

NBSRT-SJ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

November 21, 2013

Minutes

The venue for the meeting was Chateau Champlain, 10 a.m. President Barry Harbinson was the chair and brought the meeting to order.

Members in attendance: Mary Ann Patterson, Judy Braman, Nancy Steele, Robert Taylor, Kathy Wilson, Pat Duguay, Bill Mahaffey, Jill Jollineau, Judy Comeau, John Sheehan, Ellen Palmer

Regrets: Jean Cameron, Linda Perrin, Judy Braman, Norma Murphy, Karen Walsh, Gerry Mabey, Marg Urquhart, Carol Harris

Motion to adopt Agenda: moved by Judy Comeau, 2nd by Nancy Steele; all in favour- carried

Minutes: moved by Nancy Steele and 2nd by Pat Duguay -carried

Treasurer's Report:

Social committee report submitted to outline revenues and expenses.

Actual loss at luncheon was \$17.37

Games afternoon netted \$74.95

56 people were registered for the Christmas wine and cheese.

The current balance in the account is \$5622.78.

Acceptance of report moved by Robert Taylor; 2nd by Ellen Palmer; all in favour- carried

Business Arising from the Minutes/carried forward:

Barry will prepare letters and will contact Roger regarding sending out another letter to retirees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Director's Report- no report at this time

Pension Committee-

John Sheehan commented that there are more questions than answers. Volunteers for the committee are required.

Questions included:

- 1) Do we have any more information on Higg's meeting? There are no formal meetings scheduled; perhaps Dec?
- 2) The communiqué Tuesday November 20th – no legislation introduced
- 3) Can the minutes of the provincial meetings be shared with local groups; yes from Barry H
- 4) When McKenna agreed to 25 year agreement, is the copy of the document available? Is this an informal MOU?
- 5) How will current teachers be informed of pension changes? Caution re causing a wedge between retirees and current teachers.
- 6) Are there other research areas? Cathy D suggested a letter that we agree to change on a go forward basis; MLA pensions and special circumstances must be public. Can we compile a simple, effective statement on MLA pension history? Shared risk? Funding? ...and have these sent to NBTA, PSSA, NBTf, pension

branch...The 2nd actuarial study showed the fund and special payments make it still viable on a go forward basis.

*The following minutes were provided by Kathy Wilson: (thank you Kathy)

Retired Teachers' Board Meeting—continued

John Sheehan and Nancy Steele had attended a Pension meeting on Nov. 20th and they shared their information with the board.

Comments made:

- On what are the statements made by Bernard Dussault based?
- The Dutch Model : this is a virus we don't want to be spread around the world
- Doesn't think we should sit down with the gov't until we get answers from them. There has been no response to our requests for information
- Higgs said we are a different case than the PSSA
- Kathy Dalling referred to HR Report of March 2012 which outlines plans by the gov't and it seems they are following it. Nothing is SIGNED as yet
- John noted the nurses have their COLA already in place
- MLA's work on a 75 year plan for pension
- Bill stated that Higgs thinks this will pass (the Gov't Bill) without a problem
- Ernie McKinnon has had a change of opinion. Why?
- John: If gov't takes away the class size then the number of teachers decline and payment into the retirement funds will be less
- 80% of "the Risk" is on us
- Actuary said this is risk dumping not risk taking
- Want information on a website or in public domain in some way

Social Committee

- Wine and Cheese is December 5th and Robert Taylor cannot be there to take any money and to pay the bill at Holiday Inn. Robert is making arrangements to have someone do this.
- Mary Ann Patterson will be away and needs someone to send out any communiques should it be necessary. Barry offered to call the teams in case there is an emergency communique to be sent
- Discussion about what to do about non-payment of fee for the October Luncheon. Five people did not pay—two are excusable due to a death and an illness. The others confirmed their attendance and it was felt they had made a commitment to pay for their luncheon, esp. when they had to decide what type of dinner they wanted. Barry will call them to remind them of this commitment.

