

**NBSRT-SAINT JOHN BRANCH  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

The meeting convened at Chateau Champlain, with President Marg Urquhart chairing and the following in attendance: Linda Perrin, Barry Harbinson, Pat Roy, Netta Chase, Carol Harris, Jean Cameron, Ann Stone, Gerry Mabey, Larry McPhee, Robert Taylor, Mary Ann Patterson and Ellen Palmer. Regrets from Sue Smith, Norma Murphy, Kathy Dalling, Nancy Steele, Barrie Rigby. Following welcome and call to order, the Agenda was approved on **motion** of Netta, **seconded** by Barry.

**Minutes** of the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with one correction and one addition: The 2013 ceiling for physiotherapy is \$600 not \$800; and the School Days Museum will be emphasizing technology, including Home Economics and Shop classes.

**Moved** by Carol, **seconded** by Larry.

**Finances:** Larry circulated a report showing total assets of \$16,691.63. **Moved** by him and **seconded** by Pat Roy that this report be accepted; motion **carried**. Larry also presented a proposed budget for 2013-14 showing total receipts of \$7155 and total expenses of \$8250. **Moved** by him and **seconded** by Barry to recommend this budget to the AGM; motion **carried**. Larry noted that 16 have so far registered through him for the one-day Biennial on May 1<sup>st</sup> (refer to pertinent motions in Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes).

**Activities for Male Members:** Kathryn Dalling reported by e-mail that about 30% of our members are male. Noting that lots of men attended the Christmas wine and cheese social, a supper event or movie night were suggested. Also geocaching, guided nature walk, and classic car or Harley rides were suggested. It was suggested sign-up sheets be available at the spring luncheon to gauge interest.

**Communications** meeting, as suggested January 17<sup>th</sup>, has not been held yet.

**Committee Structure:** It was suggested that Group Insurance might be one committee and Wellness and Social be another. Since all three affected Chairs were absent, no action was taken.

**Observers at Executive Committee Meetings?** It was suggested we invite our friends as non-voting observers to gain insight into committees and planning of events. It is important that we be seen as much as monitors of important issues as planners of events. Observers who wish to speak to an issue would apply through the Chair. It was suggested we plan a date and have a sign-up list at the spring luncheon, and book a larger space if appropriate.

**Publicity:** It was suggested that we need a more professional-looking brochure; Netta, Pat Roy, Barry and Marg will work on a draft. It was noted that only three of the latest newsletters were returned, and a new address has been found for one of these. On the other hand, 20 to 30 e-mailed newsletters were returned, indicating a need to update e-mail addresses.

**Workshops:** The SOS of Sleep workshop planned for yesterday was postponed to April due to storm and four out of thirteen canceling the morning of. A new date will be announced with next week's Pension newsletter. Likewise a poster for the Travel Insurance workshop on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Pensions Review:** Barry Harbinson authored an article concerning government review of the Public Service Superannuation Act, the acceptance by four public sector groups (so far) of a new “shared risk” model, and potential changes in retirement allowances for current employees and pensions for current and retired employees. Is the NBTA keeping its active members adequately informed re potential review of retirement allowances, re pension possibly being based on their career average instead of best-five-years average? Shared risk would be based on two bad or good years; reimbursement after bad years would precede indexing which might then be delayed; the 5% cap on indexing might be removed. NBTA does not represent retired teachers, so we are on our own in monitoring these issues and in any necessary political action.

To the introduction to Barry’s article, which will be sent to all NBSRT-SJ members next week, will be added a request to please forward to any known non-members, as all retired teachers should receive this information.

**Age-Friendly Communities:** Larry McPhee, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Saint John City Market Seniors, presented a letter from them seeking our support in their efforts to develop a strategic plan to have Saint John designated as an Age-Friendly City by the World Health Organization. He circulated some guidelines and links from the Public Health Agency of Canada. He also presented a draft of what an NBSRT-SJ letter might look like; he was requested to draft also a letter that individuals could sign: **moved** by Larry and **seconded** by Barry.

**Group Insurance:** **Moved** by Barry and **seconded** by Ann that Marg compose a letter to send to other Branch Presidents expressing our concerns, especially re premiums going up 14% and the yearly physio limit being lowered to \$600; motion **carried**.

**Constitution:** Gerry and Kathy met re possible changes in the Constitution. Executive Committee members suggested that in Article VIII, “as required” might be changed to “for one further term” to allow for turnover; and in Article X, a minimum of 14 days should be stated. Appendix A (Duties of Officers etc.) will be reviewed at another meeting March 12<sup>th</sup>, following review of mandates by incumbents by March 7<sup>th</sup>, and any changes will be presented to the Executive Committee on March 21<sup>st</sup> and then put into the spring newsletter.

**Nominations:** Reminder to let Barrie know our wishes for 2013-15, and to suggest to him the names of others he might approach, or do the inviting ourselves and let Barrie know of any positive responses.

**Lick’n’Stick** Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at Bayview for the Pension article.

**Next Meeting** March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Adjournment** moved at 12:20 by Robert.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.