Bob) Willis, Chair, Nominating Committee, c.c : Vic Ashdown, Fran Graham.

Highlights of Minutes from the GENERAL MEETING - November 28, 2019 Place: Nanaimo Golf Club

There were 119 members present for the meeting and meal, 33 meeting only, 3 guests, 6 no-shows.

The meeting was opened by President Rick Roberts at 11:00 pm.

Rick asked any new members to stand and be welcomed.

Acceptance of the agenda was moved by Christine Walker, seconded by Linda Wiltse and carried.

The minutes of the September 26, 2019 General Meeting were moved for acceptance by Leroy Wood, seconded by Ken Jones, carried.

REPORTS:

President's Report, Rick Roberts:

Some members of the Executive attended the NAFR meeting in Duncan. There are 3 NAFR meetings a year which branches can send delegates to; the Vancouver Island meeting, the provincial Chilliwack meeting and the all members meeting in Ottawa.

There were 2 National Directors at the Duncan meeting. The popular booklet "You and Your Survivors" has been revised and will be available soon, both in print and on-line.

NAFR did a great job of Advocacy in the recent elections, both in BC and Nationally.

There is an Island committee to address succession and membership, Charles Scrivener will be our representative.

There is training available from Headquarters. The recruitment drive is still on.

Our participation in Remembrance Day was successful thanks to the efforts of Leroy Wood.

The pension index for 2020 is 2%.

We need volunteers at the local level. After Rick had meetings with all of the Executive it seems most need help, especially Vic Ashdown who takes care of membership and related issues.

Secretary's Report, Sheila Wilson:

The minutes of the last General Meeting on September 26, 2019 were displayed on the overhead screen. Paper copies were available.



Finance, Penny Kanigan:

Penny reported that our current balance in the Credit Union is \$10,571.24. We have a GIC maturing on December 10, 2019 with the approximate value of \$3,457.97. We plan to reinvest this amount in a GIC with the Credit Union.

Remembrance Day costs were \$295.00, Leroy Wood again did a great job of organizing our participation.

The meal today costs \$39.00 per person, but this is being subsidized by \$7.00 per person by our Branch. We are constantly on the lookout for less expensive meals and would welcome any input. Considerations are parking, handicap access and adequate space for about 150 people.

Membership, Vic Ashdown:

We currently have 1848 members in BC 05. We had 10 members move into the area, 5 moved out, 3 cancellations and 8 deaths. Vic read a list of the deceased since our last meeting and asked that we observe a minute of silence.

Vic reminded us this was the 30th anniversary of the falling of the Berlin Wall. He and Michelle lived in Warsaw at this time. He then told a joke about the President of Poland at that time.

Health and Benefits:

Andy Gilman, Sharon Whelan:

Andy reminded people of the re-issue of "You and Your Survivors".

Programs, Fran Graham:

Rick Roberts thanked Fran for organized this event. Fran thinks that the Coast Hotel may be an option for the Annual General Meeting in the spring. Costs of such events are escalating everywhere.



Historian, Charles Scrivener:

An executive decision was made to award a 15 year volunteer certificate to Dianne Neeve at this meeting as she had travelled from Victoria to be here. The remaining awards will be presented at the AGM.

Advocacy, Margaret Smith:

We had a very successful Advocacy Program. Nanaimo/Ladysmith partnered with Duncan at the Ladysmith Labour Day picnic. The National and Provincial offices worked hard at the tasks.

We sponsored an all candidates forum, all of our questions we asked. The emphasis was on veteran's issues. All candidates condemned the Phoenix pay system. Our committee wrote letters to all candidates on the issues, so they are now aware of NAFR.



Two new volunteers have stepped forward to assist with advocacy. Margaret thanked the members of the committee; Ken Jones, Christine Walker and Charles Scrivener.

Margaret asked members to fill in the questionnaires on the tables regarding their advocacy priorities.

Past President, Bob Willis:

Bob wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Elections will be held at the Annual General Meeting for those positions whose term is running out. Sheila Wilson, Vic Ashdown, Jim Gahr, Fran Graham and Sharon Whelan will all stand for re-election.



New volunteers are needed, you can be a Director At Large, attend Executive meetings and assist where needed. He urged members to talk to the Executive to find out what their duties were.

Audit:

Rick Roberts asked for 2 volunteers to perform the audit. Linda Wiltse and Linda Cant volunteered.

**If we shouldn't eat at night,
why do they put a light in the fridge?**



Elisabeth Clarke-Gilman hands Sharon Whelan her winnings.

In House Draw:

\$402.00 was raised, ½ was divided into 3 for prizes of \$67.00 each. \$201.00 will go into our Charity donations for distribution by the end of December 2019. The winning tickets were 721761 Rhonda Leigh, 721895 Sharon Whelan, 721881 Ann Novak. Winner of the Emergency backpack donated by Johnson Insurance was 721777 Gary Sparks.

