

**Minutes of a General Meeting
Held At Branch 92
Tuesday 14 November 2017**

Committee Members Present

President	Wes Rideout
1 st Vice President	Owen Fitzgerald
2 nd Vice President	Anne Parker
3 rd Vice President	Janet Gaylord
Past President	Cliff Weir
Executive Members	John Robertson Heather Thomson Ron Knapton Bob Howard Anne Parker Glen Parker Alfie Read
Secretary	Bill Beswetherick
Manager	Ann DeWolfe

Committee Members Absent

Dan Spencer
Doug Johnston
Harold Miller
Charlie Burrridge

President There were 27 members present. The meeting began with the induction of new members Scotty Stoness and Liam Cousino.

President Wes Rideout thanked the seven members who attended a Remembrance Day ceremony at Christ Church and Laurie Fletcher who prepared the after-service food.

Treasurer Secretary Bill Beswetherick noted that Branch audited Sep financial statement showed a net loss of \$864.25. Over the past many years, there has been a steady decline in revenue generated by the bar. This decline is being experienced by most local bars.

As of the General meeting, the Branch has \$79,816.70 in its Building Fund and \$55,601.68 in its General Fund for a total of \$134,418.58. Bill noted that the Branch has requested 100% reimbursement of the \$8,000 in taxes it paid to the Town in 2017 as is allowed by Town regulations.

Raffle Bill Beswetherick said that there was \$10,006.89 in the Raffle Fund. Dorothy Maxwell thanked the Legion for its continuing support of her in the Terry Fox Run which this year raised \$1,360.

Bill Beswetherick put forward seven requests for funds, and of which occur at this time of the year as Christmas approaches:

Gananoque Royals Minor Hockey for a Ladies Tournament 17-19 November in
Gananoque - \$250

Linklater Breakfast Club - \$250
Gananoque Minor Hockey for the upcoming season - \$450
Gananoque Xmas For Kids - \$350
Gananoque Fire Department Child Safety Program to supply safety kits for 15 local children \$454.25
Salvation Army - \$250
Queen's University Band (participation in Remembrance Day ceremonies) \$250
Total \$2,055. All grants seconded by Bev Miller and Ray Foster. Carried

John Robertson recommended that with the completion of the programs whereby for each of the past ten years the Legion Lottery Fund, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the Poppy Fund have made grants totaling \$5,000 to the Brockville and Kingston General Hospital that a similar level of donation should be made to Providence Care in Kingston. No final decision was made pending a decision by the Ladies Auxiliary as to whether it would support such a program. It also was pointed out that all donations from the Poppy Fund require prior approval by Ontario Command which stipulates that donations to hospitals go to specific pieces of equipment. Bill Beswetherick noted that as with the Kingston General and Brockville General Hospitals a non-binding agreement was signed with these organizations. To be discussed at the Dec General Meeting.

Membership Ann Parker reminded members that dues for 2018 are being collected. Her goal is still to have 100% of 305 members signed up by the end of the year. There is a graph at the entrance to the bar which charts how many members have signed up.

We currently have 149 members paid up for 2018 which puts us at almost 50 %. Anne welcomed new members Scotty Stoness and Liam Cousino who were inducted. That makes 18 new member in the Branch this year.

Early Bird ends 30 Nov and at the 12 Dec General Meeting we will have a draw to see who gets his/her membership dues back.

The Dominion Command Portal On-Line System to register new members is experiencing difficulties, so Anne advised prospective members and current members wishing to pay their dues for 2018 continue to do so through the Gananoque Legion. Anne can be reached at 613-382-8936 or via E Mail at membership_92@hotmail.com

Anne noted that Jim McGee had volunteered to begin training for Membership.

House and Property Cliff Weir note that he has had discussions with the Town concerning another light to cover more of the Branch Parking lot and hope to have the issue resolved shortly. The added lighting will enhance safety and security.

Sergeant at Arms Glen Parker noted that Remembrance Day and Carveth ceremonies went well. For the fourth year in a row, 212 Electronic Warfare Squadron from CFB Kingston, provided soldier for the Remembrance Day ceremony.

Poppy Owen Fitzgerald noted that well over \$4,600 in bills and coins were collected from Poppy Boxes located in businesses and from the 4 Nov Poppy Day. This amount will increase as outstanding checks for wreaths arrive in the mail and additional poppy boxes are counted. This is in addition to the \$6,400 that already in the current Poppy Fund, largely from the sale of wreaths.

