

National Association of Federal Retirees

Quarterly Newsletter

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

August 2019
 Tel: (250) 248-7171



March 28, 2019 - Annual General Meeting held at the Nanaimo Golf Club- 125 attendees

Next Meeting - General Meeting

Date/Time: Thursday, September 26, 2019.
 Doors open 10:00 AM, Meeting starts 1100 AM.

Location: Parksville Legion, 146 Hirst Ave W,
 Parksville, BC V9P 1K3

Directions: Exit the Inland Island Highway onto the Alberni Highway heading toward downtown Parksville. After 1.8 km turn left onto Hirst Avenue, the legion is on the left..

Business Meeting: 11:00-12:00

Presentation: 12:15 - 12:45 - Margaret Smith.
NAFR's PRIORITIES – ELECTION 2019

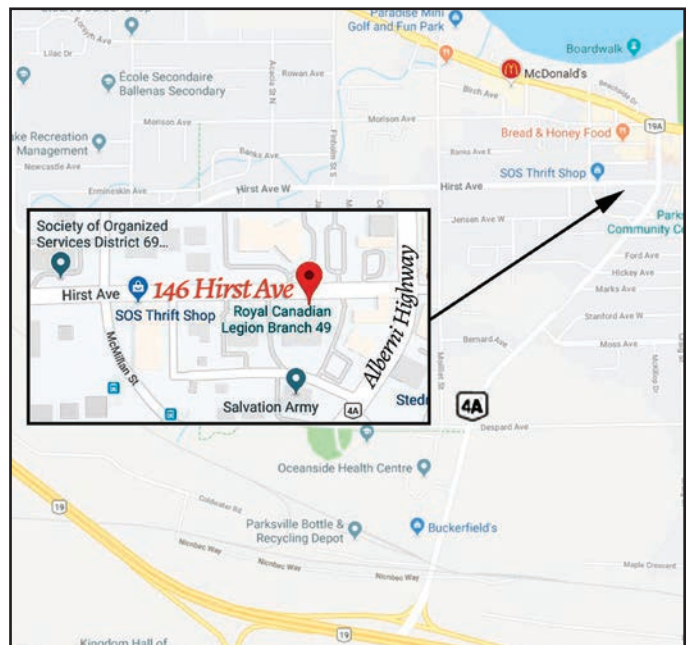
Luncheon - Buffet

Buffet Cost is \$22. This includes chicken and roast beef and gravy, dinner buns, vegetables, salad and peach pie for dessert.

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:

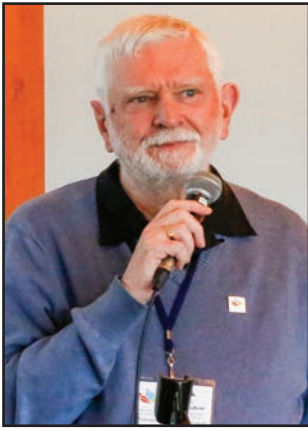
Your local Federal Retirees volunteer will phone you to ask whether you plan to attend the lunch. **To cancel, please call Jim Gahr at 250-585-3125.** The last date for cancellation to avoid billing is **Sunday, September 22, 2019.** **Name Tags** will be available at the door for all members attending the September GM and luncheon. Remember to leave them at the door when you leave after the meeting/luncheon. If your name tag from the last meeting attended had spelling errors, please contact Charles @ 758-2240 or scrivener@shaw.ca.



EVENTS 2019

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	VENUE	Meal	Cost
September 26	General Meeting	Parksville	Legion	Buffet	\$22
November 28	General Meeting	Nanaimo	Golf Club	Christmas Buffet	TBA

President's Report - August 2019



As the days begin to get shorter and shorter and summer of 2019 begins to appear in the rear view mirror, I hope everyone managed some rest and relaxation over the last few months. Vice President Ken had an interesting summer criss crossing B.C. and Alberta while sleeping each night in a tent....I think he

was rehearsing for the next Survivors series. In my case, I am still searching for camp grounds that will provide room service to my trailer!

As this is a Federal Election year, much of your Association's efforts have been centered on election advocacy work. Our Advocacy Team under the leadership of Marg Smith and including Charles Scrivener and Christine Walker (and Ken Jones before he started living in a tent) have done great work in preparing our Branch for the upcoming campaign; their excellent report is included in this Newsletter and they will also be presenting at our September General Meeting. We are strictly a non-participant organization with a goal of bringing to the attention of all parties and candidates issues of critical importance to our members and all Canadian seniors. I would encourage everyone to get out and vote in October...vote your values but vote!

