

## **BRANCH 92 GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> 2024**

### **ATTENDEES:**

President	Bob Howard	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Anne Parker
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	Janet Gaylord	Poppy Chair	Owen Fitzgerald
House & Property	Bill Beswetherick	Youth Education	Joanne Lancaster
Service Officer	Alf Read	Sgt at Arms	John Robertson
Secretary/Treasurer	Shirley Howard		

### **ABSENT:**

3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice	Kevin Offord	LA President	Shirley Walker
Past President	Wes Rideout	Executive	John Beddows
Ways & Means	Sandy Cleveland	Executive	Dan Beauchamp
Branch Manager	Ann DeWolfe		

**GUEST:** Zone Commander          Ralph McMullen

Minutes from the last General Meeting held on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 presented and reviewed. Motion to adopt the minutes as presented by Ed Harding. Seconded by Owen Fitzgerald. Carried

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

The official portrait of the King has been issued. Dominion Command will send us 1 copy. We need 2 so Bob Howard will contact Dominion to have them send a 2<sup>nd</sup> picture. Anne Parker received this and they are available for \$ 25.00 to the general public.

There is a Veterans Dinner, Complimentary, being held at the Rideau Lakes Branch 231 in Portland on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Cocktails at 5 PM Dinner at 6 PM Cash Bar. RSVP to Catherine rcl231@gmail.com or 613-484-6665 after 6 PM by Friday Sept 13<sup>th</sup>. All Veterans are welcome.

With our inspection tonight, we have had a discussion over the last while as to whether Bob's term is for 1 or 2 years. Provincial Command thinks we are a 2 year term. We cannot find anything in our past minutes to indicate a change to 2 years. Our By-laws have not been updated or changed, so we are still at 1 year voting. We need to update our By-laws.

The Branch has the plumbers coming in on Wednesday, this week to replace the Handicap toilet in the Men's washroom.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Shirley Howard read the financial statement and reminded everyone that even with the efforts being made, we are still having a deficit each month. Alf Read reminded the members that it doesn't matter if the doors to the Branch are open or not, it is still costing the Branch about \$ 3000. per day. Bob stated he would check with Ann DeWolfe on the exact figures. Motion by Joanne Lancaster to accept the Financial Report. Seconded by Ed Harding. Carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Thank you note was sent to Gan, Chev, Olds for providing a vehicle at no cost to the Branch to transport the BBQ equipment and supplies to the park this summer for the Saturdays we held BBQ's.

We have a request for a donation from the Gananoque Senior's Association. Ann DeWolfe stated that we are providing space here for Senior's use, so after some discussion, it was decided to pass on financial assistance.

We also received a request from Mya Dickson and Trent Dickson for financial support for Minor Hockey. Tabled until the October meeting.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Anne Parker reports that we have 4 new members attending tonight's meeting. Welcome. We have 35 members that have paid up for 2025. Anyone paying their 2025 member dues between now and Nov 30<sup>th</sup> get their name in a draw (Early Bird). One person's name will be drawn at the December's meeting and that person will get their money back.

Anne also stated that she is in the process of updating the book of members names.

### **POPPY:**

Owen Fitzgerald stated that the Poppy Campaign is coming up. He has started the sign-up board. There will be 2 shifts. The first from 9:30 to 12 and the second from 12:30 to 4. There are 28 positions to be covered, and if you wish to cover both shifts he will not stop you. The sign-up board will be posted in the Lobby closer to the time. Owen is going to arrange to have a hot meal for the volunteers at the Legion starting at Noon on the day of the campaign. He is looking at Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> to be the day of the campaign. The first Poppy will be given out on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. The first poppy here will go to the Mayor sometime ahead of the schedule so the presentation will be in the October 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the newspaper.

Bill Beswetherick made a motion to submit a "Special Use" Form to Command to use \$ 4000 from the Poppy Fund towards the refurbishing of the Cenotaph. Seconded by Bob Howard. Carried. Also a motion made by Owen Fitzgerald to use \$ 1000 from the Lottery Fund towards refurbishing the Cenotaph. Seconded by Ed Harding. Carried. The Town of Gananoque will provide \$ 8765.50 towards refurbishing the Cenotaph.

### **YOUTH EDUCATION:**

Joanne Lancaster reports that everything is ready to start. Had a meeting this past Sunday here Sept 8<sup>th</sup> and we are all set.

### **P R O**

Janet reported that at least once a month we are being mentioned in the newspaper about something happening at the Legion. Our movie nights are continuing every 3 Wednesday of the month. We will be having a Halloween theme movie night in October. Free movie, free popcorn, bar open and donations accepted.

### **SPORTS:**

Sean O'Connell has stepped up to be our Sports Officer. Zone had a Sports Meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> in Brockville. We ended up with the Golf. The way sports are chosen is by the participation of Branch members in the different sports. So the more teams/people who attend will change the Branch's standing order to choose which sport they will host.

Seeley's Bay will be hosting the Zone Cribbage on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. Posting will go up about a month ahead. The rest of the postings will go up as they near their dates in the New Year.

