



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors - News and Views

March 2010

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Larry Power
President

We are into a new year and the beginning of my last six months as National President. It seems as if time has flown and I guess that is because my time in office has been busy and sometimes controversial. I have been able to do some of the things I wanted to get done and other things have been started and are in progress and look like they will have favourable results. At least it seems that we have been able to move them along and only time will tell if our efforts have been successful or not. We will have to keep trying in any case.

Your Board of Directors held its 9th meeting (video conference) on Feb.25th. There were some thirty four items on the agenda and a lot of discussion, sometimes quite lively, took place. Decisions were made that will hopefully be beneficial to the Association and its members. Again, only time will tell.

Through the efforts of your Board, in particular Past National Secretary, Bill Maxwell and National Secretary Alex Geddes, we have been able to obtain the services of an Administrative Assistant for our National Office from the Force. This should give us a regular five day a week service in our office and should be a cost saving measure as well.

Our Marketing Committee under Chairman Rick Morris has been able to arrange some discounts for our members and is presently negotiating with businesses, such as Tip Top Tailors, for further discounts and other benefits.

Our National Operations Committee under Chairman National Treasurer John Religa are fine tuning our proposed new By-Laws and resultant changes to our Operational Manual. This work is well under way and progressing favourably.

Our Association web-site is being updated on a regular basis by our Web-master Brian Neville and our Communications Committee. Come see us at: www.rcmpvetsnational.ca.

We are not losing sight of efforts to bring a Veterans' Independent Program to our disabled veterans, pensions to widows of members who marry after age 60, life insurance for widows, etc. You may have read an article on VIP in Frank's Facts & Funnies by Murray Brown an SRR from Nova Scotia saying that providing this service is taking too long and I agree with him 100%. Although we might be getting closer to achieving this goal it is not coming fast enough and is long overdue. We will obviously have to keep working hard to try and bring this about.

Although our National Advocate Dale Lively was absent from our meeting enjoying some much needed and deserved R & R he filed a report advising that he (we) have four cases under review by the Veterans' Affairs Ombudsman and we, through National Vice/President Tim Hoban, are working on one case in New Brunswick for the Ombudsman's office. It is nice to see the cooperation between the two and it should help us with any disputed claims our members have with VAC.

We, your Board, are preparing for the upcoming AGM in Regina. Why don't you come join us, visit the sites where most of us started our careers, socialize with old friends and comrades and help us to set the policy for our Association. The web site for the Regina AGM is: <http://www.reginarcmpvets.ca/rcmpvetsagm2010/agmindex.html>

All the best,

Larry Power
National President

"REMEMBER IF EACH OF US RECRUIT ONE NEW MEMBER WE WOULD DOUBLE IN SIZE"

From the Board:

Bill Gidley (from the sick bed)

Just before my heart surgery I received great news that one of our veterans received a very good cheque from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and a life time pension that was excellent as well. This took almost 2 years (21 months) for VAC to make the decision. This was for bladder cancer which our veteran was afflicted as a result of his working in the Forensic Identification Branch with certain chemicals/fingerprint powders during the 1960's and 1970's. I spoke with Deputy Commissioner Peter Martin and his executive assistant Insp. Eric Simard on this topic and they in turn requested RCMP Health Services to prepare a communique to all RCMP pensioners alerting them to this precedent decision from VAC and to contact them for further assistance if they had ever worked in Identification Branch during specific time frame(s) and have a form of cancer. I do not know the status of this project currently but will find out upon my return to the office.

Editor:

You are invited to go to the national website to view the board minutes and check out the discounts that have been made available to our veteran members. You can find the national website at: www.rcmpvetsnational.ca.

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

www.rcmpvetsnational.ca