Since our last Newsletter, there have been two meetings of note: the Regional meeting (which includes all B.C. Branches) in Chilliwack in May and the Association's National Annual Members Meeting (AMM) in Gatineau Quebec in June.

Penny Kanigan, our Treasurer and Marg Smith, representing Advocacy attended Chilliwack with me as the major topics on the agenda were financial reporting and (you guessed it) advocacy. I represented our Branch at the AMM and have written a more comprehensive report on those proceedings which appears later on in this Newsletter.

The National Office has announced, in keeping with one of our Strategic Plan priorities, a 2019 Mega Recruitment Drive contest beginning

September 1st and ending December 15th, 2019. There will be 11 prizes plus an early bird prize... the grand prize being a trip for 2 with a value of up to \$10,000 offered by Collette Travel and 10 secondary prizes including ipads and prepaid visa cards. In addition even one referral will garner a \$5 gift card. An early bird prize will be given on October 15th. The contest rules are 9 pages long and I will make them available to all interested Members plus they are available on the Association's website. So now might be a good time to start contacting your former colleagues to ascertain their interest in joining our Association.

And as usual, we are always looking for people who want to join us in moving the objectives of our Members and Association forward. Please talk to me or Bob Willis if interested. No matter how much time you have....there is a role for you to play!

Hope to see many of you on September 26th.

National Association of Federal Retirees Annual Members Meeting (AMM)

Dates: June 17th thru June 20th

Location: Gatineau, Quebec

Summary: Meeting attended by 102 representing 171, 678 members.

Presentations: a research company talking about the volatility of voters ahead of this year's election and a financial expert discussing the importance of keeping our activities "legal" within the scope of Canada's not for profit act.

Year in Review: Association doing well...surplus budget, clean audit, Bill C 27 died on the order paper, Seniors Minister created, facilitated the bringing together of all organizations supporting veterans, new Branch insert created for Sage, Medoc claim limit increased to \$10 million dollars and trip cancellation to \$15,000 dollars. Supplementary Branch funding for struggling Branches approved.

President's Forum: discussion on increasing Branch community presence, retention of members and what support is needed for Branch's to survive and thrive.

Proposals: new Strategic Plan unanimously approved, 2.2% membership fees increase in line with inflation.

Advocacy: as this is a Federal Election year, much time was spent on discussing Advocacy best practices. More details are available on request.

Excerpts from Minutes of March 28 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Policy and Procedure -

Charles Scrivener moved two motions;

MOTION: Charles moved that we replace the Long Service Award with the “President’s Long Service” (15 year Certificate of Service) and the “Branch President’s Exemplary Volunteer” Awards. This would include a free lunch and a gift certificate, however few would likely be awarded after the initial ‘catch up’. Seconded by Marian Pickton, carried.

MOTION: Charles moved that we replace the wording in reimbursement of expenses to read “Branch President to approve up to \$100.00”. Seconded by Ken Jones, carried.

Advocacy - Margaret Smith

Branch sponsorship of a ‘meet and greet’ before an all candidates meeting is acceptable.

MOTION:

Charles moved that the Branch Executive spend

up to \$750.00 to co-sponsor a meet and greet. Fran Graham seconded. There was a discussion and then the motion was carried.

The Labour Council Picnic on Labour Day in Ladysmith would be a good venue to have a table and distribute literature.

MOTION:

Charles moved that we provide a \$100.00 gift certificate for a giveaway at the Nanaimo and Duncan Labour Council picnic on Labour Day in Ladysmith. Sheila seconded, carried.

Telephoner volunteers – Marion Pickton, Linda Wiltse



This was Marion’s last meeting as part of the Executive. Linda has taken over her duties. Marion thanked all of the telephone volunteers and Rick noted that the calls were very important to reach our members. Rick Roberts thanked Marion Pickton for her years of service on the Branch Executive Committee and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Elections - Bob Willis. The following nominees were acclaimed:



Left to Right: Rick Roberts - President, Charles Scrivener and Linda Wiltse as Directors, Ken Jones - Vice President, Andy Gilman - Director and Penny Kanigan - Treasurer. Margaret Smith and Christine Walker were absent.

Financial Report- Penny Kanigan

There has been very little activity financially over the summer months.

We did receive our Quarterly Remittance for April/May/June on the 18 of July 2019 in the amount of \$2,461.30. This amount included the deduction of \$550.00, our cost for AMM in Ottawa held in June. Our President attended.



In August I issued 2 cheques – 1 to the Advocacy Committee for \$100.00 and 1 to the National Office for our cost of the extra night in Chilliwack for the 3 attendees in the amount of \$313.20. This leaves our Branch with a balance of \$11,446.30 in our chequing account and \$1,690.76 in our Savings account.

