**Minutes, Virtual Meeting – March 16th., 2021**

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

Due to Covid-19, the regular face to face January meeting of the “L” Division Veterans Association was cancelled. A virtual meeting facilitated by ZOOM was held on March 16th. 2021. Following members log-in on line, the President called the March meeting of the RCMPVA (PEI) to order. Members and guests were welcomed.

There were 15 members present; Mike O'Neil, Lew Robinson, Fred Foster, Ernie MacAulay, Ian Gemmell, Scott Ferris, Ruby Burns, Peter Sorensen, Rob McDougall, Dave Aitken, Derek Smith, Phil Pitts, Robert MacDougal, George Cummings and Paul Saulnier.

**Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda as previously circulated was accepted by those attending.

Moved by Mike O’Neil, 2nd. By Ian Gemmell

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:
   1. Regimental #16684, William J.P. Coughlan, S/S/M, Ret’d
   2. Regimental #19270, Robert Milton Coombs, Cpl, Ret’d
2. **Birthdays:** 
   * 1. February Ian Beer, Peter Sorensen, Paul Stetson, Richard MacAulay, Randy Robar, Michael O’Neil, Addison Coffin, Paul MacDougald, Gordon Coffin, Don MacAulay.
     2. March Paul Saulnier, Bob Harris, Jim Delaney, Brian Weldon, David Aitken, Ernie Maidment, Ruby Burns, Phil Pitts, Allen Roach, Harold Hodgin, George Wright, Dana Hart.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Secretary)

Minutes for meeting of 19th. Of January 2021 were posted on the web site and copy was fanned out to all members prior to meeting. Phil Pitts moved minutes be accepted, 2nd. By Fred Foster and accepted by all present.

1. **Financial Statements** (Treasurer)

2021 financial update January to March was presented, as of this meeting we have 6 members late with membership payments. The association has no current debts. Mike O’Neil enquired about any possible new payment issues. Fred indicated nothing yet, and expects if any, it will be brought up at National meeting on the 26th. President Scott indicated he expects some flexibility with the new system.

Lew Robinson moved acceptance of financial update, 2nd. By Ruby Burns.

1. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
   1. Follow-up discussions regarding vacant position of 2nd. Vice-President, active recruiting is underway by Mike O’Neil and Peter Sorenson.
   2. Phil Pitts, has volunteered to accept the vacant position of liaison person to interact with the PEI Military Family Resource Centre.
2. **Correspondence** (Secretary)
   1. All electronic correspondence has been previously forwarded to all. Of note that S/Sgt. Beryl Lewis is now acting S/S/M. who will be contacted regarding associate membership.
3. **New Business**
   1. **Moose Mountie Project**: President Scott Ferris gave an overview of the initiative, to purchase Moose Mounties and donate a quantity to each detachment in “L” division to help members dealing with youth in crisis. If these plush toys are purchased through “K” Division Canteen, there is a $3.00 saving per toy. The proposal is for our assn. to purchase the 1st. allotment of plush toys, estimated 14 toys, then sponsoring veterans purchasing single replacements to sustain the project. The consensus of the group was to hold off until COVID issues are behind us. Fred foster suggested we purchase the plush toys to be ready when COVID concerns are over. Mike O’Neil, indicated we could start planning to roll out the project, uncertain if 5 or 7 locations. Mike will also look to seek out volunteer to chair the project.
   2. Ruby Burns expressed concerns regarding this being sustained effort, not just a one-time only deal.
   3. President Scott indicated that he is looking at this as an ongoing initiative, and we can decide if it is renewable annually, or as needed.
   4. Fred Foster indicated we wait for May to make motion on project to which all agreed.
   5. Ruby Burns, asked if anyone else, other organizations were already doing this. The CO had indicated nothing organized, but occasionally a one-time only thing.
4. **Reports from County Representatives:**
   * 1. Kings County (Richard MacAulay) Nil Report
     2. Queens County (Wayne Schleyer) Mention of upcoming retirement of Chief Paul Smit, Charlottetown City Police
     3. Prince County Harold Hodgin is new rep. and has created his own Prince County membership mail out list. Also mentioned inspector Sinclair Walker, Summerside Pd. Receiving his 40-year service bar.
   1. Entertainment Committee (Phil Pitts) No plans yet, depending on PEI Health rules may look at June Lobster Dinner.
   2. Gravesite Inspection Committee (Damien Dunsford) Nil Report
   3. Membership Committee (Ernie MacAulay) Nil Report
   4. Advocacy Committee (Scott Ferris) Nothing new, however the program is active helping some members. Ruby Burns is stepping down from the National Advocacy Group and is being replaced by Mike Duffy.
   5. Military Family Resource Centre (Richard Thibault) Nil Report as Role is currently vacant, Phil Pitts will assume role in future as determined by MFRC. A short reminder made to members about the assistance offered to all members regarding out of province medical travel.
   6. Derek Smith advised the membership that there is currently a questionnaire online for Stratford Residents to fill out regarding policing within the community.

1. Adjournment to May 18th. 2021. Moved by Mike O’Neil, 2nd. By Phil Pitts.