Sean is also having a Cribbage event on Sunday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1 PM here. Poster is up on the board.

### **SICK & VISITING:**

Owen reminds everyone that Glen Parker is now a resident in Carveth. Visiting hours there are all day and Glen is in room 304.

### **VETERAN SERVICES:**

Alf Read reports that he has three files in process and one just recently completed. Alf has also started a Veteran Transportation program with Branch members stepping up to be volunteer drivers. The purpose of this program is for veterans who do not have any other recourse for getting to medical appointments both in town here as well as other cities nearby. This is provided at no charge to the veteran. The volunteer drivers will receive some remuneration for their time and vehicle use.

These funds will be provided from our Poppy Fund, after a "Special Use" form has been sent to Command. Prior to their approval, the funds are coming from our Lottery Account. Alf Read made the motion to pay volunteer drivers \$ 40.00 to drive to Kingston; \$50.00 to drive to Brockville and \$10.00 for appointments in Gananoque. This was seconded by Joanne Lancaster. Carried.

### **HOUSE & PROPERTY:**

Bob did mention that the washrooms are being worked on. Also we have a critter running around above the tiled ceiling that he is trying to catch and also find out how and where it is getting into the building. The roof leak that we had outside of the kitchen in the Spring was successfully repaired at a reasonable cost.

### **WAYS & MEANS:**

Sandy Cleveland sent Bob her report as she is unable to attend tonight's meeting. She stated that the BBQ's she held on Saturdays over the summer raised \$ 690.00. She also said that if the BBQ's are going to happen again next summer, volunteers will be needed to transport, set up and take down equipment.

She has dances booked through and including to next January. The next one is this Saturday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup> from 6 PM to 10 PM. Cost for this one is \$ 15.00 for the dance only and \$ 25.00 for dance and lunch. We are having Trivia night. This will begin Friday, Nov 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 7 PM. The cost will be \$ 5.00 per person.

The committee has a few other events they are looking into for the coming year, one of them being a Scavenger Hunt and possibly also a Pub Crawl. Shannon is also going to speak with Janet Gaylord about the Tour Boat in the Summer. Also the Mayor, John Beddows has been approached and has agreed to a "Chat Session with the Mayor". Time to be arranged.

### **HONOURS & AWARDS:**

Anne Parker stated that they are looking into the members who need pins and perhaps at the October Meeting she can give those out.

### **WEBSITE:**

Anne Parker reports there have been over 4000 hits in the past 2 months. The website is [www.rclbranch92.com](http://www.rclbranch92.com)

### **BURSARY:**

John Robertson reports he has heard nothing, but possibly may learn more at the Zone Convention this coming Sunday.

### **SGT at ARMS:**

John Robertson reminding everyone of the "Dedication of Stones" at Carveth on Wednesday Sept 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. He has a Colour Party and Carveth will provide the Padre.

### **GUEST SPEAKER: ZONE COMMANDER:**

Ralph McMullen stated he was talking with Bill Beswetherick in the Office while doing his annual Branch Inspection. Our Branch Regulations were last done in 2011. They are supposed to be done every 5 years. During the discussion, they found out why Provincial Command thinks Branch 92's term of office is 2 years and not 1 year. When the last regulations were sent to Command in 2011, the part that asked for length of term of Office, a line was put through it. Branch 92 needs to do their regulations over again and the Branch is allowed to make 1 change per year.

The other thing worth noting is: There is a fund available through the Legion to help cover the costs of repairing Cenotaphs. Ralph is willing to find out and pass along to Bob Howard which Branch is responsible for this.

Bob and Ralph were talking about the Financial situation of the Branch and Ralph suggested that Bob talk with District Provincial Financial Officer Terry Jacobs. Ralph will forward Mr. Jacobs number to Bob. Ralph also stated that everything went well with the Inspection. Everything was in order.

Alf Read had a question for the Zone Commander. Are there any other Legions in our area that are having the financial difficulty to the same or greater or lesser extent that we are experiencing?

Response from the Zone Commander was as follows: There is not one Branch that is above water. Not all Branches are open seven days a week. Some are only open on week-ends and some are only open when they have functions.

Follow-up for Alf Read: Does Ontario Command have any suggestions or plans to help Branches with this problem?

Response: Command is only interested in the Branches sending them monies. They do not take into consideration daily operating costs each Branch is experiencing. They do not have any plans to help raise money as far as Ralph is aware.

Follow-up from Alf Read: Members have discussed getting local business to help with possible donations.

Response from Ralph: If you are talking about corporate sponsors, Ralph is unaware of any business that are in the local area that would be willing to hand out \$ 5000. 00 a year without anything to show for it.

**NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Christina Gordon brought forward a request from the LA President to ask if the Branch would be willing to match their donation to the Kingston Branch of Homes for Heroes, that had been discussed at the Joint Executive Meeting last Tuesday, Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>. Christina made the motion to donate \$ 500.00 . This was seconded by Anne Parker. Carried.

Motion to adjourn made by John Robertson and seconded by Ed Hardy

**PRESIDENT**

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**