Penny Kanigan
Treasurer

Financial Audit - Rick Neugebauer

Penny thanked the audit reviewers. Rick Neugebauer, reviewer, reported that the audit was meant to review and comment on the records. They found one discrepancy regarding interest which was corrected by Penny. Otherwise they were satisfied with the financial records as of December 31, 2018.



Health and Benefits – Andy Gilman

Andy urged all of us to get our affairs in order. The useful booklet “You and Your Survivors” can be obtained from our website under ‘Seniors Info.’ This booklet tells you how to prepare and what needs to be done.



NAFR's PRIORITIES – ELECTION 2019

Canadians will be heading to the polls on or before October 21, 2019 to vote in the 43rd general election. Seven of the 338 seats at stake are here on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

In this election, NAFR is focusing on four priority issues:

1. Making retirement income more secure
2. Implementing a national pharmacare program
3. A National Seniors Strategy
4. Better well-being for veterans and their families.

NAFR is a non-partisan association and will not be supporting any candidate or party. Our Branch's goal in this election is to inform the candidates about NAFR's priority issues, provide members with background information and suggest a few questions that members can use at all-candidates' meetings or when candidates contact you, asking for your support. With our Branch's 1800 members almost equally divided between the federal ridings of Nanaimo-Ladysmith and Courtenay-Alberni, we have a unique opportunity to get involved in bringing NAFR's priority issues to the candidates' attention.

1. Making Retirement Income More Secure

Retirement income security is a core issue for NAFR. Along with other like-minded groups, NAFR successfully fought against Bill-C27, which would have allowed federally regulated private sector employers and certain Crown corporations to replace their defined benefit plans, including those of existing pensioners, with shared risk plans.

While federal retirees continue to be covered by defined benefit pension plans, defined benefits coverage in the private sector has shrunk from 70% in 2005 to 42% in 2015. And as the recent Sears insolvency has shown, defined benefit pensions are not guaranteed.

NAFR is the forefront of the fight to maintain defined benefit plans for its members and other individuals who already have them. The scope of NAFR's efforts include advocating for measures to protect accrued pension benefits to ensure that employers do not change the compensation for pensioners once they retire, supporting policies to strengthen and expand defined benefit pension

plans, and calling for the introduction of legislation to protect employees and retirees in corporate insolvencies.

You may wish to ask the candidates: What is your party's retirement income security plan for seniors and future generations? How will your party support defined benefit pension plans?

2. Prioritize Pharmacare

Canada is the only country with a universal public health care system that does not include prescription drug costs as part of the program. Despite a myriad of public and private prescription drug plans, approximately 20 per cent of Canadians have inadequate or no drug coverage and one in four households can't afford to fill their prescriptions. And for Canadians with prescription drug coverage, rising drug costs and health insurance premiums are an increasing concern.

The June 2019 report of the federal Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare called for creation of a universal, single-payer pharmacare system for Canada. The Council also supported the creation of a national list of drugs (formulary) to be covered and bulk buying across the public pharmacare system. Private health plans could continue to provide supplemental coverage for medications not included in the formulary.

Under the Council's proposal, the provinces and territories would maintain their public pharmacare programs and associated spending while the federal government would pay for the expansion of coverage to meet the new national requirements. Launching a national pharmacare program will require substantial federal funding, which the Council proposes would come from general revenues and be transferred to the provinces and territories through a dedicated federal transfer. Patients would also pay prescription copayments of \$2 or \$5 per prescription, to an annual maximum of \$100 per household.

Although public spending will increase under a national pharmacare program, overall spending on prescriptions in Canada is expected to decrease by \$5 billion by 2028.

You may wish to ask the candidates: What is your party's position on a universal, public pharmacare program?

3. Implement a National Seniors Strategy

Seniors are the fastest growing segment of Canada's population. Meeting seniors' needs will require coordination and efforts on the part of all levels of government with the federal government playing a key leadership role.

Among the challenges that a National Seniors Strategy could address are: facilitating the integration of hospital, community and home care services, addressing inconsistent standards of care across the country, supporting Canadians who provide care to a family member or friend, ensuring that our physical environments and public spaces are age-friendly and developing community, social and recreational services with a view to the needs of older Canadians.

You may wish to ask the candidates: Will your party implement a National Seniors Strategy that addresses health care infrastructure, caregiver support, home care, long-term care and age-friendly communities?

4. Better Well-Being for Veterans and Their Families

Veterans have served Canada and were willing to risk their lives to do so. Yet, veterans face challenges in receiving the support they need to have an acceptable quality of life after service.

