Minutes, Virtual Meeting – September 21st., 2021

1. Call to Order (Welcome and Introduction of Guests)

Due to Covid-19, the regular face to face September meeting of the “L” Division Veterans Association was cancelled and a virtual meeting facilitated by ZOOM was held on Sep. 21st., 2021. Following members log-in on line, the President called the September meeting of the RCMPVA (PEI) to order. Members and guests were welcomed. Special welcome to Robert MacDougal as new 2nd. Vice President.

There were 12 members present; Mike O'Neil, Lew Robinson, Fred Foster, Ernie MacAulay, Scott Ferris, Peter Sorensen, Rob McDougall, Harold Hodgin, John Potter,

Derrick Smith, Rick Chadwick and Bill Gillespie.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda as written was agreed on, moved by Mike O’Neil to be accepted and 2nd. By Ernie MacAulay.

1. Last Post: A minute of silence held for our fallen comrades, the updated list was distributed to all members prior to the meeting. Special mention was made of those Members who passed that served in “L” Division, which included:

Reg. # 35760 Robert James McWhinney, Sgt. Ret’d.

Reg. # 19423 Edward J. Keough, S/Sgt. Ret’d.

Reg. # 23185 Elmer “Damien” Dunsford, Cst. Ret’d.

Shirley Pineau, Civilian Employee, Ret’d.

Norma Campbell, Civilian Employee, Ret’d.

Brenda MacDonell, Spouse of former C.O. Cort MacDonell, A/Comm. Ret’d

1. Birthdays:
   * 1. October Bryon Sutcliffe, Kevin McNeil, Ben MacConnell, Beverly Fraser-Chisholm, Lew Robinson, John Potter, Bill Gillespie, Jeannette Gallant
     2. November Evan Courtney, Wayne Carver, Wayne Schleyer, Stan Ferguson, Bill Dickie, Don MacGregor, Anne O’Shaughnessy
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Secretary)

Minutes for meeting of 18th. Of May 2021 were posted on the web site and copy was fanned out to all members prior to meeting. Lew Robinson moved minutes be accepted and was 2nd. By Ernie MacAulay and accepted by all present.

1. Financial Statements (Treasurer)

2021 financial update June to September was presented, as of this meeting, all annual dues are up to date and three new members have paid by the new online process with $13.00 each returned to our association. The association has no current debts. Current balance is $16,000.00. A short discussion was held regarding the removal of The Peace Officers Memorial carry over fund from our organization’s balance and keeping this portion as a separate entity.

Harold Hodgin moved acceptance of financial update, 2nd. By Mike O’Neil.

1. Business Arising from the Minutes
   1. Our Brick was laid at the Heritage Center and photo of same was shared to all members by email distribution.
   2. Scott Ferris advised the Moose Mountie project is on hold for now due to COVID.
   3. Mike O’Neil had a discussion with Vic Gorman regarding advocacy, advised that amazing things are happening in this regard across the force. Mike will touch base with Rick Chadwick regarding same.
   4. Lew Robinson and Ernie MacAulay advised that the new online membership system does not allow for the easy collection of birthdays to help us acknowledge same at meetings.
2. Correspondence (Secretary)
   1. All electronic correspondence has been previously forwarded to all.
3. New Business:

Reports from County Representatives:

* + 1. **Kings County** (Richard MacAulay) Nil Report
    2. **Queens County** (Wayne Schlyer) Wayne Schlyer, Heather Oland and Sylvia Dumville are all recovering at home after undergoing surgery.
    3. **Prince County** (Harold Hodgin) Harold has been sending emails to those in prince County to keep them informed of any news, etc.
    4. **Entertainment Committee:** (Phil Pitts) Lew Robinson reported for Phil that the Lobster party this summer was well attended and was a success.
    5. **Gravesite Inspection Committee:** (Vacant) Mike O’Neil reported, As Damien has passed, it is necessary for someone to look into Damien’s records and determine the current status of inspections, invoice to “L” Div. etc. Mike is looking into the situation. Additionally, there is now a need for someone to carry out the inspections for Queens County. Recruiting is underway for the position.
    6. **Membership Committee:** (Ernie MacAulay) We have one new member, Greg Sheehan.
    7. **Advocacy Committee:** (Scott Ferris) The advocacy program in our association is active and readily available if needed. The Force is currently providing counselling to members to help them manage the new-found wealth from the recent pay raise.
    8. **MFRC:** The Military Family Resource Center provide us with much support. Funding assistance for out of Prov. medical care is still available and they offer our membership full access to all their programs and promotions.
    9. **Annual Membership Dues:** Membership dues are increasing at the National level, there has been no increase since 2013 and there are outstanding dues at the national level of $20,000.00. The current membership dues for PEI are $50.00 a year, with $37.00 going to national and $13.00 remaining here. Discussion regarding any increase to our dues will be held at our November meeting.
    10. **Association Executive Positions:** There are three positions to be filled this year, 2nd. Vice President, Prince County Representative and association Secretary. The 2nd. VP and Prince County positions are already filled by Robert MacDougal and Harold Hodgin. Recruiting for the secretary position is underway.
    11. **Police Officers Memorial Service:** Will be held on the 30th. In Summerside. Due to COVID attendance is limited, 30 people have been invited. For the past number of years, the RCMP PEI Division of the Veterans Association has taken the lead role in organizing this event. It may be time to do an evaluation regarding our role and our agreement with the PEI Chiefs of Police regarding the Memorial Service. Rick Chadwick introduced the possibility of something like the fallen police officers association in N.S., regardless, it is apparent that further discussions on this topic would be beneficial.

Adjournment to November 16th. 2021. Venue to be decided according to COVID issues/protocol - Moved by Mike O’Neil and 2nd. By Fred Foster.