



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors - News and Views

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

The first video conference of your new Board of Directors was held on September 10th. There was some lively discussion and some worthwhile input by Board members on some thirty topics. It was evident that the new Board is a work in progress and to date it seems to be working well. It is a legacy left to us by President Morris that I think will serve us well for years to come.

The topics discussed varied and ranged from Association finances to President's travel. Some of the more important items covered were the VETERANS' INDEPENDANCE PROGRAM (VIP), the PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS OF MEMBERS MARRIED AFTER AGE 60 PROGRAM and EXTENSION OF LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR PENSIONERS' WIVES AFTER AGE 65. The Veterans' Independence Program has been on the agenda of the old National Executive Committee and now Board of Directors for years and has been front and center during any discussions with the various Commissioners and Senior Management of the Force and with Veterans' Affairs Canada by your Executive and Executive Director. We were advised by Commissioner Elliott at our AGM in June that the Force has recommended adoption of the program to Minister DAY and I have followed that up with a letter to Minister DAY supporting the Commissioners' submission and asking for action. Now that we are awaiting the appointment of a new Federal Cabinet, I will be corresponding with any new Minister who may be appointed. I will also be corresponding with the appropriate Minister on the matter of members' pensions for widows of members who married after age 60 and this will be discussed during any meetings with the Commissioner or Senior Force Managers. The matter of an extension of life insurance to pensioners' wives is to be investigated by our Benefits Director Cal Small and he will be discussing it with members of the Insurance Board on which he sits as our representative to try and bring that to the fore as well.

The National Advocate, Dale Lively, filed his first report which showed that during the two or three months since the Advocacy program began he has assisted some seven members with problems and some of those enquiries are still ongoing. It looks like the Advocacy program is worthwhile and Dale is in the process of recruiting assistants in each Division to help him and make the program more accessible to you the members. The program was set up for you. Don't hesitate to use it.

I said earlier that the new Board of Directors seems to be working well. To ensure that we deal with subjects important to you I wrote all Division Presidents/members of the National Advisory Council asking that they identify matters that are important to you. If you have any subject that you think the Board should look into please advise your Division Executive and have them forward it to us. If we don't handle it to your satisfaction it can be re-addressed as a discussion topic at our annual National Council meeting or as a discussion item or by way of a Resolution at our Annual General Meeting. Remember the Association is yours and the Board is only there because you allow them to be.

All the best for the rest of the Fall and hopefully I will be back to you after our November Video Conference.

Remember: "WE ALSO SERVE AND MAINTAIN THE RIGHT" of all former Force members.

Larry Power
President

NEWS FROM THE FLOOR –

The Second Board of Director's Meeting was held on September 12, 2008. This video conference was a rousing success and lasted a full four hours. The agenda was very full but President Larry Power got to the end with just a couple minutes to spare. This is not a simple procedure considering all of the Alpha males in the room who all have strong opinions.

The detailed minutes of the meeting will be available on the national web site found at www.rcmpvetsnational.ca. This web site has come light years in a very short time thanks to Bryan Neville (Kingston Division) and National Secretary Bill Maxwell. The help of Jean Roux (Montreal Division) with the French side of the web site is very much appreciated. The type of communication material that is now available to our members will make it easy for them to keep abreast of all the things that are currently happening in the Association.

President Power will be visiting the Maritime Divisions this October. He is looking forward to seeing old friends and to finding out what concerns them and to seeing if the Board of Directors (BOD) can be of any assistance.

There will be a Commissioner's luncheon this November that President Power, BOD members (who can make it on their own expense), plus invited senior members of the Force in attendance to discuss the issues of the day. Our issues will continue to be Veterans Independence Program (VIP) and pension benefits for spouses if the former member is married after the age of 60. Other important issues of mutual concern will also no doubt be discussed.

Produced by: COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Rick Morris, Immediate Past President and Committee Member