

**NBSRT SAINT JOHN BRANCH  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

The first meeting of the 2011-12 “season” was held at 10 AM at Chateau Champlain, with President Marg Urquhart chairing and the following in attendance: Barry Harbinson, Robert Taylor, Ann Stone, Mary Ellen Maillet, Carol Robertson, Lynne White, Kathy Dalling, Ernestine Smith, Mary Ann Patterson, Pat Beyea, Patricia Roy, Pat Dugay, Nancy Steele, George Little, Linda Perrin, Carol Harris, and Sue Smith. Regrets were received from Larry McPhee, Gerry Mabey, Barrie Rigby, Norma Murphy and Jean Cameron. Marg welcomed all members to a new season.

The proposed **Agenda** was approved on **motion** of Barry, **seconded** by Nancy.

**Minutes** of the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved on **motion** of Robert, **seconded** by Mary Ellen.

**Financial Report:** Larry was absent. Barry requested that **Larry** e-mail a financial update on the Biennial for his (Barry’s) report to the provincial NBSRT meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Business Arising From Minutes:**

- Laptop Computers for Executive: It was **moved** by Robert and **seconded** by Barry that one be purchased for the Treasurer only, with appropriate financial software. Motion **carried**.
- October Meeting: Barry has engaged Jackie Hamilton to speak on Plan Saint John.
- 2011 Retirees’ Dinner: Barrie Rigby represented the Branch. The venue, organization, meal and socializing were all well received. Only eleven of 20+ retirees attended.

**Committee Reports:** Marg suggested that if a committee has nothing of substance to report at Executive or Branch meetings, that they just “pass”. (*So why did I write two full pages of notes on committee reports at this meeting?!?*)

**Social Committee:**

- **Drop-Out Luncheon** on September 6<sup>th</sup> at the Fort Howe Hotel: Only seven are registered so far, of whom three are new retirees. Several more at this meeting registered. The committee is concerned re the lack of information on new retirees for whom this luncheon is chiefly meant. Lynne will e-mail a reminder to current members to RSVP to Sue Smith by September 1<sup>st</sup>. It was **moved** by Kathy and **seconded** by Pat Dugay that the Branch pay for the drop-out luncheon this year, for 2010-11 retirees; motion **carried**. A list of this year’s retirees, including those who preferred to retire quietly, was split up.

- **Fall Luncheon** on October 20<sup>th</sup> will be at Lily Lake. Rental of \$255 from 11:30 to 2:00 will be covered by the Branch. Meal cost will be \$25 per person with two menu choices (not finalized yet); choice is to be indicated with RSVP. A shuttle will be provided from and to the upper parking lot for those who wish. We need to have major promotion including phone calls to retirees that we know. **Sue** is to e-mail final details to Marg and then **Marg** to the Exec Committee.

**Membership Committee:** Lynne reported that an NBSRT brochure and form were sent to all new retirees. Pat Roy noted that the form does not specify the monthly \$3 deduction. The committee will meet next on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Website Committee:** Mary Ann reported the site has been updated since the Annual Meeting. There is one opening on the committee. She pointed out that there is considerable duplication between the Branch and Provincial sites; it is suggested our site focus on local content and link it to the provincial site. After discussion it was **moved** by Robert and **seconded** by Mary Ann that we post the minutes of Executive Committee and General meetings on the website once they are approved at the next meeting; motion **carried**.

**Scholarship Committee:** Ann Stone expressed concern that last year's recipient, Phillip Vautour, has yet to send the Branch a thank-you note. There was discussion of possible ways to speed up the process in general, including enlisting the cooperation of the Guidance Department of whatever school the recipient comes from. Re memorial cards, it was suggested we check the funeral home web sites to ensure our Scholarship Fund is listed as an option.

**Pension and Publicity:** George Little suggested that the Provincial NBSRT Pension Committee monitor possible emerging trends re calculation of pension benefits for current and new teachers. It was **moved** by Barry and **seconded** by Kathy that **Marg** write Roger Nesbitt to ask if the Committee, as approved at the Biennial, has been formed yet; motion **carried**.

**Museum Committee:** Pat Dugay noted that she is accepting donations of memorabilia.

**Bowling:** Carol Robertson reported that the new season will start September 7<sup>th</sup>. Bowling runs on Wednesdays at 10:00 at the Bowl-More at Haymarket Square. Three strings costs \$6. There are no teams – just show up.

**Phone Committee:** Mary Ellen Maillet needs volunteers for her committee. **Mary Ellen** will find out costs from Aliant and Rogers and see if we can set up just one system for both carriers.

**Wellness Activities:**

- Pat Beyea reported there is some interest in a group investment committee; a sign-up sheet will be available at the fall luncheon. The group could engage speakers and/or do some actual investing.
- Pat attended a recent wellness workshop in Toronto, with 10,000+ delegates. Workshop personnel offered to supply our web site with sample “Brain-Booster” puzzles etc.
- Lynne is organizing a Card Party for October 27<sup>th</sup> or November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Rothesay. RSVP deadline will be at our Fall Lunch. It was **moved** by Lynne and **seconded** by Kathy that the Branch provide up to \$120 seed money for sandwiches, etc; motion **carried**. Admission will be \$5, and people should bring their own cards.

**Group Insurance Committee:** Kathy Dalling reported that this committee met on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The committee suggests that research and surveillance of deduction rates is a Provincial responsibility, and so wants to focus on such topics as:

- comparing insurance rates of various providers;
- comparing pharmacy fees;
- estate planning (e.g., comparing funeral home costs);
- pension income changes to expect at age 65.

It was suggested that such useful information might be posted on a “Members Only” section of our web site; Kathy is working on this.

It was **moved** by Carol Robertson and **seconded** by Mary Ann Patterson that all of the above Committee Reports be accepted; motion **carried**.

**New Business:**

- AGM Brainstorming: Results have been compiled. We are trying to arrange an activity for each month. Concern was expressed that we should not be held accountable for the success or lack of success of ideas we choose to implement.
- Executive Committee Binders: It was suggested that only the President needs one to pass on; other members can get information that they need from the website.
- Constitution: Gerry Mabey is reviewing.
- Roles and Responsibilities: Executive Committee members are asked to review their own.
- The proposed calendar (circulated) suggests five Executive Committee meetings and three Officers meetings. Consensus was to keep all eight as Exec Committee meetings, and Officers can meet as deemed necessary.
- Barrie Rigby sent Marg an e-mail suggesting a donation to the Senior Centre in the City Market, which is having trouble balancing their budget. It was **moved** by Carol Robertson and **seconded** by Pat Beyea to defer this request pending further information from **Barrie**; motion **carried**.
- Provincial Meeting September 27<sup>th</sup>: The President, Director and Alternate, Biennial Chair and other provincial committee chairs have their expenses covered by the Branch or the Provincial, and can vote; others are welcome to attend.

**Adjournment** moved by Robert Taylor at 12:40. Next meeting September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Taylor, Secretary.