Minutes, Virtual Meeting – May 18th., 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 May 18th. 2021. Following members log-in on line, the President called the May meeting of the RCMPVA (PEI) to order. Members and guests were welcomed. Special welcome to Robert MacDougal as new 2nd. Vice President.

There were 20 members present; Mike O'Neil, Lew Robinson, Fred Foster, Ernie MacAulay, Geoff Tucker, Wayne Schlyer, Richard MacAulay, Bob, Ian Gemmell, Scott Ferris, Ruby Burns, Peter Sorensen, Graham Shaw, Rob McDougall, Dave Aitken, Phil Pitts, Robert MacDougal, , Paul Stetson, Harold Hodgin and John Potter

Adoption of Agenda

The upcoming Annual General Meeting was added to the agenda, the amended agenda was accepted by those attending.

Moved by Wayne Schlyer and 2nd. By R. 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:

Regimental #45653, Paul Thomas Johnson, Cpl. Ret’d.

Regimental #40800, Cheryl Elizabeth Duffy, Cst. Ret’d.

Regimental #C/2404, Addison “Sonny” Coffin, C/M Ret’d

Regimental #27122, Thomas Wilson Ralph, Cst. Ret’d.

RCMP Chaplain, Rev. Donald Malcolm MacPherson, Ret’d

1. Birthdays:
   * 1. April Ed Doran, Dave Corrigan, Fred Foster, Ian Gemmell. Robert Campbell, Ed Gillis, Derek Smith.
     2. May George Cumming, Fraser Inman, Bob Torne, Errol Thompson, Dawna Constable, Reg Campbell, Scott Lundrigan, Patsy Mahar, Brent Dooks.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Secretary)

Minutes for meeting of 18th. Of March 2021 were posted on the web site and copy was fanned out to all members prior to meeting. Phil Pitts moved minutes be accepted and was 2nd. By Fred Foster and accepted by all present.

1. Financial Statements (Treasurer)

2021 financial update March to May was presented, as of this meeting, all annual dues are up to date. The association has no current debts. Mike O’Neil enquired about any possible new payment of dues issues with the new membership management system. Fred indicated nothing yet, and expects if any, it will be brought up at National meeting. 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 welcome to Robert MacDougal as 2nd. Vice-President.
   2. Scott Ferris advised that the Moose Mountie project was on hold for now.
   3. Scott Ferris advised that our Brick for the Pillars of the Force was delayed due to COVID and would be laid in June by Al Nicholson and Bill Greenslade.
   4. S/Sgt. Beryl Lewis is now an associate member of our association.
2. Correspondence (Secretary)
   1. All electronic correspondence has been previously forwarded to all. Correspondence regarding The Friends of the Force was shared and mention was made regarding Ernie MacAulay’s new book, The Rosary and The Rifle, in stores now.
3. New Business:

**VAC Attendance Allowance**: President Scott Ferris and Ruby Burns gave an overview of the allowance criteria and cautioned members not to confuse this allowance with the Veterans Independence Program (VIP). Members of the RCMP do not qualify for the VIP assistance. A member or former member of the RCMP may qualify for an attendance allowance if; they have a VAC disability pension of 1% or more and require assistance or supervision of another individual with; feeding, bathing, dressing, toileting, mobility or medication administration. To establish entitlement, an applicant must meet all three legislative requirements. Use the following steps to verify that each requirement is met. If any one of the three requirements are not met, the applicant does not meet eligibility and entitlement to Attendance Allowance and must be denied.

* Step 1: Is the applicant in receipt of Disability Pension of 1% or more and/or POW compensation?
* Step 2: If evidence establishes the applicant suffers from a prolonged impairment which has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months and the applicant meets the criteria the applicant is determined to be "totally disabled" for the purposes of Attendance Allowance eligibility.
* Step 3: Is the applicant in "need of attendance"? If the applicant demonstrates a need for attendance in feeding, bathing, dressing, toileting, mobility or medication administration; then the applicant meets this requirement.

**Stratford Detachment**: there has been a request for donations of RCMP memorabilia, paintings, etc. things suitable for wall hanging. All donations are gratefully accepted.

**150th. Anniversary, 2023**: Scott Ferris gave the group a heads up for upcoming planning that will be taking place for the upcoming anniversary in 2023.

**New Member Management System**: Scott Ferris spoke about the new Member Management System, asked if any problems. No problems identified, but indicated to contact him if any issues arise. Ernie advised that the new active membership seems to be working well, however there are still some issues regarding associate membership, i.e. No notification to division and no welcome with login.

**Upcoming AGM in June**: Scott Ferris gave a short brief on upcoming meeting, Not fr profit is an issue and will be on their agenda. Mike O’Neil mentioned that local donations are not an issue.

1. Reports from County Representatives:
   * 1. Kings County (Richard MacAulay) Nil Report
     2. Queens County (Wayne Schlyer) Bob Nahrgang Memorial will be delayed.
     3. Queens County (Harold Hodgin) Some members with minor health issues, i.e. Royce Greene has some eye issues and is not currently mobile. If interested in coffee meetings in Summerside, contact Bill Dickie as he knows details of where and when.

1. Entertainment Committee: (Phil Pitts) Lobster dinner planned for June 29th. At New Glasgow Lobster Suppers, will be first come first served, price will be either $38/$40. Max number set at 50 persons.

1. Gravesite Inspection Committee: (Mike O’Neil for Damien Dunsford) - currently updating data with the Last Post Site, 5 new in the works.
2. Membership Committee (Ernie MacAulay) - Reporting four new memberships, active memberships, Graham Shaw and Kim Hendricken. Associate memberships, A. Cross and Beryl Lewis. All new applications for membership are now done on line. For the most part the system works relatively well, no issues with active memberships, but still some with completing associate memberships.
3. Advocacy Committee (Scott Ferris) - Nothing new, however the program is active and has been helping some members and or spouses as required.
4. Military Family Resource Centre (Phil Pitts) - 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.
5. Tom Ralph – Memorial Donation: Mike O’Neil mentioned it would be nice for our association to make a donation in honor of Tom Ralph to the Cancer Treatment Center at the QEH. After discussion Fred Foster made a motion that The RCMP Veterans Association of PEI donate $100.00 to the Cancer Treatment Center at the QEH. 2nd. By Mike O’Neil. One member abstained from voting, remaining members voted in favour of the motion. Scott Ferris will let Sue Ralph know of same.

Adjournment to September 21st. 2021. Venue to be decided according to COVID issues/protocol - Moved by Wayne Schlyer and 2nd. By Richard MacAulay