We collected \$ 169.00 for the food bank.

Guest Speakers:

Lisa gave well received information on Johnson Insurance which has been a Canadian company



Mark Costales assisted Lisa Hansen who explained Johnson Insurance

for 130 years. She urged travellers to have at least \$1 million coverage. She explained the coverage, answered questions and explained the extensive coverage provided. They have home insurance available which includes earthquake coverage. Rates are increasing. Lisa was willing to stay and answer many questions.

A delicious turkey dinner was served.

Sheila Wilson, Secretary
Rick Roberts, President

Advocacy Report – February 2020

Reach 338

Reach 338 is a new federal retirees' advocacy initiative to develop a network of NAFR advocacy volunteers in all 338 federal electoral ridings.

The goal is to ensure that NAFR's advocacy work on behalf of its members reaches all 338 federal ridings before the next election.

Reach 338 will be rolled out over a four-year period beginning with 75 ridings in 2020. Courtenay-Alberni and Nanaimo-Ladysmith are among the initial 75.

As we know more about Reach 338, the Branch advocacy committee will be looking for volunteers in each riding. If you are interested in improving the quality and security of retirement for our members and all Canadians and working with a team of committed volunteers while having fun doing it, please consider joining our advocacy team.

Advocacy Survey

Please take the time to complete the survey on seniors' issues contained in the Newsletter. Your views are important to us.

Responses should be submitted by March 16, 2020.

Branch members who receive the Newsletter via email will be able to respond online. Please look for an email containing the survey.

Members who receive the Newsletter by mail will be able to respond by mail or by telephone as outlined in the survey.

Thank you for your participation.

Margaret Smith

An elderly looking gentleman, (mid 90s) very well dressed, hair well groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel, smelling slightly of a good aftershave, presenting a well looked after image, walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. Seated at the bar is an elderly looking lady. Gentleman walks over, sits alongside her, orders a drink, takes a sip, turns to her and says, "So tell me, do I come here often?"

Nanaimo and Area Branch Executive 2017 - 2018



Left to right: Ian Williams, Vic Ashdown, Charles Scrivener, Rick Roberts, Linda Wiltse, Andy Gilman, Penny Kanigan, Ken Jones, Sheila Wilson, Sharon Whalen, Jim Gahr, Fran Graham, Margaret Smith and Bob Willis. Christine Walker missing.

Financial Report February 15, 2020 - Penny Kanigan

We have a bank balance of: \$12,151.52 (this includes the cost of the mail box rental, A. Gillman's meal at the Island meeting and stationery expense).


The last of our GIC's at the Canadian Western Bank has matured and I have deposited into our Savings Account at the Credit Union. Total deposited was \$1598.83 bringing our total in Savings to: \$3,292.58.

The paperwork removing Ken from the signing authority has been "misplaced" according to the Credit

Union so I have completed another set, this time including Bob Willis. I still require a resignation letter from Bob unless he's changed his mind. With the loss of Ken and Bob we are down to four Executive members with signing authority, 3 in Nanaimo and 1 in Parksville. I think it would be a good idea to have at least 1 more.

The Draft Budget for 2020 now includes the Regional Advocacy project contribution of \$1.00 per member. I've rounded it up to \$2,000.00.

The financial books have been audited.

 COASTAL COMMUNITY			
Account Activity Chequing			
Date	Description	Amount	Balance
31-Jan-2020	<u>Credit Interest</u>	\$0.09	\$12,380.66
16-Jan-2020	<u>External Deposit Payroll Deposit NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERA FBU2010 BC05</u>	\$3,451.25	\$12,380.57

 COASTAL COMMUNITY			
Account Activity Savings			
Date	Description	Amount	Balance
13-Feb-2020	<u>Deposit</u>	\$1,598.83	\$3,292.58
31-Jan-2020	<u>Credit Interest</u>	\$0.43	\$1,693.75

**Don't let aging get you down
 It's too hard
 to get back up off the floor
 Apparently you have to eat
 healthy more than once to get in
 shape. This is cruel and unfair**



Membership Report - Vic Ashdown

As of February 20th, 2020, the Nanaimo and Area Branch had 1838 members comprising 1199 retirees and 639 spouses. Of the 1199 retirees, there are 997 on DDS and 202 pay fees annually to National Office. Since the last Report (October 24th), the following changes have taken place:

New or Reinstated Members (39)

Henry & Betty-Jeanne Bidochka
 Robert & Andrea Byam
 Leslie Clegg & Nancy Harrison
 Linda & John Cloutier
 Nora Crosby
 Al & Linda Girard
 Brent & Marilyn Hargreaves
 Frederick & Linda Henton
 Gerhard & Susan Howk
 James Hunter & Jaqueline Larson
 Aase Lafrance
 Diane Lauzon & Francois Panetta
 Gillian Paish
 Corinne Perry
 Karen & Tanya Pockett
 Glen Poppe & Diane Suru
 Darrell Robertson & Wendy Hayes
 Paul Sadler
 Christine & Peter Sears
 Russell & Linda Sturgeon
 Kathy Sundberg & Leanne Willmore
 Monika Tanner
 Robert Watters

