

**Minutes of an Executive Meeting  
Held At Branch 92  
Tuesday 10 August 2021**

**Committee Members Present**

President	Ray Foster
Past President	Wes Rideout
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Anne Parker
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Bob Howard
Members	John Robertson Alf Read John Beddows Sharron Dorey Scotty Stoness Shirley Howard Owen Fitzgerald Janet Gaylord Murray Salter
Secretary/Treasurer Manager	Bill Beswetherick Ann DeWolfe

**Committee Members Absent**

Doug Johnston  
Ron Miller  
Bev Miller  
Joanne Lancaster  
Chantaille Buczynski

**President** The meeting started at 7 pm. There were 22 members in attendance. Ladies Auxiliary President Shirley Walker attended to represent the LA and brief her members. President Ray Foster stated the main purpose of the meeting was to brief members on issues which have occurred since the last General Meeting in March 2020. The Branch website managed by the Membership Chair Anne Parker has been the main way by which members have been kept updated on Branch issues. All minutes of general and executive meetings are available on the website

There will be no Branch or Ladies Auxiliary elections this year. Anyone Branch Executive who does not wish to continue in his or her current position is asked to contact the President.

Prior to the start of the meeting, President Ray Foster presented 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bob Howard with a well- deserved Life Membership. Bob Howard has served as Branch Vice President since 2014 as well as the Zone G-2 Secretary and the Poppy Co-Originator for the nine Branches in the Zone. He performs the monthly audits of our bar, is a member of our Colour Party, for years has been a key volunteer, with his wife Shirley, at our monthly Sunday Branches, and assists with the Poppy Campaign and the Remembrance Day ceremony. Outside the Legion Bob has been a Scout Leader for 15 years.

Financial statements. From 30 May 2019 to 1 Jun 2020 General Fund had \$78,400 and the Building Fund had \$82,075 for a total of \$160,575. From 30 May 2020 to 1 Jun 2021 General Fund had \$143,300.09 and the Building Fund had \$73,987 for a total of \$237,287. Over the past 18 months the Branch has received major donations/grants from the Canadian and Ontario governments and a return of membership dues.

Shirley Walker raised well over \$2,000 selling masks and Liz Mattie raised \$430. Donations to the Branch given at the funeral for past President Ken Stewart raised over \$3,000. Other donations included \$500 from Metro Grocery

The Lottery stands at \$10,596.79, about what it was when covid closed the Branch. Ray noted that the Food Bank which had occupied the basement of the Branch for about 40 years left in September 2020 because the area could not be made handicap accessible.

Jerry Witkowicz, his wife Christine, and Dan Dorval will do the audit of the Branch finances. Ray Foster and Bill Beswetherick have audited the Ladies Auxiliary finances. The Poppy audit will be done by John Robertson, Anne Parker, and Shirley Walker.

Appointments made over the past year: Sharron Dorey is the Youth Chair, the Poppy Committee consists of Chair Wes Rideout and members Bill Beswetherick, Owen Fitzgerald, and Murray Salter as well as Sharron Dorey (Youth Education) and Alf Read (Service Officer), Janet Gaylord is the Branch and Zone G-2 PRO; and Chantaille Buczynski is the Sergeant at Arms.

The issue of the town remaining at half mast since 31 May, a period of over two months was raised (Secretary's note: The flag has since been placed at full mast).

There will be a meeting to discuss Remembrance Day. Issues to be resolved are whether to retain a parade of veterans and Legionnaires, the laying of wreaths, and the need for a band.

Ray noted that a short ceremony was held at the war memorial on 6 July to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the poppy as the flower to commemorate Commonwealth losses in wars.

The Branch currently flies four flags: Canada, Ontario, British, and US. There was a discussion about replacing the US flag with the Legion flag. The issue will be discussed further at a subsequent general meeting.

The Zone Council Meeting will be at Mallory town Sunday 22 August.

**Poppy** Poppy Chair Wes Rideout noted that the Poppy Fund stands at \$13,317.86 with about \$3,200 to be spent on poppy supplies. Wes noted that In Mar 2022 the Branch spent \$457.65 from Branch Funds to acquire items to fight the covid epidemic. Shortly afterwards Ontario Command approved spending up to \$500 from the Branch Poppy Trust Fund to acquire such items. A Special Use Request was sent to Ontario Command to reimburse the Branch for its expenditure and was approved. A General Meeting required to approve such expenditure could not be held until 10 August 2021. John Robertson made a motion to approve the Poppy Fund expenditure of \$457.65. Bob Howard seconded the motion. Approved.

Wes Rideout noted that a Special Use Request to expend \$353.00 for toilet seats for the handicapped had approved by Ontario Command but required approval at a General Meeting. Service Officer Alf Read made a motion to approve the expenditure. Seconded by Owen Fitzgerald. Approved.

Wes raised the idea of having regular coffee drop-in meetings for veterans. The timing of the concept will be examined with Don Bain who organizes such events in Brockville.

**Membership** There are 244 paid-up members. Early Bird starts 1 Sep with the winner in early December getting one year's membership paid. Friday Night Darts start again 20 August. The minutes of Branch Executive and General Meetings are posted on the Branch Website administered by Anne.

**Service Officer** Alf Read noted he was working on three veteran files. As the Ladies Auxiliary Liaison, he asked for volunteers to call at bingo at the weekly Thursday evening bingo.

**Secretary** Bill Beswetherick noted that the ropes and the metal hardware on all four flag poles should be replaced. The ropes date from about 2003 when the poles were erected. The cost last week to hire a truck to replace the broken rope on just one pole cost \$265.

**PRO** Janet Gaylord noted the need, now that the Branch is at least partially open, to publicize events.

**Sports** Scotty Stoness noted that he is hoping to organize a golf tournament. President Foster noted that the Branch was asked if it would consider hosting a Dominion sports event, either cribbage, euchre, or darts. As yet we are not sure of the number of players. John Beddows stated he would volunteer to organize the event.

**Manager** Ann DeWolfe pointed out the problems hosting celebrations of life and Buck and Doe events as the regulations are in a constant state of change. The LA can hold buffet luncheons. and such events as Bingo and card games. Ann noted the cost of maintaining the deep fryer which requires the vents be cleaned twice annually at about \$500 each cleaning. The fire suppression system had to be updated at a cost of \$2,800.

Anne Parker noted she had been approached about sprucing up the outside of the Legion, especially the northern face, the main entrance to our building, which looks old and fading. . Anyone with ideas is asked to approach the Executive. We are limited by the fact that we are allowed only one sign in the building, however a mural may meet town regulations.

**Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn by John Robertson. Seconded by Bob Howard. Seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Ray Foster  
President

Bill Beswetherick  
Secretary