

**BRANCH 92 GENERAL MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2023**

ATTENDEES:

Bob Howard	President	Anne Parker	1 st Vice
Wes Rideout	Past President	Alf Read	Service Officer
Owen Fitzgerald	Poppy Chair	Joanne Lancaster	Youth Education
John Robertson	Sgt at Arms	Ann DeWolfe	Branch Manager
Shirley Howard	Secretary/Treasurer		

ABSENT:

Janet Gaylord	2 nd Vice	Kevin Offord	3 rd Vice
John Beddows	Executive	Bill Beswetherick	House & Property
Shirley Walker	Ladies Auxiliary President	Mary Alguire	Executive
Dan Beauchamp	Executive		

Minutes of the November 12th General Meeting presented and reviewed. Motion by Wes Rideout to adopt the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Owen Fitzgerald. Carried

Business arising from those minutes – A Financial Committee to be set up and be a top priority, was suggested by Charlie Burrige. President Bob Howard stated that he is still looking for volunteers for this committee. He also feels that both the 1st and 2nd Vices should be on this committee. Comrade Anne Parker agreed to sit on this committee and also suggested that Jerry Witkowicz be approached. We need members with ideas on how to bring money into the Branch because we are losing money.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Bob Howard stated that the cheque going to the Wheels of Care is ready and will be presented to Dan Horton January 1st at the Levee. Joanne Lancaster stated that Dan will be attending the Levee. Also the ladies Auxiliary will be presenting a cheque to Dan Horton at the same time.

Jean Walker, a veteran and long time member of the Branch and the Ladies Auxiliary has passed and her memorial will be at Tompkins Funeral Home on Saturday December 16th. This will be a joint Branch and LA service. Anyone attending will meet at the Legion at 1030 AM and parade over to the Funeral Home. Full Dress Uniform if you have one, but your attendance is not restricted if you do not have one. Poppies will be laid.

We will be having a New Year's Eve Party in the Webb Room. The Neil Carter Band will be playing from 8:30 PM until 12:30 AM. There will be a light lunch served. Tickets are \$ 30.00 per person and are available at the

Bar.

New Year's Levee starts at 11 AM. Bob would like all the Executive in full uniform if possible, to be at the Legion for about 1030 AM in order to set up a receiving line, to meet and greet people as they arrive.

Bob received a phone call from John Beddows today informing him that he had to be on hand for a very important phone call so could not attend as planned. He wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Thank you to Anne Parker as well as Bill Beswetherick for taking over the General Meeting and Secretarial duties last month while Bob & Shirley were away.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Shirley provided the financial statement and again reported that we are losing money. Endorsed the need for a Financial Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The request for a donation to the Salvation Army in Gananoque, was attended to at November's General Meeting, attention to Steven McNeeley. We also need to look into a donation to "The Guide Dogs" to which we usually donate .

MEMBERSHIP:

Anne Parker did the Early Bird Draw - and the lucky winner was Daniel Chabot. He will get his \$60. membership dues returned to him for this coming year. There were 167 paid members entered into this draw.

Anne reports that as of Dec 12th we have 181 members paid up. There are 22 new members for the 2023 year and the same for 2022. They are not coming out to the meetings, but are willing to help when asked. They are also reading the minutes on-line. But it would be really nice to have them coming out to the meetings as we need their input.

If you know of anyone who has paid their membership on-line and are looking to receive their sticker from Anne, please let her know. There has been a problem with Command sending Anne the list of members who have registered. She will get the stickers for them.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Hope to see everyone at the New Year's Levee.

HONOURS & AWARDS:

Bill Beswetherick has worked very hard all year for the New Year's

Levee. Bill said that all the replies except the MP and the MPP will be attending. They usually wait until the week before to answer. Both the Mayors of Gananoque and the Township will be attending. Anne stated she would like to invite Interval House and Bill has also invited the Service Clubs.

POPPY REPORT:

Owen Fitzgerald reports that we had a very successful campaign. Boxes were placed in 36 business locations and there were 2 shifts of volunteers with 18 boxes each time. The shifts were from 8:30 AM to 12 noon and from 1230 PM until 4 PM. Thanks to the volunteers for going out on that very cold day – November 4th and thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary for providing the hot lunch. Wes Rideout, John Robertson and Owen did the counting of monies taken in. The total in our Poppy Account at present is \$20,657.31

YOUTH EDUCATION:

Joanne Lancaster reported a very successful campaign with 623 submissions from the 3 schools. 14 of these went on to be judged in Portland. Thank you to Owen & Pat Fitzgerald for delivering them and also to Sharron Dorey for her assistance with the campaign.

SPORTS:

President Bob stated we still need a Sports Officer. Upcoming Legion Sports are posted on the Bulletin Board. Regular Darts closes Saturday December 16th.

LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT:

We still need a chair for this program

SICK & VISITING:

Owen Fitzgerald has no correspondence. Bob reported that Sandy Beswetherick is now out of hospital and living in Normandy House. She is doing well according to Bill.

VETERAN SERVICES:

Alf Read has 1 file open for 1 veteran. He also reports that he has 10 knitted afghans from Rona Offord and he has reached out to the Zone G2 Service Officer, to offer these to other veterans in the Zone G2 areas. He has contacted the Service Officers of each Branch in Zone G2. The Coffee Clatch on Tuesdays usually held upstairs, was shifted to the Boathouse Cafe on Main Street. Wes Rideout attended with Alf and there was a good turnout

of people from the area. At present, the plan will be to have the Tuesday gathering at the Boathouse Cafe. The Boathouse Cafe is open from 9 AM to 12 Noon ,Tuesdays, all winter. It is a very pleasant and inviting atmosphere and it is donation only for the coffees.

WEBSITE:

Anne Parker reports that the website is full.

BURSARY and SGT AT ARMS

John Robertson reports that there will be 2 colours for the service for Jean Walker on Saturday December 16th and Poppies will be placed. He will have 4 colours for the New Year's Levee.

Robbie Burns is January 21st 2024. It will be \$30 a person for a roast beef dinner and a touch of Haggis. It will be from 12 Noon to 4 PM with meet and greet from Noon to 1 PM. Dinner starts at 1 PM. The McLeod Highland dancers (8 of them) are returning again this year. There will be 6 pipers from the PWOR and 2 drummers. There will also be some singers. Tammy Serson may have the tickets ready this week-end. The basket will have tickets available to purchase but only after the New Year so there will not be a conflict with the other baskets being offered.

BRANCH MANAGER:

Ann DeWolfe is getting calls about the New Year's Eve Party. The meat Draw has been changed to December 15th as the 22nd is too close to Christmas. Amy Running wants to do a Boxing Day Euchre. Boxing Day is a holiday and rate of pay is double time, but Sean said he will work it for regular time.

Christmas Eve the Legion will close at 5 PM and it will be closed all of Christmas Day. Open Boxing Day at 1 PM.

The Town Hall called and said there is still a small leak according to their data.

All Legion members who took the "Food Handling Course" the certificates are expiring in April next year. They will need to retake the course.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reminder of the Ladies Auxiliary having their Christmas Dinner on Friday December 15th from 1130 AM until 1 PM. The cost is \$20.00 and Take-outs are available.

Bob Howard has a meeting coming up with Sgt Dickson regarding the

Teddy Bear donations and if they would be for the Gananoque Area. Also regarding setting up a date for mid-February, for the Information session for seniors on scams and phishing.

Motion of adjournment by John Robertson. Seconded by Wes Rideout.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY/TREASURER