



**FEDERAL SUPERANNUATES NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OTTAWA BRANCH**

MINUTES

Annual General Meeting

April 17, 2007

R A Centre

Ottawa, Ontario

**FEDERAL SUPERANNUATES NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, OTTAWA BRANCH
2285 St Laurent Blvd – Unit B-2
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 4Z5**

Annual General Meeting

Held Tuesday April 17, 2007 at 09:30 a.m. at the R.A. Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introduction of Board Members

The President, C. MacDonald, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the members of the Board of Directors, the Managing Director and the Office Manager

2. Moment of Silence for Departed Members

The President led members in a moment of silence for departed members.

3. Approval of Agenda

Before moving to Item 3 of the agenda, the President told the assembly that in the envelopes placed on each chair were various documents, such as the meeting Agenda, the Audited Financial Statements as well as various forms and questionnaires for members to fill out so as to help plan for future meetings. He then proceeded to acknowledge the presence of Raymond Hébert, a member of the National Board of Directors of FSNA. He thanked Tom Hillman for having organised the Info Mart at which the various affinity partners made themselves available to answer questions from members. He also thanked Ms. Marsden-Dole for organising a most interesting programme and the Branch staff for looking after the physical arrangements.

E. J. Legg moved the adoption of the agenda and P. Marsden-Dole seconded.
The agenda was unanimously approved.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Annual General Meeting of April 24, 2006

The President presented the minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting.

On motion made by T. Hillman, seconded by I. Craig, the minutes of the annual General Meeting of April 24, 2006 were unanimously approved.

5. Report of the Nominations Committee and Election of Directors

R. Gayner, Chair of the Nominations Committee, read the Nominations Committee Report. According to the By-laws, there are 6 Board seats due for nomination each year and these are filled for a two-year term. At the present time, the Branch also has an additional vacancy to complete the remaining year of a Board member who resigned in mid-term.

After an invitation had been sent to the general membership to invite members to express their interest to serve on the Board of Directors, one member expressed an interest in serving and the Nominations Committee included this member on the slate of proposed candidate along with 6 other candidates it had recruited. Two of those candidates were elected two years ago and were willing to serve again, these being: L. Heitin, R. Richer. P. Marsden-Dole who was nominated in mid year to replace a resignation was also willing to serve again. The Nomination Committee then sought and recruited three other candidates willing to serve the Branch as Members of the Board of Directors. Mr. Gayner also noted that the names and short biographies of each of the 7 candidates were part of the materials included in the envelopes placed on chairs prior to the meeting.

The Chair of the Nominations Committee then moved that the following be elected to the Board of Directors for a two- year term: A. Fenske, J. Ferguson, N. Hanna, P. Marsden-Dole, A. Martin, R. Richer and that L. Heitin be elected for a one year term.

L. Dickenson seconded the motion and the above individuals were unanimously elected to the Board of Directors of the Branch.

6. President's Report

- (i) The President, C. MacDonald, returned to the podium and gave an overview of the activities of the year. Highlights of which were: (i) FSNA's important role in negotiating a new 5 year Health Care plan: (ii) the Association's successfully lobbying of the Provincial Government to abandon its proposal that the PSHCP rather than OHIP be the first recourse for handling health claims, which would have discriminated against retired Public Servants; and (iii) FSNA's role, in concert with other retiree associations, in successfully lobbying the Federal Government to allow pension splitting for tax purposes.

He also mentioned that the Association Triennial Convention would be held next August in Ottawa. As usual the Branches were expected to bring to the Conference, Policy Resolutions to be debated and possibly adopted. The Branch, through its Policy and Resolutions Committee had been most active in the evaluation of the resolutions, two of which originated from our Branch membership. He added that the most important of the resolutions to be brought forward was the one dealing with a change in the governance at the national level. This proposed governance model has been under study and consultation for the past two years and the Ottawa Branch had played a very active role to ensure that the Ottawa Branch membership is properly represented through adoption of the weighted voting principle.

In concluding, he added that a more detailed and written report was in the package of materials distributed on the chairs prior to the meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report

(a) Tabling of Auditor's Report and Audited 2006 Financial Statements

D. Doucette, the Branch Treasurer, tabled the Audited Financial Statements with the Auditor's Report thereon and gave an overview of the financial situation for the year ended December 31, 2006.

Total Operating Expenses exceeded Total Income by \$23,601 for the year 2006 as compared to \$30,656 in 2005. These results were in line with the 5year projections done at the time we purchased our office premises. These projections indicated that both our operating and cash flow

would achieve a break-even position within 5 years, at which time the building will be fully paid up. As an example, the budget for the current year is set at a profit before depreciation of \$1,440. Membership fees have increased with our all time high membership exceeding 26,000 members. However, interest income is down as the Branch is cashing in its investments to pay down the mortgage on our newly acquired office property. The Branch has two more annual payments of \$24,000 toward the mortgage after which time; this asset will have a net value in excess of \$140,000.

Operating Expenses have been reduced from the previous year as we carried out the Membership Recruitment activities on a more moderate scale following the transfer of this responsibility to the National Office.