Owen note his disappointment that there were not enough volunteers from the Branch to man all of the locations throughout town on Poppy day, and that we had to rely heavily of cadet volunteers. He expressed the hope that more members will be involved in the 2018 Poppy Campaign.

Sick And Visiting Owen Fitzgerald briefed members on the status of members in health care facilities or at home (Secretary's Note: to protect the privacy of these members, their names are not included in these minutes which appear on the Branch website).

Youth The walls of the meeting room were covered by the more than 80 Remembrance theme posters. Janet Gaylord noted that there has been over the past few years a significant reduction in the number of posters, poems, and essays that are being submitted from local schools. She noted that some of the decrease resulted from the fact that for the past few years intermediate level students at Linklater School have been attending Gananoque Intermediate and Secondary School which does not appear to be interested in the Remembrance theme program. As a result most of the submissions at all levels came from St Joseph School which has junior, elementary, and intermediate classes.

Janet put forward a proposal to get the Legion involved in generating more interest in the arts because there appears to be a lessened emphasis on the arts at local schools. One proposal would involve holding arts classes at the Legion. The impact on the operation of the Legion issue would have to be investigated further as our facilities are booked most nights and the Branch is closed Sun and Mon evenings to save labor costs.

Janet noted the success of the Remembrance Day ceremonies at TIES school in Lansdowne on Fri 10 Nov and the support received from the Gananoque Legion Colour Party and members who attended the ceremony.

Honours and Awards Alfie Read noted that plans are underway for the 1 Jan 2018 President's Levee.

PRO Despite the weather, well over 350 people attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Manager Ann DeWolfe noted that bar prices rose on 1 Oct and that a review of hours is necessary as we are operating on a very thin margin and a rise in minimum wages will occur shortly.

For the past year or so we have been receiving some financial assistance from the Food Bank which has occupied most of the basement area since 1982. The Food Bank money is used to defray the high utility costs incurred by the Branch to operate the many large refrigerators and freezers.

Ann noted that although the Branch receives money from the Ladies Auxiliary, all of it is used up in utility and other costs to support LA functions and in the labor costs for Brad, the Branch custodian, who sets up these LA functions. The Branch makes no revenue, except from possible bar sales, from events hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary such as celebrations of life, dinners and lunches.

Ann noted that the Euchre group that uses the main dining room weekly gives us small donations that total \$1,200 annually and that we receive monies from a bridge group. Although, small, these donations add up and go a long way to addressing our costs.

Ann noted that No Parking have been erected along the lane along the east side of the Branch parking lot. This is a public access route and must be kept open.

A major event will occur Fri 24 Nov the Branch will have a Meat Draw and a Fish Fry. Tickets are available for a New Year's Party. It sold out last year so get your tickets early.

New Business President Wes Rideout noted that Ontario accessibility legislation is due to come into effect in early 2018 that will affect the operation of the Gananoque and District Food Bank which has occupied the basement of the Legion since 1982. The accessibility requirements likely will force the Food Bank to move. It has approached the Legion about the possibility of moving its facilities to the upper floor of the Legion. Following discussions about the significant adverse effect of such a move would have on Legion operations, the limited space available in the upper floor of the Legion, and other factors it was decided to reject the proposal. President Rideout will relay the Legion decision to the Food Bank executive.

President Rideout noted that the Branch is required to set up a Financial Review Committee. The current one is chaired by Ron Miller with members Sharon Dorey and Jerry Witkowicz as members. The Branch currently is seeking clarification from District as to what exactly is required of this Review Committee.

Ray Foster noted that in almost every case entertainment is provided free to members and that the Branch should consider having everyone who attends pay a small fee. In that vein, Wes noted that the Branch needs to set up a small group to review operations such as hours of operation in light of the increase in minimum wages and to expand our sources of income. The following members volunteered to be on the committee: Deb McGee, Janet Gaylord, and new member Scotty Stoness.

Bev Miller noted that Branch 561 had initiated a Chase the Ace program to raise funds.

Manager Ann DeWolfe explained that for some time she had been investigating the program for the Gananoque Legion and has just received documents from the Ontario Gaming Commission and the Town of Gananoque outlining what is required to set up such a program. She will be able to brief members further at the Dec General Meeting.

Adjournment At 8:46 Ron Knapton made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Alfie Read. Carried.

Wes Rideout
President

Bill Beswetherick
Secretary