

The following members were present:

National President	Larry Power
Vice President	Tim Hoban
Treasurer	John Religa
Secretary	Bill Maxwell
Directors:	Cal Small
	Dave Leblanc
	Nick Shaigec
	Jim Forsyth
Immediate Past President	Rick Morris
Advocate	Dale Lively
Executive Director	Bill Gidley
Guest: President Wayne Burry, NL Division President	

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Larry Power called the meeting to order at 12:00h.

2. OPENING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT:

President Power welcomed everyone and reinforced that Briefing Notes should be provided prior to a Board meeting.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES BOD#2:

Moved/Seconded: Maxwell/Small **APPROVED**

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded Shaigec/Leblanc **APPROVED.**

14.2 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES DIVISION

Nick Shaigec advised that \$440 in arrears (dues) has been paid by Glen Warner. However Warner has advised that there the last meeting in 2006 had 10 members and only 3 individuals show any interest now in continuing with the Division. Ron Pond, Secretary, Yukon Div. was approached to consider the possibility of an amalgamation of NWT and Yukon Divisions. Shaigec stated that there was approx.1000 retirements last year and the Association gained the bare minimum as members. Shaigec will await further word from the NWT group and/or Yukon Division.
DEFERRED.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report refers. Moved/Seconded Religa/Maxwell that the reports & statement be accepted. **APPROVED.**

Larry Power asked about the Association neck ties. Religa advised that perhaps these items and others in inventory should be cleared out and will talk to Bill Gidley about this and any other items.

Religa advised that a donation of \$790 was received from Nova Scotia Division in memory of Vera Dent. Religa will issue a receipt for a donation to the Canadian Diabetic Society. Religa also advised that \$50 comes from both the RCMP BTF and the Association BTF. All cheques are written against the RCMP BTF and that Fund is then reimbursed from the Association BTF.

Moved/Seconded Religa/Hoban that the BTF financial statement be accepted.
APPROVED.

Tim Hoban advised that he presently had two cases and that he would discuss with Director Forsyth. Forsyth will serve as backup to Hoban and eventually take over the management of the BTF.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Gidley provided an overview of his activities as Executive Director since the last Board meeting and advised he had participated in many committee meetings including meeting with the RCMP Pension Finance Oversight Committee, Pension Administration Outsourcing Committee, and in various meetings with RCMP Management concerning Veterans matters including the VIP program. Mr. Gidley had provided an updated report to the Board of Directors and President Power indicated that it should continue to be submitted on a regular basis to Board Members.

Mr. Gidley also provided a letter from Treasury Board stating that for the surviving spouse or common-law partner of an RCMP member to be eligible for coverage under either the health or dental plan, they must be in receipt of a pension pursuant to either the RCMP Pension Continuation Act or the RCMP Superannuation Act. The groups of individual identified in our enquiry are not in receipt of such pension benefits and are therefore ineligible for coverage under the PSHCP or the PDSP.

7. REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY

Cal Small mentioned that the Quarterly was trying to arrange a meeting with Heritage Canada to discuss the possibility of a subsidy for the costs of translation for the French version of the Quarterly. General discussion followed on the Quarterly issues.

8. REPORT FROM ADVOCATE

Report from Dale Lively refers. NB Division has a local representative and Lively is approaching NS & PEI Divisions as well. He will then approach the remaining divisions to have most of the Provinces and Divisions early in the new year. He will then have a package prepared for distribution to the coordinators. Lively has also been involved with Insp. Parker Kennedy, Veterans Liaison Officer, and has obtained statistics and other information necessary to enhance veterans' benefits. Lively also wants to get the message out to ensure that the programs that Veterans Affairs Canada is involved with are communicated to the veterans. Lively also stated that he continues to work with the Executive Director to ensure that all efforts are in the same direction and that both are communicating with each other. President Power commented that it was very encouraging to see the amount of activity that the Advocate was involved in since June. Power also stated that Division Benefits officers should be initiating benefits applications for claims and that the Advocate (Lively) should get involved when there is a problem between the Association and VAC for example. Lively agreed and stated that his primary effort is to get the Division Coordinator network established. Lively asked Board members to provide names to him at the earliest opportunity. John Religa also asked Lively to consider any budgetary funding in the coming year.