During the year, we completed the renovations to the condominium office. The second floor was renovated at a cost of \$18,986. This completes our office renovation programme.

The Treasurer invited questions from the floor.

As there were no questions from the floor, the Treasurer then moved to Item 7b on the Agenda.

(b) Appointment of Auditor for Year 2007

D. Doucette moved, and G. Price seconded that the current auditor Hamel & Co, Chartered Accountants, be reappointed auditor for the year 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

The President, C. MacDonald returned to the podium and moved that a special vote of appreciation be extended to our retiring Treasurer Dennis Doucette for his 6 years of service to the Branch as Treasurer, while also serving as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board. D. Horley seconded the motion which was the unanimously approved.

As all nominees for the Don Yeomans' award had not yet arrived, the President then moved to Item 11 on the Agenda

11. FSNA National Triennial Conference

11b) Accreditation of Delegates

The President explained that, under the existing National By-laws, the Ottawa Branch with its 26,000 members is allowed 13 delegates to the Convention and may at its discretion also appoint non-voting Alternates. He added that Board Members had been canvassed to attend as Delegates and the Board had sought volunteers to attend as Alternates. He then made a motion that the following slate of Delegates and Alternates be approved by the Members, with the proviso that the Board of Directors may add or change some of the names depending on the availability of the individuals:

Delegates: R. Berlinquette, L. Dickenson, D. Doucette, A. Fenske, W. Illing, R. Lafleur, C. MacDonald, G. Price plus the 5 newly elected Board Members namely J. Ferguson, N. Hanna, L. Heitin, P. Marsden-Dole and A. Martin

Alternates: C. Guérin, J. Guèvremont, J. MacKinnon.

G. Nelson seconded the motion and the slate of Delegates and Alternates was unanimously approved with the above proviso.

The President called on G. Price, Chair of the Policy and Resolutions Committee, to address the next Agenda Sub-Item.

11a) Resolutions submitted by the Ottawa Branch

G. Price explained that the Policy and Resolutions Committee had submitted two Resolutions in draft form and, for these to be formally recognized, they had to receive the approval of the membership. Since both Resolutions called for changes in tax laws and/or regulations, that FSNA would only lobby for these changes in concert with other related organizations, such as the Canadian Tax Foundation and other groups of seniors.

The Resolutions dealing with withdrawal rates of RRIFs was presented on the basis that the longevity of retirees had improved and the tax laws should recognize that the investments in RRIFs should also have a longer longevity.

The Managing Director, C. Guérin explained the rationale for the Resolution dealing with the elimination of the double taxation of dividends paid into RRSPs, RRIFs and other tax deferred retirement investment vehicles.

G. Price then called for a show of hands in support of the first Resolutions which was approved unanimously.

G. Price called for a show of hand in support of the second Resolution which was approved unanimously.

G. Price informed the meeting that, during the preceding months, a third Resolution dealing with a name change for the Association had been considered. This was intended to replace the word “Superannuates” in the English version of the name with the word “Retirees”. When this Resolution was reviewed by the National Board of Directors, it was agreed that this proposal would be duly considered along with all the possible ramifications and that the National Executive Director would report to the National Board within a reasonable time frame. In light of this commitment, the Board of Directors of the Branch decided to withdraw this third Resolution.

The President invited E. J (Ted) Legg to come forward and as the Chair of the Selection Committee to present the Don Yeomans Award and introduce the nominees of this year.

8. Presentation of the Don Yeomans Volunteer of the year Award

E. J. (Ted) Legg explained that past practice has been that only the winner of the award would be announced without mentioning the names of the nominees for the award. This year, the Selection Committee would like to break with that past practice as the Committee believed that all nominees were worthy of being recognized. He then called the names of the nominees and asked them to stand. In no specific order, he introduced the following nominees:

Jean-Luc Vachon – for willingly coming to the Branch Office twice a month and for being more than willing to back up the Branch Manager when needed;

Helene Mainville – for her very professional service as an Office Volunteer; for accurately entering data into the Web-based Membership System; and for producing the Feedback summary from last year’s AGM;

Gus Nelson – for his current and many past years of faithful volunteer service to the Branch, from serving on the Branch Board of Directors in 1993 to providing very knowledgeable answers to enquiries from members on the phone, and for his always thoughtful suggestions for improvement;

David Horley – for professionally carrying out the onerous responsibility as editor of the FSNA Ottawa Branch Report and for ensuring its timely production each quarter. Without the Branch report, many members would receive no news at all of what goes on in our Branch;

Kay Mathews – for her major contribution in assisting in the data transfer from the Branch’s old Paradox Membership System to the new Web-based Membership System;

Guy Comeau – for his single-handed and significant effort of getting the Department of National Defence to recognise FSNA; for having FSNA ensconced as a permanent part of that Department’s SCAN (Second Career Assistant Network) retirement program; and for being solely responsible for a significant rise in the number of military retirees joining FSNA; and finally,

John Hope – for his current and many past years of faithful volunteer service and for his always-cheerful willingness to take on anything asked of him. It is volunteers such as John and his fellow nominees who make up the backbone of our Branch.

