

Absentee Voting Project

Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Veterans Association

Board of Directors Report

January 15, 2014

Report Agenda

- Introduction & Purpose
- Project's Working Group
- Overview of Project Objective & Goals
- Key Components of Work Plan
- Challenges – Issues & Opportunities
- Major Milestones
- Discussion – Clarification
- Closing Comments

Introduction & Purpose

- Peter Sorensen: On behalf of the Absentee Voting Project (AVP), we are pleased to present this Project to the Board.
- Project flows from the CNFP initiative (updated by Ian Atkins et al at the Board meeting).
- AVP purpose is to research, plan & implement an “absentee members’ voting mechanism” to support the Association’s new Governance framework to be established under the Articles of Continuance and Bylaws, for the 2015 AGM.

Project's Working Group

- Members of the Working Group (WG) are:
 1. Bob McKee, (Director)
 2. Jack Briscoe, (Executive Director)
 3. Bryan Neville, (Kingston Div., VP)
 4. Sheldon Boles, (Vancouver Div., Webmaster) &
 5. Peter Sorensen, Chair (PEI Div., Past Pres.)
- Advisory Members are:
 1. Ian Atkins, CNFP Committee
 2. Alex Geddes, Secretary
- Reserves (for implementation phase):
 1. Millie Norry, (London Div.)
 2. A Representative from Quebec Div., and
 3. A Representative from Alberta/Ontario (Edmonton/Ottawa?).

Overview of Project Objective & Goals

- Objective:
 - To develop, recommend for Board approval & implement, an absentee voting mechanism that will be in compliance with the approved Articles and Bylaws of the Association for use in 2015.
- Goals:
 1. To research & recommend for “acquisition/use” a membership registry system (includes database & operating protocols), by May 2014;
 2. To research & recommend for “acquisition/use” an electronic voting service/system, by May 2014;
 3. To plan & implement the integrated membership registry and e-voting process for use in 2015 (AGM in Quebec);
 4. To document in the Association and Division Manuals the operating protocols for absentee member voting; &
 5. To communicate, on a periodical basis, with the National & Divisional Offices on the progress of the project.

Key Components of Work Plan

1. Analyze the Division surveys on membership registries (all 30 Divisions responded);
2. Research, Analyze & Develop Preferred Options for:
 1. A membership registry that meets the National Office obligations and Divisional operating priorities, e.g. is there a Divisional or Force database that can meet all requirements?
 2. An e-voting service/system that is cost effective and meets all requirements;
3. Secure Board Approval for the preferred options (through competitive acquisition or modification of existing options);
4. Implement the Membership Registry and E-voting process, including trial e-votes in 2-3 Divisions' Annual Executive elections (~November 2014) and updating Manuals;
5. Supervise the 2015 AGM Absentee Voting Process; and
6. Prepare a final report on lessons learned with updates to Manuals.

Challenges – Issues & Opportunities

- Issues:
 - Clarity of membership registry responsibilities and operating protocols between National & Divisions;
 - Maintaining congruency with CNFP Articles & Bylaws;
 - Respecting/achieving the optimum balance between a National Office and Local Divisions, in the administration of the Association;
 - Security and use of personal information within the Association including any authorized agents;
 - Implementing a cost effective absentee members' voting mechanism, i.e. achieves the requirements within the budget/business case.
- Opportunities:
 - Foster greater interest by the large proportion of members that do not attend Divisional or National meetings, in the governance of the Association through their right to vote without incurring attendance costs;
 - Foster a renewal in membership communications by Divisions and National leveraging the electronic media, e.g. emails, websites, blogs, etc.

Major Milestones

(2014)

- January 3rd: - WG membership & work plan confirmed;
 - January 15th: - 1st Report to Board;
 - January 31st – WG’s shortlist (3) of membership registry/database e-voting service options;
 - March 5th: - Recommendation to Board to proceed to “acquire/use” the membership registry and e-vote “services”;
 - May 1st: - Seek Board approval to enter into any “contract(s)” for the selected “services”;
 - June 10th – Commence implementation Phase;
 - December 31st: - Absentee Voting Mechanism ready for Association – Divisions’ Use.
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- Regular WG reports the Board (April, June, October)

Discussion - Clarification

- Board Questions:
- Some “perspectives”
 - Meeting the requirements for “absentee voting” applies to whichever process is selected – paper, e-vote, etc.
 - E-voting processes do not trigger “new issues”, e.g. security of data, etc.
 - New “change” projects always bring “old issues” forward for renewed debate, e.g. National versus Divisional level responsibilities.

Closing Comments

- We have a great opportunity to contribute to the growth of our Association:
 - Our prospective “new” members are all “e” savvy;
 - Efficient and meaningful communication with the individual member for his/her vote should contribute to membership retention and attractiveness to join (“my (absentee) vote will count” ...); and
 - Giving each member a “confidential” vote will over time increase their interest and involvement for the betterment of the Association.
- Our WG is capable, prepared and ready to roll!