Group Insurance

- As a result of the NBTF Trustees going to market this fall, Manulife remains our provider through Johnson Insurance—no shift to other provider was made
- A few changes were made to some of our plans both in coverage and rates. ALL members of the NBTF Group Insurance Plans will receive complete information on these changes in early December.
- Changes have been made to the structure and terms of office for the NBTF Group Insurance Trustees made by the NBTF Board of Directors in accordance to the Trust Deed that governs the Trustees. The Co-Presidents of the NBTF will no longer sit as trustees but will be replaced by an AEFNB and an NBTF member. The Executive Director of the NBTF will no longer have voting privileges. The terms of office for Trustees will now be for 5 years with the possibility of an additional 2 years.
- The representative for the NBSRT and SERF will continue to be nominated by the NBTF. However, this representative will not have to be a member of either Association but must be a member of the NBTF Group Insurance. ALL retired members of the Plan will be informed of an opening and will be able to apply for this position.
- The number of ceiling for physiotherapy appointments number remains at \$500 for the calendar year. HOWEVER, it was mentioned that an additional \$500 can be accessed under the Sports Therapy title in our coverage.
- Travel Outside of Canada—Important to take your insurance card with you and call the insurance company to alert them immediately should you have an accident or emergency
- It is also important to be able to read all the numbers on your health insurance card. Replacement cards are available by contacting Johnson's office in Fredericton

Membership

- Our current membership numbers 588 retired teachers.
- Kathy Dalling is having problems with sending mass emails using gmail. She sent them out in two groups. The first group had 87 returned and the second group had 92 bounce back. Please be patient until this issue is resolved. She will investigate finding another provider.

MOVED by Pat Dugay that: a donation to our scholarship fund be made in honour of Carol Harris Raynes' marriage in the sum of \$50. Seconded: Jean Cameron. Passed. Barry Harbinson is writing a letter to Carol to tell her. Moved

Scholarship

Kathy Wilson reported that several people had requested donation cards for Carol Raynes marriage. Carol had requested that in lieu of gifts, donations to the Retired Teachers' Scholarship Fund to be made instead.

- This year's scholarship recipient was a first year nursing student. In conversation with Marion Williams, Kathy learned that the university has entering scholarships, but very few for the

following years, leading some students to have to drop out. This is especially true for nursing students.

- The amount given this year was \$1800. The university sent information that the average cost for an undergraduate in residence totals \$17,497.
- This raised the questions: Should we consider giving the scholarship to an undergraduate student in second through fourth years? Did we have enough to give two scholarships?
- Kathy will call Marion Williams to ask about these questions and to bring this information back to the board for discussion.

School Days Museum

Pat Dugay reported the Executive members in Fredericton are working on a new 5 year program as to what artifacts will be emphasized in the coming years. We will be notified as soon as they confirm what the focus will be for the 2014 tourist season.

Website: Wanted pictures of any event involving teachers and send them to Ellen Palmer at :

Ellen.marie.palmer@gmail.ca

Pictures of the Executive of each provincial committee are wanted **by the Provincial website. Also they are looking for liaison persons to submit reports for Group Ins. as well as Pension.**

Wellness:

- a Geo-caching event took place at Rockwood Park in October. The 6 participants were enthusiastic, despite having to move the date due to inclement weather.
- Two more geo-caching events are planned for the spring, one at the Irving Nature Park and the other at Rockwood Park.

Also planned are:

- a Digital Photo session
- In the spring, a trip to a sugar bush outing on the Kingston Peninsula.

Business: Saint John Milk Fund was given \$500. Moved: Robert Taylor, seconded by Judy Comeau

Men's old coats are needed for the old weather. Please drop them off at the St. Vincent de Paul store across from the Cathedral on Waterloo St.

New Business:

- Mary Ann Patterson reported that phone calls to encourage people to attend the Pension Rally in Fredericton were done.
- However, people commented that they were not given information as to what was expected of them. What were they to do? Make plaque cards, etc.? Was a bus going to go?
- Need to be clearer next time.

- It was estimated that 85% of attendees were from the PSSC, however, some confusion may have occurred when the date for the event was changed at the last moment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Jollineau