

BRANCH 92 GENERAL MEETING JUNE 11th 2024

ATTENDEES:

President	Bob Howard	Past President	Wes Rideout
Service Officer	Alf Read	LA President	Shirley Walker
Poppy Chair	Owen Fitzgerald	Ways & Means	Sandy Cleveland
House & Property	Bill Beswetherick	Br Manager	Ann DeWolfe
Sgt at Arms	John Robertson	Secretary/Treasurer	Shirley Howard

ABSENT:

1 st Vice	Anne Parker	2 nd Vice	Janet Gaylord
3 rd Vice	Kevin Offord	Executive	John Beddows
Executive	Dan Beauchamp	Youth Education	Joanne Lancaster

Minutes of the last General Meeting held on May 14th 2024 reviewed. Motion to adopt the Minutes as presented made by Wes Rideout. Seconded by Shirley Walker. Carried

Business arising from those minutes - "Chase the Ace" was presented and discussed at the latest Executive Meeting held on June 4th 2024. The decision was no mainly because the cost of the licence is \$ 5000 and if the prize was won after the first couple of draws, we would have to purchase another \$ 5000 licence. The Executive felt it was too much of a gamble.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Bob Howard reminded everyone that our Sunday Brunch is being held this coming Sunday, June 16th. It was postponed due to the scheduled power outage in the town on Sunday June 9th. He still needs Volunteers.

Bob has been to Comrade Sharon Dano's place last Sunday morning at 0645 to start up her generator because of the planned power outage.

We received a notice from Command, that they state that our term of Office is 2 years. Both Bob and Bill Beswetherick as well as Charlie Burrige have never known it to be 2 years. So Shirley Howard will contact Command and ask them to e-mail her a copy of the status change so we can confirm it and the date of the change.

The LA 80th Anniversary is happening on June 22nd and Bob will require Legion Branch Members to serve at their dinner and help in the kitchen. The dinner is to be served about 6 PM. Volunteers need to be here about 5 PM. Dress code is dark pants and white shirt.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Shirley Howard gave the financial report and the month of April was dismal. We had huge expenses and a lesser amount of income so we experienced a greater loss. Motion to adopt the financial report as read by Shirley Howard and seconded by Kathleen Warburton. Carried.

MEMBERSHIP:

Anne Parker being absent, sent her report which was read out by Comrade Bob. Anne stated that she has to step back from Membership Chair at the moment, but if things get better, she would gladly take it over again. Wishing the new appointee the best of luck and she will have their back.

She reported that since 2023 we have had 32 new members. They don't always attend meetings, but Anne keeps them up to date on the happenings at the Legion. She sends out 205 emails at least once a month. Also she has had 740 hits on the website since May 1st. The Early Bird draw begins 1 September through to 31 December and it gets quite busy.

Anne thanks everyone for their comradeship and she appreciates all the friends she has made during her 31 years as a dedicated legionnaire. She is not giving up her personal membership and will be available to help as circumstances allow.

POPPY CHAIR:

Owen Fitzgerald stated that the fund remains unchanged and that in a couple of months he will be looking for volunteers for when the campaign is starting up again.

Owen also stated that the plans are set for Thursday, June 27th for a celebration for Murray Salter on his 90th birthday awhile back. He was not well enough at the time but has recovered.

YOUTH EDUCATION:

Sharron Dorey reported (in Joanne Lancaster's absence) that there is nothing to report at this time. They have not received anything from Ontario Command as yet.

SPORTS:

Sean O'Connell has stepped up to take over Sports Chair. The only sports left for this year is the Golf, being held on June 22nd in Westport.

SICK & VISITING:

Owen Fitzgerald reported that Glenn Parker is home now but still under the doctor's care.

VETERAN SERVICES:

Alf Read reported he has 4 files in process, 2 of which have been forwarded to Veteran's Affairs and he has 1 more file that may be established in the next week or so.

Alf currently has a project going with "Homes For Heroes" in Kingston. Mrs Rona Offord, who has been making afghans for our veterans has agreed for us to donate 6 of her afghans to Homes For Heroes.

Alf is also working on a project to provide adequate and timely transportation for Veterans in need to Kingston and /or Brockville for medical appointments. He has learned that "Wheels for the Wise" which is provided for Veterans is not necessarily available here in Gananoque as they have not been provided a "K" number for their claim which is required for their service.. He is looking for volunteer drivers who will be paid \$35 for fuel expenses only, to assist in this program. He has talked with his insurance company, and they will not charge anything extra for this service. The Executive will look into these monies coming from either the Poppy Fund or the Lottery Fund.

Alf Read moved his report to be adopted as read and seconded by Owen Fitzgerald.

HOUSE & PROPERTY:

There is still ongoing issues with the toilets. President Bob wants the handicapped toilet in the Men's W/R to be the next one to be worked on. 2 will need to be fully replaced at a cost of \$ 3000 each.

WAYS & MEANS:

Sandy Cleveland gave a list of upcoming events. June 23rd a dance with "Whisky Smoke"; June 29th a Strawberry Social from 4 – 7 PM at a cost of \$ 20; and July 27th a dance with "3 Amigos". She is hoping to work out having BBQ's twice a month (July/August) in Town Park. She is hoping to have a Wine & Cheese tasting in August. There is a dance September 14th. Check Anne Parker's website for further updates.

BURSARY & SGT at ARMS:

John Robertson reported that we are getting a Nfld flag and that on July 1st we will fly it at half-staff in honour of the unknown soldier from WW1 being brought home and being buried on that day. Also he stated that on August 14th there will be the Dedication of Stones at Carveth in memory of the Veterans there who have passed. John has nothing to report for Bursary. Report moved by John to adopt and seconded by Owen Fitzgerald.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS:

Kevin Offord has taken over this chair and he sent the following report. He has come across Youth Auxiliaries and is wondering if this might be of some help. He also thought about possibly inviting the students in the music program to train for a small group of buglers who could support our Branch. He also has some other ideas to involve the High School.

BRANCH MANAGER:

Ann DeWolfe stated that we do have a Surprise Birthday Party, a Wedding Reception, a Buck & Doe all for July.

She is working on the year end for May but her program crashed and she just got it up and running again, so it will be ready soon.

Ann needs 2 of the Signers for the Branch to go up to the Bank and transfer money from the General account to the Building account. She is not allowed by the Bank to do so.

GENERAL & NEW BUSINESS:

The President asked for a motion from the floor that the Executive be given the power to conduct Legion Business over the Summer. Motion made by Wes Rideout and seconded by Ed Harding.

Bob Howard will be meeting with personnel from Cogeco to set up an infomercial about Branch 92. This will air between programs. Alf Read suggested that he include our need for volunteer drivers for our Veterans to medical appointments.

A suggestion was also put forward that we set up large boxes in the Legion for donations to be sent to the new Homes For Heroes in Kingston.

Bill Beswetherick also brought up the information about the War Memorial needing restoration. The person he has been in contact with has given an estimate of \$ 13,000. Bill is aiming for the restoration to be completed in time for the Branch's 100th anniversary in 2027. An on the same topic of the War Memorial, Alf Read made the suggestion that a letter to the Town be sent regarding infringement on the Cenotaph. Vendors have been encroaching on the surrounding pavement with their wares.

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by John Robertson and seconded by Ed Harding

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY/TREASURER