Transferred In (16)

John Anderson
 Harry & Bev Ardley
 Dan & Carmen Bowhey
 Leonard & Claire Bradshaw
 Kenneth Chipeniuk & Debra Graham

Transferred In cont'd

David Clouston & Margaret Penning
 Leslie Hatch
 Patricia Johnstone
 Barbara Laurin
 Donald Reynolds
 Jo-Anne Tremblay

Transferred Out (14)

Barbara DeGrace
 Bob & Dorothy Ducharme
 Dave Forseth
 Ingrid Godfreyson
 Victor Hay & Marion Tait
 Nancy Holliday & Craig Oliver
 Vivian Ives
 Bernice Sloper
 Sharon Uittenhout
 Sandy & James White

Membership Cancellations (12)

Schon Acheson
 Suzan Briggs
 Sam Efopenko
 Robert & Gerti Gundling
 James Hagen
 Ilene Jamont & Francois Veillette
 Gail Johannes
 Katalin Leduc
 Joyce Rabiza
 Scott Roy

In Memorium

Pat Ablett, survived by husband John
 James Alford, survived by wife Elizabeth
 Dennis Bacon, survived by wife Gail
 Lorraine Brassard, survived by husband Lou
 Robert Burke, survived by wife Pat
 Louise Cusler
 Neil Gillespie, survived by wife Anne
 Ivan Graham, survived by wife Ann
 Joyce Hamilton, survived by husband Clayton
 Crawford (Buzz) Holling, survived by wife Lise

Ruth Kilpatrick
 Roy Kisilewich
 Paul March, survived by wife Monika Tanner
 Alan McWhinnie
 Donna Moffat, survived by husband Glen
 Art Saretsky, survived by wife Yvonne
 Phyllis Schofield, survived by husband Gerry
 Don Snell, survived by wife Danielle
 Wayne Tinis

**National Association of Federal Retirees
Nanaimo Executive, Directors & Volunteers 2019-2020**

Class	Position	Name	Phone	Email
Executive			Most 250	
Exe	President	Rick Roberts	248-7171	rick.roberts@shaw.ca
Exe	Vice - President	Ken Jones	586-7718	Kenjonesbc@shaw.ca
Exe	Secretary	Sheila Wilson	591-2446	mesheshe@shaw.ca
Exe	Treasurer	Penny Kanigan	760-0929	pennykanigan@shaw.ca
Exe	Past President	Bob Willis	468-0260	bobwillisbc@shaw.ca
Directors				
Director	Membership / Database	Vic Ashdown	248-2027	ashdown@shaw.ca
Director	Health & Benefits	Andy Gilman	248-8595	andygilman48@shaw.ca
Director	Health & Benefits	Sharon Whalen	758-7012	nafrwhalen@gmail.com
Director	Advocacy	Marg Smith	586-8690	mrgtmsmth80@gmail.com
Director	Newsletter Editor / Web	Ian Williams	758-0954	ianv.will@gmail.com
Director	Awards/Historian	Charles Scrivener	758-2240	scrivener@shaw.ca
Director	Registration	Jim Gahr	585-3125	heidleberghound@shaw.ca
Director	Program / Speakers	Fran Graham	760-4105	fran41@telus.net
Director	Telephone	Linda Wiltse	778-269-0895	lmwiltse2@gmail.com
Director	At- Large	Christine Walker	754-4031	walkershomeemail@gmail.com
Coordinators				
Cards	Nanaimo	Cathey Hoogerbrug	751-8735	r-choog@shaw.ca
Cards	Parksville/Qualicum	Michelle Ashdown	248-2027	ashdown@shaw.ca
Cards	Port Alberni	Marian Pickton	723-1136	pfmcj@shaw.ca
Nominations	Committee Chair	Bob Willis	468-0260	bobwillisbc@shaw.ca
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Berna Dennison	758-7792	bernad@shaw.ca
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Linda Wiltse	778-269-0895	lmwiltse2@gmail.com
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Barb Williams	758-0954	williv@telus.net
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Marion Rivers	758-9783	merivers33@shaw.ca
Phone Captain	Parksville/Qualicum	Marjorie Rose	594-4002	
Phone Captain	Parksville/Qualicum	Michelle Ashdown	248-2027	ashdown@shaw.ca
Phone Captain	Parksville/Qualicum	Judy Southern	752-5586	njsouthern@shaw.ca
Phone Captain	Port Alberni	Wendy Stander	778- 421-4244	wendy.tony@shaw.ca
Hospital Visit	Parksville/Qualicum	Lil Jones	586-7718	Kenjonesbc@shaw.ca
Hospital Visit	Nanaimo	Sheila Wilson	591-2446	mesheshe@shaw.ca