

**Minutes of an Executive Meeting
Held At Branch 92
Tuesday 1 December 2020**

Committee Members Present

President	Ray Foster
1 st Vice President	Anne Parker
2 nd Vice President	Bob Howard
3 rd Vice President	Doug Johnston
Past President	Wes Rideout
Members	Murray Salter
	Owen Fitzgerald
	Sharon Dorey
	Joanne Lancaster
	Shirley Howard
	Scottie Stoness
	John Robertson
	Alfie Read
	John Beddows
	Owen Fitzgerald
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Beswetherick
Manager	Ann DeWolfe

Committee Members Absent

Charlie Burridge
Bev Miller
Ron Miller

President The meeting started at 2 pm. Ray noted that the Branch had submitted a request for some of the \$14,000,000 in funds being made available to Branches by the Federal Government. The Branch submitted a request for about \$18,896 of these funds, entirely to cover the cost of utilities and insurance from 17 March to 17 November.

Ray thanked Anne Parker for her work as the master of ceremonies for the Remembrance Day ceremony and for her work getting information out to members on the Branch Website. He also thanked Janet Gaylord and Scotty Stoness for their work in live-streaming on the internet the Remembrance Day Ceremony and for her arranging the Cogeco TV coverage of the ceremony. Reverend Daniel Massey, who officiated at the ceremony will be our Branch padre.

Ray thanked those who organized an impromptu Poppy day on Sat 6 Nov that was a great success with over \$5,000 being raised.

Ray also thanked the many organizations and individuals which made donations to the Branch and to the Poppy Fund. Donations of over \$3,000 to the Branch were made at the recent funeral arrangement for Life Member and Past President Ken Stewart. The Branch raised over \$2,000 selling Legion masks, LA president Shirley Walker raised over \$2,000 from the masks she sold, and recently Liz Mattise presented the Branch with a check for \$430 which represents the money from the masks she made and sold.

John Beddows will take over Remembrance Day activities. Our new Sergeant at Arms will be Chantaille Buczynski. She also will become our Liaison Officer for the 492 Cadet Corps.

Chantaille made a suggestion that we have a fund raiser to allow some members to visit Colonel Britton's grave in France. To be further investigated. A reminder that the Poppy Fund pays only for Xmas visits to veterans and their spouses or care givers.

The Branch has presented the Honouree of the Year award for 44 Years. It was agreed we name it the Ken Stewart Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Finances: Bill Beswetherick noted the Branch had a loss of \$1,090 for October. As of 1 Dec, the Branch has \$73,904 in its Building Fund, a drop of about \$14,000 mainly due to plumbing expenses and repairs to our heating and cooling system. The General Fund has \$95,472 which gives us a total of \$169,376. We are doing well financially, but now we no longer receive money from the Food Bank and donations from the Ladies Auxiliary will drop significantly in the absence of the many celebrations of life it hosted. There is \$11,959 in the Lottery Fund.

Membership The Branch has gained 22 New members. We have 121 paid up members for 2021, the highest number of paid up members in the 14 years since early-bird began. Combined with Life Members, we have 138 paid up members for 2021.

Poppy Campaign. The new Poppy Chairman, Wes Rideout, stated the The Poppy Fund stands at \$12,906. He emphasized that most of these funds must go to supporting veteran activities.

Youth Education Sharron Dorey noted that only three of the Branches in Zone G-2 had a Poster, Essay, and Poetry contest in 2020. There will be no public speaking contest in 2021.

Manager Ann DeWolfe stated the bar is "holding its own" with some Fridays being quite good. Ann is co-coordinating with the Ladies Auxiliary about any Xmas events.

New Business Wes Rideout brought up a suggestion that perhaps the old area occupied by the Food Bank could be used by 492 Cadet Corps. Bill Beswetherick noted that any use of the area by the Cadet Corps likely would require approval by our insurance company and perhaps by Town authorities. John Beddows raised a point about the Branch and the Legion finding a way to support a public housing initiative in which would assist needy veterans. The project likely would be beyond the ability of small town like Gananoque. The issue would require considerable investigation.

The meeting ended with the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Pat Fitzgerald for her work over the past many years in supporting the Poppy Campaign and Sunday Brunches. Comrade Pat also works with membership Chair Anne Parker during busy times in membership.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.

Ray Foster

Bill Beswetherick