



B.C. GOVERNMENT RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Kootenay Branch No. 700, PO Box 385, Nelson BC V1L 5R2

December 2009 Newsletter – Kootenay Branch

LOCAL 700 OFFICERS:

Chairperson	Alex Wallach
1st Vice Chair (newsletter)	Robin Cherbo
Secretary	Betty de Montigny
Treasurer/Membership Chair	Rosena Warner
COSCO Contact	Gordon Potter
Sunshine	Lorna Hamilton
Program Coordinator	Anne Webb
Phone Coordinator	Ella Eaton

Directors at Large:

- contact for Kaslo area	Herb Thompson
- contact for New Denver area	Terry Bohan
	Pearl Agopsowicz
	Win Jarvis
	Gordon Potter
	Leah McFadyen
Past Chairperson	Betty de Montigny

BCGREA Website: <http://www.bcgrea.com/home.htm>

Chairperson Report:

Another year has come and gone, it seems that time goes faster each year. I would first like to thank the table officers and directors for their work and support they have given our branch over the year. In addition, thanks to the members who come to our monthly luncheons and continue to give us fine ideas for discussion and action.

The biggest news at the moment is our class action suit against the government. Justice Dorgan has ruled against us. However at the AGM it was decided to appeal the decision. Former BC Supreme Court Justice Tom Berger has been retained to do the appeal. So once again we will have to wait for this case to reach its conclusion.

At the last AGM a resolution was passed that involved Life Members, those who have been with the BCGREA for twenty years. Due to the large percentage of our membership becoming Life Members, the loss of the income from their dues was going to severely impact the finances of the Association. As a result a resolution was passed that effective January 1st 2010, those who are eligible to become Life Members will continue to pay association dues. Those who are presently Life Members will not have to pay dues. This resolution will allow the Association to continue to be financially stable.

We continue to look for new members. Due to the Privacy Act we no longer are advised of those who are retiring, therefore we cannot approach them to advertise our organization. If you are aware of retirees who are not members of the BCGREA, please let us know so we can approach them about information of membership

Our monthly luncheons are being held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Hume. We try to keep our business meetings as short as possible and our speakers as interesting as we can. We welcome suggestions for topics of interest.

I hope this finds you all in reasonable health and if you have ideas or questions for us please do not hesitate to contact me at 250-825-4513 or arwallach@shaw.ca
Alex Wallach

1st-Vice Report:

We have had a busy 2009 with a number of different topics and speakers at our local meetings. Along with Alex Wallach, Rosena Warner and Betty de Montigny attended the AGM in October 14, 2009. Our President Lawrence Johnson was re-elected and he has done a very good job running our organization over the last year.

If you know of a 'retired government employee' or someone who has recently retired, invite them to one of our luncheon meetings and maybe they would like to join our association.

Treasurer Report:

Bank balance as of October 31, 2009	\$1,385.10
True bank balance/journal balance	\$1,385.10
Membership Equity shares	\$ 26.25
Dividend Equity shares	\$ 36.67
1 year Bond Buster	\$3,301.23 (term deposit)

Membership Report

- We currently have 248 members and we currently have \$1,385.10 (chequing) plus \$3,301.23 (term deposit) in our local credit union account.
- **BCGREA dues are now owing for 2010** and are past due for 2009. Dues are \$20.00 per member as of January 1, 2009. **Please check your dues receipt to see if you have paid your dues for 2009.** If you are not sure if you have paid 2009 dues, please check with our treasurer, Rosena Warner – phone 352-7051 or email rbwarner@shaw.ca. If you have not paid your dues for 2009, you must complete a new application form.
- Dues can be paid at the monthly luncheon or sent to our PO Box 385, Nelson, BC V1L 5R2. **The other more convenient option is to sign up for automatic dues check off, \$20.00 once a year (February cheque) from your pension pay.**
- Some members have not paid dues for 2009. If we did not receive your dues for the year by March 31, we will conclude you have withdrawn from the association.
- Enclosed is a notice if your dues for 2009 have not been paid.
- Please ensure the Association has your current address. Members move and don't inform us so we lose track of them. If you change your address (move or have the address changed by the Post Office) please advise our membership chair, Rosena Warner.
- I'm sure our President has let everyone know that members who have paid dues continuously for 20 years are Life Members. Enclosed are membership cards for those who have reached this milestone. Congratulations to all.

Membership in BCGREA

Persons receiving a pension from the Public Service Pension Plan administered by the British Columbia Pension Corporation, and/or their spouses, are eligible for Active Membership. Active members who have rendered distinguished service to the Association are eligible for honorary membership. Active members who have paid dues continuously for twenty years become Life Members. Please contact Rosena Warner (250 352-7051) for more info.

Up Coming Events:

- Dec. 02, 2009 – Christmas Lunch with Entertainment at Hume Hotel.

Please note because of renovations at the Hume Hotel the following meetings will be held at the Best Western Baker Street Inn at 153 Baker Street, Nelson BC

- Jan 06, 2010 – Regular Luncheon Business Meeting at Best Western Hotel
- Feb 03, 2010 – Regular Luncheon Speaker Meeting at Best Western Hotel.
- Mar. 03, 2010 – Regular Luncheon Business Meeting at Best Western Hotel

Local Business

- Any member who can phone members re: attendance for lunch meetings, please contact Ella Eaton – ph. 250 354-4995.
- If you have not been phoned and wish to attend the Wednesday lunch meeting please phone Ella before Wednesday. If you replied that you are attending and can not make the lunch meeting, phone Ella before 10 am on the Wednesday of the lunch meeting. *Please just use only one food plate at lunch as we pay by the number of plates used.*
- We also need members who can phone members who live outside Nelson phone area re: lunch meetings or other information.

COSCO:

- The following ‘info’ is from “COSCO News’ report by Rudy Lawrence, President
- COSCO was formed in the early 1950’s by the Canadian Pacific, Canadian National and British Columbia railway employees to provide effective voice for their concerns for decent pensions and social benefits. The organization was registered under the Societies Act in 1981 as the Council of Senior Citizens Organization of British Columbia.
- The Purpose of COSCO as stated in the Constitution and By-laws is: (a) to assemble, coordinate and advance proposals and resolutions concerned with the welfare of elder citizens and submit them to the appropriate government bodies: and (b) to advance the social and physical welfare of all elder citizens in the province of BC.
- COSCO is an umbrella organization made up of various senior organizations and individual associate members. COSCO currently has 72 affiliates representing a membership of 72,000.
- Provincially the BCGREA is a member including our Kootenay Branch # 700. The BCGREA is represented on the COSCO Board of Directors by Wayne Dermody, 2nd Vice President of the Provincial Executive of BCGREA.
- COSCO has a website: www.cosco.bc.ca Check it out for pasted issues of COSCO news and senior related issues.
- Activities of COSCO over the last 6 months of 2007 have included:

Good and Welfare:

- Our Branch # 700 sends cards to members who are in the hospital (if we are notified) and condolences to our member families who have lost love ones in 2009
- The seniors are enjoying a new season of Bowling. Lorna Hamilton was on the winning team who won the Gold Medal at the Senior's Games in Richmond.
– submitted by Mrs. Winnifred Jarvis
- Senior Coordinating Society
Walking Program is \$4.00 for drop in. Kate also teaches the exercises following the walking program on Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. held at Selkirk College at Mary Hall. The cost is \$5.00 or \$15.00 for 5 sessions.

Contacts:

- **Blue Cross Medical – toll free – 1 888 275-4672**
- **Public Service Pension Service - Tel. 1- 866- 876-6777 toll-free in BC**
- **Senior's Coordinating Society - (250) 352-6008**

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