Rebuilding trust with veterans is critical. Payment calculation errors at Veteran Affairs and difficulty accessing the Department's programs have produced a lack of confidence in the Department among many veterans. Transitioning to civilian life can be challenging and can mean that ill or injured veterans are unable to access financial, health, supports and other benefits and services from Veterans Affairs.

NAFR is calling for support for military and RCMP veterans and ensure that they and their families have the well-being, care and benefits they deserve.

You may wish to ask the candidates: How will your party ensure that ill and injured veterans and their caregivers can achieve financial, physical and emotional well-being? How will your party ensure prompt communication to all veterans when submitting their claims, so each submission is acknowledged immediately.

Margaret Smith - Advocacy Director

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, and Bob Willis. Marg Smith missing.



Bob Willis (back row) presented five members with their 5 year service awards at the March meeting. Left to Right: Ron Spink, Tove Gahr, Rick Roberts, Liliane Jones and Geoff Williams. Janet Atkinson and Ingrid Pon-gratz were absent.

Guest Speaker - Constable Gary OBrien

Constable O'Brien talked about "Frauds and Scams" and it was a topic much on everyone's mind. He stated that there



were many scams and that the Millennials, age 18-35, were the most targeted, however it was those 50+ who were scammed of the most money. Less than 5% of scams are reported. Many are romance or CRA related. Call 1-888-495-

8501 to report scams to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. Check your reports on Equifax or Trans Union.

We always get each other ironic gifts, but my brother killed it this year.





Membership Report - Vic Ashdown

As of August 22nd, 2019, the Nanaimo and Area Branch had 1829 members comprising 1196 retirees and 633 spouses. Of the 1196 retirees, there are 984 on DDS and 212 pay at Branch or by credit card. Since the last Report (February 21st), the following changes have taken place:

New or Reinstated Members (28)

Brian Atagi
Diane Beauchamp & Gary Kerr
Ronald Hughes & Nongnuch Ngosorn-Hughes
Rosanne Konrad
Thomas Le Faive
Scott Leasing
Jackie Little
Patrick Maguire & Rita Lawson-Maguire
Diane & Hal Major
Blair & Barbara Mccoll
Patricia Milner
Ray Moschuk & Joanne Allin
Barbara Richardson
Penelope & Jack Smith
Alistair & Madeline Thomson
Dirk & Carol Van Ek
Brenda Waddell & Philip Leblond
Judy Williamson

Transferred In (17)

Brad Bridgeman
Michael Carlson & Brenda Novak
D & Cheryl-Ann Constable
Larry & Cathy Currie
Roland Dubue
Martin & Judy Field
Ron & Astrid Hibbard
Douglas Moulton & Rosemary Love
M Smith & Brenda Joy
Gordon Watson

Transferred Out (20)

Jean Bond

Marie Claveau
Donald & Shirley Cohn
Vivian & Bill Hewlett
Gerry & Diane Klaassen
Glenn McKenna
Sheila McKinnon
Neil & Leslie Sorsdahl
Bob & Hazel Stalker
Jill Traa
Arnold & Lynda Walter
Kathy Watson
Duane West & Timothy Bruns

Membership Cancellations (28)

Beverley & Robert Agar
Max Bothwell & Anni Rauer-Bothwell
Mary Carnegie
Elvin Clarke
Jennifer Cunha
Wally Deisman
Arthur Easthom & Deirdre Laforest
Tela Gayowsky
Douglas & Patricia Griffith
Sonja & Ross Harper
Valarie Jamont
Donna Johnston
Keith & Shirley Ledrew
Rosalie McAllister
Duncan & Joyce Ooko
Gordon & Doreen Reed
Julius & Sheila Smolders

In Memoriam

Olive Alexander

Ray Beauchamp, survived by wife Gayle

Albert Carnegie, survived by wife Mary

Ruth Charnell

Bob Chisholm

Dan Creally, survived by wife Irene

Robert Dunlop, survived by wife Jocelyn

Anne Elphick

Dianne Gamracy, survived by husband

Raymond

Marie Greff

Nigel Hall

Eoin McEwan

Margaret McGeary

Jim Naso, survived by wife Sonja

Frederick Nott, survived by wife Ethel

Diane Parks,

survived by partner Don Switzer

Gerald Rivard,

survived by wife Judy Williamson

Frances Stemler,

survived by husband Joe

Harvey Wade, survived by wife Eva Kras

Arlet Wilkinson

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	margandbillsmith@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	933-4766	fran41@telus.net
Director	Telephone	Linda Wiltse	778-269-0895	lmwiltse2@gmail.com
Director	At- Large	Christine Wakker	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