15.1 PRESENTATION BY THE VETERANS OMBUDSMAN

Col. Pat Stogran and Louise Wallace from the Veterans Ombudsman provided an overview of the role of the Office. A subsequent overview of this presentation was prepared by Col. Stogran and posted on our National Website. Good discussion followed and President Power expressed his appreciation for Stogran's attendance and offered the assistance of any member of the Board of Directors to the Ombudsman's Office.

9. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. Report from the Committee Chair.

John Religa provided an overview of the activities of the Committee since last BOD meeting. Survey on the voting issue has to be in by 30 NOV and responses are disappointing. Results are mixed with a preference for the status quo. We will be initiating a review of the by-laws and looking at a rewrite of the various chapters of the Admin. Manual, keeping in mind the final rewrite of the bylaws.

2. Governance Study Report

Bill Maxwell advised that the Corporate Governance Study Group has completed its review of the Governance Study prepared by Paulette Vinette last year and the report to the Board of Directors will be based on the response to issues raised in Appendix "A" of her report and a covering list of recommendations to the Board.
DEFERRED

10. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

1. Report from the Committee Chair: Dave LeBlanc advised that he was waiting until after this Board meeting to convene a meeting of the Communications Committee. He has had a couple of enquiries about having one "driver" for the National Website and Division sites. This will be explored further in the near future.

2. Website Update: Bill Maxwell advised he is continuing to work with the Webmaster to improve the site and its content. Maxwell also advised that in support of the comments of Dave LeBlanc, he has also received enquiries from several divisions including South Okanagan asking that we look at providing a "driver" for websites and then Divisions would maintain their own sites through "author" rights. It would not affect the ability of a Division to tailor its own site to its own particular needs. Our Webmaster has confirmed that our "driver" has the capacity to handle this process.

3. Newsletter: Rick Morris advised that the next edition of the BOD Newsletter would go out in the next couple of weeks. Dave LeBlanc suggested that any correspondence should have the website logo as well to assist with links and encourage a wider distribution of the Newsletter.

11. BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

1. Report on Insurance Committee: Cal Small advised there have been no meeting of the Insurance Committee since May however the Working Group has met and Small has been in contact with Insp. Jeannie Greer who advised that the transition process is proceeding as planned (turning over to Treasury Board). Small advised that Supt. Gilles Moreau has been approached to correspond with Great West Life concerning two issues of concern to our members. One issue related to the coverage under the optional dependent life plan whereby coverage is reduced to \$5,000 at Age 65 and cancelled at Age 70. There appears to be two possible ways to improve that situation, one would be to extend the \$5000 coverage until time of death and the other would be to increase the coverage to \$10,000 until Age 70. The second issue is the adequacy of the \$10,000 available to veterans and that it could be increased to \$15,000 or \$20,000.

2. Benefit Trust Fund:

Tim Hoban advised that the Benefit Trust was processing one application and two continuances that will be processed shortly. Hoban will work with Jim Forsyth on these.

12. MARKETING COMMITTEE:

1. Report from the Chair

Rick Morris advised he had talked to the RCMP Foundation on licensing initiatives and was advised that considering the size of the Association (less than 5000) and the limited amount of goods that the Association would be looking at would not be worthwhile. However he will continue to explore the possibilities and monitor the quality of any product with the Veterans' Crest. A discussion followed on the use of the RCMP Veterans' Crest on any item such as a ceramic plate. There was general agreement that if such a request was received, then we could approve with advice to the Foundation and the RCMP. We should also develop guidelines for Divisions to follow in connection for AGM organizers, etc. President Power requested that the Marketing Committee present a position paper on solicitation for sponsorships to various organizations for AGM's etc.

2. Update on the RCMP Foundation

Rick Morris advised that the Foundation and the Vets' Association continue to work well together such as Ottawa with the Musical Ride Centre, Regina at Depot and in Toronto with our assistance at their Annual Gala. The Gala is one of their major fund raisers and Toronto Division provided 10 members to assist in working security and registration. The Foundation is very pleased with the support given by the Association and indicated this at the latest Toronto Division meeting.

