



B.C. GOVERNMENT RETIRED EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Kamloops Branch #500

November 2011

Executive:

A full slate was re-elected by acclamation for the 2011 - 2012 years

Chair:	Denis Carriere	250 376-3119
First Vice Chair:	Tivola Howe	250 372-2743
Second Vice Chair	Don Geiger	250 674 3070
Secretary:	John Plowman	778 470 2143
Treasurer:	Harry Nugent	778 472 4442

Our thanks go out to the people who have decorated the room for our Christmas luncheon today and to those who shopped and wrapped all the gifts for today's draws.

Report on B.C.G.R.E.A. Directors' Annual General Meeting October 19, 2011 Held at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn

President Sarjit Manhas called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Two minutes of silence was observed for those members who have passed away since the last Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Agenda, as amended, and the minutes of the last AGM, were approved as circulated.

Guest speaker Tom Berger Q.C., reported on Garry Nelson's presentation at the Appeal Court on June 1, 2 and 3 past. He stated that Garry had researched Orders in Councils back over fifty years on the statutory and vested rights. The Crown concurred with that history. Nothing has been heard from the judges as yet. If we win, I'm sure the Crown will Appeal and if we lose then I'm sure the same will apply. Albert Peeling, our lawyer, was also in attendance.

The evening before the AGM, a membership workshop was held. John Plowman, our secretary, attended the meeting on behalf of Sharie Randall, our Branch Membership Chairperson.

Topics were presented from various Branches on how membership could be increased. Various Branches presented their views and comments on the mechanics of processing information to the members and head office. The Office manager was also in attendance and took part in the discussions. She stated that the Pension Corporation was upgrading their computer programs so there could be delays in membership information.

Next guest speaker was Paul Martin, a former B.C.G.E.U. representative and Pension Board Trustee. He gave a power point presentation and spoke on pending changes to Extended Health Benefits. (I have copies of the power point presentation available for further reading.)

Paul Martin outlined the history and the considerable changes that have occurred since the inception of the Medical Services Plan (MSP) in 1955 and the additions of Extended Health Benefits (EHB) and Dental in the 1980s and 1990s. Joint trusteeship shifted funding responsibility to the Board. Funding is limited meaning that the benefits and costs to members will continue to change. He talked about the Inflation Adjustment Account (IAA). Employer and member contributions fund it. It is used to pay inflation adjustments on pensions in pay. There was an agreement reached by the Plan Parties, Government and the B.C.G.E.U. to resolve the Income Tax constraints faced by the plan. Basically, what has happened are the combinations of I.A.A. contribution rates and a limit of funding of the Post Retirement Group Benefits. Therefore the Board decided to make the following changes effective April 1, 2012:

- E.H.C. for spouses and dependents on a voluntary, unsubsidized basis; MSP subsidies will be discontinued and a direct payment will be established;

- Resolution regarding removal of M.S.P. premiums in B.C. and revise the income tax accordingly was passed;

- Resolutions on seniors over 80 and Medical Assessment of driver's fitness with amendments were also passed.

Denis Carriere conducted elections and installation of officers. Denis had the pleasure of installing Sarjit Manhas as President, Fred Bennett as First Vice President, and Carrie Mulcahy as Second Vice President.

Johnson's Inc. staff held a draw for their surprise gift - A 32" flat screen TV was won by Joy Sauter of Kelowna Branch. Johnson's Inc. will be making a special presentation on a total package insurance as an option in light of the M.S.P cutback. The Directors will be attending on December 8th.

Wayne Dermody spoke on behalf of COSCO and their programs.

Mary Foster has retired from the position of Provincial Membership Secretary. Nancy Stewart of the Nanaimo Branch has taken on those duties. With the retirement of Mary Foster, Kathy Torhjem, Provincial Secretary, will take on the responsibility of ensuring the maintenance of the Association's Web site.

Respectfully submitted:
Denis S. Carriere
Chairman

Branch Chairman's Report.

The election of Branch Officers and Installation took place at our October meeting. Re-elected for Branch Chairman was Denis Carriere, First Vice Chair: Tivola Howe, Second Vice/Chair: Don Geiger, Secretary: John Plowman and Treasurer: Harry Nugent.

"Thank You" in your confidence in re-electing the Branch Officers and myself.

The Committees - Membership, Phoning, Sick and Visiting, Bursary, Entertainment, Newsletter and participating volunteers are to be commended on their dedication and service to the Branch and our members. Also, thanks to Brian Green in his solicitations of guest speakers which is not an easy task. Thank you all for your assistance.

It would appear that the Branch Executive have been handed another opportunity in dealing with a "New" catering service for our luncheon meetings. We are in the process of negotiating the menus, timely service and costs. The former caterer, unfortunately, closed his operations.

The Bursary committee has confirmed a successful applicant for the Branch's Bursary Award.

It is the desire of your executive to lower the cost of distribution of the Branch Newsletter and other Branch information to the members.

The Association does have a website to which we can post our Newsletter, however, a local website could be more direct. The concept has to be reviewed on the mechanics and costs of such a program. Until further notice, if you have not done so already, please provide your email address to the Membership Chair.