After a good round of applause given to the nominees, he then announced that Guy Comeau was the award recipient for the current year and proceeded to introduce him in greater detail as follows;

“Prior to retiring from DND, Guy Comeau commanded the Destroyers Chaudière and Saskatchewan accumulating, during those three years, more sea-time than any other Commanding Officer in the Canadian navy; he was Vice-Commandant of College Militaire Royale; and he was Executive Assistant to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff. It is noteworthy that he joined FSNA before he retired thus providing his family and himself with the overseas medical protection through MEDOC, which, in turn, allowed his wife and himself the peace of mind to buy a sailboat and to then sail around the world for the next 14 years. Quite an amazing achievement!!! Once getting back on land in 2004, our Volunteer of the Year came to one of this Branch’s AGMs and was, to quote him, quite sadly astonished at the lack of military colleagues in the audience. He set out to rectify that. Single-handedly and without any urging from anyone, he used his DND contacts and persuaded, cajoled and otherwise got DND to include a much enhanced and significantly expanded FSNA section included in that Department’s MOVING ON booklet – a booklet that is handed out to all who leave the Forces. In addition, he got FSNA a slot in DND’s very tightly scripted SCAN presentations given to all retirees of all ranks and he got FSNA’s exhibition booth located in the best of all locations. FSNA’s presentation is now rated as one of the best and its booth is always the best attended and always the most frequently visited of all the exhibitors at these sessions. Of course, he says “it is because of the ‘chocolates’ that are available at the FSNA table”.

E. J. (Ted) Legg then handed to Mr. Comeau the “Volunteer of the year” plaque, as well as a framed certificate. Mr. Comeau then expressed his thanks for the recognition given to him

E. J. (Ted) Legg then turned the meeting over to the President C. MacDonald

The Chairperson announced a recess of 30 minutes and invited the members to visit the various information tables in the Canada Room while enjoying refreshments.

9. Guest speaker

Myriam Jamault, a Public Health Nurse of the City of Ottawa introduced her colleagues who assisted her in her presentation and during the question period i.e.

Ann Nowak, City of Ottawa and Judy Bedell, Director of Good Companion Support Services
Ms Jamault gave a presentation on the topic of “INDEPENDENT LIVING: A QUALITY LIFE AT HOME“

She suggested that seniors think of things that fulfill their life’s dreams, ambitions and desires. Chances are that they will fit into one of three categories: happiness, longevity and independence. Attaining these depends largely on one factor, health.

Although the risk of disease and disability clearly increases with advancing age, poor health is not an inevitable consequence. Much of the illness, disability and death associated with chronic disease are avoidable through known prevention measures.

People say over and over that they would give almost anything to have good health, yet they avoid making some of the key lifestyle changes needed to gain and maintain good health.

The following information and guidance to resources can assist one to make healthy choices.

Five basic principles apply:

- Take charge
- Eat well
- Stay Active
- Prevent falls
- Stay connected

She then proceeded to elaborate on each of the five basic principles. This was followed by a period of questions and answers

10. Election of Directors

The slate of nominees presented by the Chair of the Nominations Committee having been elected by acclamation (Agenda Item 5), the meeting moved on to the next agenda item

11. FSNA National Triennial Conference

This agenda item having been covered previously before the break, the meeting moved on to the next agenda item

12. New Business/Members’ questions

R. Kamel came to the microphone and indicated that he had collected over 25 signatures from members petitioning that the by-laws be amended so as to allow Board of Directors nominations from the floor at the Annual General Members Meetings (AGM). This proposal was put forward in compliance with the by-laws that stipulate that 25 members may request that a by-law amendment be submitted at the subsequent Annual General Meeting of Members for a vote by members. He added that he had resigned from the Board because the existing by-laws do not provide for nominations for Board positions to be made from the floor at the Annual General meeting. He concluded by saying that the signed petition would be delivered to the office of the Branch.

C. MacDonald confirmed the accuracy of the statement that signatures from 25 members on such a petition would bring about an official proposal to amend the by-laws at the next Annual General Meeting

The President asked members to fill out the various meeting assessment forms as well as the forms for suggestion on topics for future meetings and to leave them in the box at the back of the room

G. Price came to the podium to thank the president C. MacDonald for the dedicated services he had rendered to the Branch during his 4 year tenure as Branch President. He cited some of the accomplishments during these past four years, such as the purchase of our office building with the ensuing renovations, the Marketing and Recruitment initiative undertaken to recruit Associate members before they retire and the new governance model that had to be put in place following the incorporation of the Branch

C. MacDonald expressed his thanks to G. Price for his kind words and in turn, he thanked the Regional Director and Past-President R. Gayner for his services and good guidance during his tenure on the Board.

T. Hillman then distributed door prizes

13. Adjournment

On motion made by R. Gayner, seconded by D. Doucette and unanimously approved, the meeting terminated at 12:30 PM

C. MacDonald, President

R. Richer, Secretary