



BRANCH 54 GRANDE PRAIRIE

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023
RCL#54 1900 hrs

Senior Executive Present: Comrade President Brad, Comrade 1st VP Frank, Comrade Secretary Sue, Comrade Treasurer Dean, Comrade Service Officer Rob.

Members At Large Present: Comrade Paul, Comrade Pat, Comrade Julia, Comrade Todd, Comrade Eunice

Chairpersons Present: none

Comrade Manager Jamie Present

Regrets: Comrade Past President Larry, Comrade 2nd VP Marcel, Comrade Sgt At Arms Tony, Comrade Padre George, Comrade Dan, Comrade Irene Musselman, Comrade Jan Gass

Total Attendance: 20

Call to Attention

Opening Ceremony

Meeting Called to Order at 1906 hrs

Guests: none

New members/transfer/reinstated: none

Installation of new members:

Review of Minutes of last General Meeting:

Corrections or amendments to Minutes:

Motion to Accept by Comrade , seconded by Comrade , carried

Business arising from Minutes:

Additions/amendments to agenda: Awards/Honours Banquet, Flag Day, Quilts of Valour

Treasurer's Report: Attached

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as read Comrade Todd; seconded by Comrade Julia, carried.

Reports from Standing Committees

Functions & Events: Karaoke semifinals and finals sold out, looking at dates for Karaoke competition in 2023; NYE sold out; closed for Reno's first week of January; Bingo, Trivia night with 10 teams, Open Mike Feb. 11, more Trivia, 3 bingos plus private bookings in February.

Memberships/Awards: Currently 352 with more weekly, 2022 sitting at 535 with a few more back paid. Awards/Honours formal banquet returns on April 15th, Comrade Pat and Comrade Sue are contacting longest existing members and working down in years of membership until we have a full house including plus ones. Banquet has limited seating however we will open up for the dance if others wish to attend. No band booked, no pricing confirmed. Formal invitations will be sent following phone contact.

Poppy Fund: Poppy Fund Year End is currently December 31st, Tip Tap Pay boxes still haven't submitted money amounts to us; approximately \$28,000 this year deposited to date.

Cadet Report: attached

Service Officer: attached, Service Officer was away with surgery Comrade Dean/Brad looked after Veterans in his absence. Veterans Support pay is increasing from \$350 to \$600, just waiting for confirmation from Command/Dominion.

Sports: attached, purchased additional shuffleboard from ANAVETS for \$200, Here2There volunteered to transport it for us.

AGLC: no 50/50's, Meat Draws still going well, Chase the Ace won in December for Thursday nights, new licence secured; Friday nights Chase the Ace sitting at \$4200 approximately with 14 cards left; Bingo is bringing in approximately \$5000 per event, selling out 130 seats each time, plus food/drink/Nevada sales

Building/donor wall: County Grant must be used within 18 months so we are proceeding with renovations to Teen Bunker and bathrooms. Applied for other grants; CFEB, ARC, Cenovus, City of GP and Co-operators

Campground: no updates; not as many winter storage as initially hoped for

Motion to accept all committee reports as presented Comrade Eunice; seconded by Comrade Rory, carried.

Business carried forward from Executive Meeting:

West bathroom Heater: installed, very warm in bathroom now

Teen bunker renovations: Guttled bathrooms in Teen Bunker, waiting for notice from Air Bands on their equipment, old cast iron pipes in ceiling need replacing; plumber

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advised we should do bathrooms directly above them to save time/money with tearing the ceiling down to do upstairs ones in future. Stage staying with other storage being developed in Teen Bunker.

New Floor on Hall side: installed, showed sample, trim to be completed tomorrow

Bathroom renovations: discussed under Teen Bunker renovation

New business

Service Clubs: second meeting of Service Clubs held at the Legion, Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to assist with its Food Security Committee. Contact info if interested.

Canada Day/First Responders Day: Any interest in a Chairperson to look after putting a float in the Canada Day parade? Comrade Rob Rogers/Comrade Corrina Darke volunteered to be co-chairs. First Responders Day will be first Saturday after Labour Day going forward on an annual basis; letters for donations ready; email notification to participants going out soon; volunteers needed for this if interested.

Cellphones for Vets: Comrade Dean has been looking for cellphones for Vets so they can make doctors appointments, be contacted by agencies etc. So far 4-5 we had went out immediately; 5 more coming, one from South Dakota; 10-20 private donation; 10-20 from Custom Cellular who will also assist with SIM cards.

Goodwill fund for President: Discussion on usage/tracking. Motion to give a 'goodwill fund' of \$200/month to the President so he can buy meals/drinks for visiting Legions, dignitaries made by Comrade Frank, seconded by Comrade Rob H, carried unanimously.

Building necessities: Discussion on usage/tracking. Motion to raise Managers 'necessities fund' to \$2000 from current \$1000 as things are beginning to need repair/replacement more often made by Comrade Dean. Seconded by Comrade Rory, carried unanimously. Question on usage of two Square systems: this is one of the items that needs updating as the current system is getting overloaded/outdated.

Quilts of Valour: Approached by Veterans Association Foodbank who is currently looking for a facility to present its Quilts of Valour and hold Veterans Coffee days. Garan Yablon is representative in GP, travels to Edmonton once a week to bring back food hampers for Vets; last Sunday presented 3 Quilts of Valour in this Legion; 24 vets and plus ones were here. Discussion on nomination process and securing quilts/quilters from this community. Question: why wasn't it announced to membership? Too little lead time for these quilts, next time we will announce it.

Life Membership for Comrade Dan Christenson: Would like to start process to pursue Life Membership for Comrade Dan, need approval from meeting. Motion to proceed with process to grant Life Membership to Comrade Dan Christenson by Comrade Frank, seconded Comrade Rob R, carried unanimously.

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Flag Day: Oliver's Funeral Home has revived Flag Burial Day after pandemic restrictions. This happens on February 15th, requested pall bearers from the Legion in full dress uniform. If interested let us know, if attending otherwise RSVP by February 10th for luncheon numbers.

Branch54 Shirts: Comrade Frank is pursuing pricing for Branch 54 shirts, embroidered or vinyl emblems; not formal crest but the "Legion with Poppy" logo and 'Branch No. 54' underneath approved. Will bring back to General Meeting when pricing is secured.

Presentations:

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal – Comrade Julia Barteski

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pins - Comrade Frank Skolly, Comrade Rob Rogers, Comrade Sue Reid, Comrade Dan Christenson (in absentia)

Closing Ceremonies

Meeting Adjourned at 2008 hrs.