The Association has come up with a generic recruitment memo, which our Secretary can place in our local newspapers. Recruitment is the life blood of any organization. If you are aware any upcoming retirees or a retired government employee let Sharie Randall know, so an application can be sent out.

Your Executive would like to extend our best wishes to you and your families for a

Merry Christmas
and
A Happy, Healthy and Wealthy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,
Denis S. Carriere
Chair

The Public Service Pension Plan 2011 Annual Report is now available on their website at pspp.pensionsbc.ca, under Publications. It is also available under News on the home page. The annual report is a great way to get more information about your pension plan, including financial information, plan membership and plan governance. Please visit our website, or click [here](#) to go directly to the annual report. If you would prefer a paper copy, you can select the print-friendly version from within the annual report.

BC Pension Corporation

Membership Report Committee:

Membership Chair: Sharie Randall: (250)376-8941
Membership Assistant: Merle Hollington: (250)374-4506
Life Membership Assistant: Pat Love: (250)374-6126)

Currently the Kamloops Branch membership stands at 550. Membership dues are \$20.00 per member and are payable annually by January 2nd of

each year, unless they are automatically deducted from your pension cheque each February.

Thanks to all who have paid to date. Members who have not paid for 2010 & 2011 will be removed from the roster.

Cheques are made payable to BCGREA and may be mailed to me at:

*****PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS*****

Sharie Randall
#422 – 760 Mayfair St
Kamloops, BC V2B 0E5

Don't forget the BCGREA website: www.bcgrea.com

Submitted by Sharie Randall

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We are still looking for assistance with membership duties. Email addresses for BCGREA publications have been an added extra, so we are looking for a member or members who would be willing to take on the updating of email addresses. Anyone interested, please contact me by email:

sharie_randall@telus.net or Merle Hollington at (250) 374-4506. Any assistance would certainly be appreciated.

Please remember to keep us updated on any address changes.

Submitted by Sharie Randall.

Bursary Committee:

Chair:	Gwen Thalheimer	250.376 6358
	Don Geiger	250 674 3070
	Flo Kowalchuck	250 376 1054

GABRIELLE FEHR was selected as the recipient of our 2011 Bursary. She is the grandchild of Linda Fehr who is a member of our Association. Gabrielle is registered at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) in the Bachelor of Arts Program. She plans to pursue a career in psychology, sociology or neuroscience. We wish her the very best in her chosen career.
The Bursary Committee.

Phoning Committee:

Chair: Rose New 250.376 3265

Phoners listed below call the following people:

Olga Bloudell,	250.374 7499	Ablitt to Bergstrom;
Mary-Dey Dudas,	250.372 2975	Berkey to Cassidy;
Shina Graham-Cummings	250.573 5885	Chernoff to Downs;
Gladys Hartnell,	250.376 8680	Draper to Grove-White;
Donalda Jamrich,	250.376 9618	Guinn to Lilly;
Jeannette Taylor,	250.376 4100	Livesey to Olson;
Sheila Arkininstall,	250.554 3710	Onufreychuk to Sabo;
Linda Barr.	250.372 9876	Sadar to Thompson, B.
Rose New.	250.376 3265	Thompson, T to Zimmerman.

If you are not receiving a reminder phone call for the monthly luncheon, please call either 'your phoner' as noted above, or Rose New. Also, there are several members who have requested not to be phoned for the monthly luncheon and as such have been removed from the phoners' list.

Sick and Visiting Committee:

Chair: Tivola Howe 250.372 2743

Members: Janet Arnould 250.376 2981
Gladys Hartnell 250.376 8680
Lorna Pulver 250 573 5635

Unfortunately, no report was received for this issue of the Newsletter.

Branch #500 members send their sincerest condolences to Sharie Randall on the recent loss of her husband, Dallas.

NEWSLETTER:

Chair: Corry Johnstone 250.376 7117
keith-corry@shaw.ca

My thanks to Rose New and her helpers for distributing the newsletter prior to the meeting and of course, a big thank you to all the members who stay after the lunch to help get the newsletters ready to mail out – without your help this would not be done so quickly and efficiently. "You" are very much appreciated.

Since we are short on “News” this month, herewith follows some paraproverbs I have been saving! What is a paraproverb you say?

For an example - "Where there's a will, I want to be in it," is a paraproverb.

Ok, so now enjoy!

1. Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
3. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. Evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
9. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
10. A bus station is where a bus stops, a train station is where a train stops, on my desk, I have a work station.
11. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paycheques.
12. Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
13. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
14. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
15. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
16. A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
17. I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way... So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.
18. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
19. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

20. There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.
21. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
22. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
23. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
24. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
25. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
26. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
27. A diplomat is someone who tells you to go to hell in such a way that you look forward to the trip.
28. Hospitality is making your guests feel at home when you wish they were.
29. I always take life with a grain of salt. Plus a slice of lemon, and a shot of tequila.
30. When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.

And, finally:

"The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese."

Merry Christmas Everyone
And

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR