

**NBSRT-SAINT JOHN BRANCH
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 17th, 2013**

The meeting convened at 10 AM at Chateau Champlain, with President Marg Urquhart chairing and the following in attendance: Gerry Mabey, Robert Taylor, Larry McPhee, Carol Harris, Ann Stone, Sue Smith, Barrie Rigby, Pat Dugay, Jean Cameron, Mary Ann Patterson, Nancy Steele, Norma Murphy, Ellen Palmer, Barry Harbinson, Kathy Dalling, and Netta Chase. Regrets were received from Linda Perrin, Pat Roy, and Pat Beyea who is reported to be responding well to treatments.

Agenda: with two additions, approved on motion of Nancy, seconded by Sue.

Minutes of November 22nd approved on motion of Robert, seconded by Gerry.

Finances: Treasurer Larry McPhee circulated a list of assets totaling \$15,162.33; report accepted on motion of Larry, seconded by Barrie. Larry also presented a draft budget for 2013-14 for information and feedback, showing total revenues of \$6882 and total expenses of \$7100; again, the chosen approach is to use some of our accumulated funds for members' benefit. The Branch is currently receiving dues for 515 members. There was discussion of potential activities for men, maybe including geocaching; this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Winter Newsletter: Netta will coordinate; information to reach her by January 24th, followed by Peel 'n' Stick on January 31st. Contents to include:

- Article by Larry indicating Branch support for **Biennial** delegates, as approved at November 22nd meeting. For this purpose, members will be asked to register through Larry, and he will send one cheque for up to 30 delegates at \$10.
- Committees: Barrie to gather **Nominations**. Gerry to get information from Executive Committee members re their mandates by March 1st, and update the **Constitution** accordingly. It was noted that the best way to get volunteers for committees is to call those whom we know. Also it is important to follow up with those who sign up on lists at luncheons. Gerry to gather nominations for **Awards**.
- Netta will include a **change of address** form. The form could also go on our web site. All retirees need to notify Pension Branch on a signed form if they change their address. **Moved** by Mary Ann and **seconded** by Barry that all those involved in Branch communications (Mary Ann, Netta, Barrie and Kathy) meet to determine process and channels; motion **carried**; Kathy will chair.
- Upcoming Events:
 1. SOS of Sleep workshop Feb. 20th
 2. Card Party March 14th at St. George's, Watson St.
 3. Healthy Hearts workshop March 20th
 4. Travel Insurance workshop with Dale Weldon April 18th
 5. Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting May 16th at St. Mark's, Pettingill Rd. Sue Smith recommends against school group tables at luncheons.

Committee Reports:

- School Days Museum: Norma reported that the 2013 theme is the evolution of technology in schools. Loans for the displays are welcome.
- Social: Sue Smith expressed thanks to those who helped fall events come off well.

- Boston Pops Trip: Gerry reported that all went well, and several have expressed interest in another trip.

Basketball Tournament: Mary Ann presented a template (**attached**) asking organizations to write letters of support for Saint John to host the Final 12 as it has the past three years. **Moved** by Pat Dugay and **seconded** by Nancy that NBSRT-SJ send a letter of support; motion **carried**.

Second Scholarship? Ann Stone reported that with the change to four Anglophone Districts, scholarship criteria will now specify the four city high schools rather than it being open to any high school in Anglophone South. For a second scholarship, it would be necessary to set criteria, get it funded, and administer the process – this is all work that UNB-SJ now does for us. A split to 2 x \$750, further split into \$375 per semester, is, in the words of students, hardly worth it considering costs nowadays. There is potential maybe in five years, when the fund builds up by a further \$40,000, to consider a second \$1000 scholarship (\$1000 = \$40,000 at 2.5%). **Moved** by Ann and **seconded** by Barry to keep it as it is for now; **carried**.

Biennial: NBSRT President Roger Nesbitt has asked by e-mail for each Branch to provide two \$20 prizes. Larry will purchase two retail gift cards: Indigo, Irving, or Canadian Tire were suggested.

Group Insurance: Kathy Dalling had some observations on the annual letter from the Trustees which came out in November:

- There was no chart on the 2012 vs the 2013 rates, which have gone up 13% to 15% across all tiers. (So much for indexing for those paying premiums!)
- The annual limit for physiotherapy will be \$800; up to now this was unlimited, but that was not stated in the newsletter. Indeed, this was put into the same paragraph that pointed out several improvements that were made in plan benefits in 2012, implying this is an improvement for 2013.

Kathy will send appropriate information to Netta for the newsletter.

Teachers' Pension Plan: Barry reported that the Plan is now 89% funded. The Plan, along with Retirement Allowances, are or will soon be under review, and the annual newsletter will be issued soon.

Adjournment moved by Carol Harris at 12:15. Next meeting February 21st (storm date 28th).

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.