13. MEMBERSHIP:

1. Report from the Chair

Dave LeBlanc advised that he did not have a report however has spoken to Manitoba and Divisions in Saskatchewan concerning membership problems. His impression is that while most divisions would like to increase membership, not all are as dedicated to doing this as are some other Divisions. The question is also how can the Board help, whether through advertising or recruiting initiatives. Concerning increasing membership, most people who are not interested state they feel they are either too young or too busy. To emphasize the social events, Manitoba Division is holding monthly meetings with only a social agenda, business meetings will be held on a quarterly basis. LeBlanc will hold a teleconference before the next BOD meeting. LeBlanc will also look at the Incentive Program or competition between divisions for increased memberships, for example. This would be recognized at the following AGM. Dale Lively also mentioned that there should be a communication strategy outlining what are the benefits of joining the Association. There was also a discussion on the role of spouses in the Division meetings.

14. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Vancouver Housing Association:

Bill Maxwell requested that this matter be deferred as he had discussed the position of Vancouver Division on corporate liability for the Housing Association with Bill Schindler. Schindler would be talking to the Housing Association and advised that he would get back to Maxwell. **DEFERRED.**

2. Status of NWT Division:

Reported after Agenda Item 4.

3. Past President's Medallion:

President Power advised that at our last meeting, Divisions were offered to purchase medallions for their past presidents. John Religa advised that they were going to assemble the orders and send them out to Divisions.

4. email voting:

Briefing Note refers. Rick Morris and Bill Maxwell developed policy on email voting and that such voting would be for urgent matters only and all such votes administered by the National Secretary with enough time for all Directors to consider the issues prior to a vote being taken. All votes would be registered. **APPROVED**

15. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation by Pat Stogran, Veterans Ombudsman

Reported after Agenda Item #8

2. December meeting with Commr. & Senior RCMP Management:

President Power advised that we are planning on a joint luncheon with the RCMP Commissioner and Senior RCMP Management on 26 NOV. As Power is unable to travel, he has asked Bill Maxwell to offer his regrets to the Commissioner and to present his opening remarks he would have delivered in person. The Board reviewed and approved the guest list. John Religa requested a motion that all expenses for Quarterly and Association employees be paid by the Association. Moved/Seconded Morris/LeBlanc. **APPROVED**

3. Presentation by Assistant Commissioners Keith Clark and Ian Atkins, Change Management Team

This presentation was made by Assistant Commissioner Keith Clark on the Change Management initiative of the RCMP. Assistant Commissioner Clark subsequently provided a PowerPoint presentation to all members of the Board of Directors. At the end of the session, Tim Hoban suggested that part of the

process of change include the Veterans of the RCMP and in particular the benefits that they receive, VIP being a case in point. Clark mentioned that he would like to have a discussion on this as well as on cultural practices from the perspective of the Association. Which cultural practices from our perspective would we recommend be retained or if the organization was starting from scratch, how would the culture be described? President Power thanked Assistant Commissioner Clark for his presentation and offered his personal assistance and that of Board Members to assist in the Transformation Process. Assistant Clark then requested any feedback on the draft Transformation Plan from veterans. He also said it is very important that we do not let go of the best of the past and that the RCMP hold on to what is important. He will also ensure that in future, he will emphasize the past as well as the present and the future in his presentations.

4. Royal Canadian Legion Shared Services.

Briefing Note refers. Mr. Gidley advised that he attended a meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion to discuss a proposal to bring various associations and organizations under the Royal Canadian Legion umbrella. He presented an overview of the proposal and advised that there would be subsequent meetings. Bill Maxwell advised that he, along with Dale Lively, attended the Legion House. When you look at the proposal, there are quite a few positives in this initiative that we should look at, including the Service Bureau which is proposing a Service Officer dedicated to the RCMP Veterans. The Service Bureau has direct electronic access with Veterans Affairs Canada. As well, the Royal Canadian Legion would have the capability to provide membership lists and cards to the Association as part of their ongoing service. President Power stated that this initiative comes under the Communication Committee. He has some concerns about their initial proposal, such as wearing Legion Badges and becoming members of the Legion. However this can be discussed further with the Legion. There will be further meetings over the next year and Dave LeBlanc will coordinate our efforts on this project so that by next Fall we have a definite proposal to go back to the Legion and discuss.

16: GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

NIL

17: NEXT MEETING:

18:CLOSING REMARKS:

President Power thanked everyone for their participation in this meeting and wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Concluded: 15:55h

W.E. Maxwell

National Secretary

Ottawa

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