

Minutes of a General Meeting

Held At Branch 92
Tuesday 9 Jan 2018

Committee Members Present

President	Wes Rideout
1st Vice President	Owen Fitzgerald
2nd Vice President	Anne Parker
3rd Vice President	Janet Gaylord
Past President	Cliff Weir

Committee Members Absent

Ron Knapton
Heather Thomson
Harold Miller
Dan Spencer

Executive Members

	John Robertson
	Charlie Burrridge
	Bob Howard
	Doug Johnston
	Anne Parker
	Glen Parker
	Alfie Read
Secretary	Bill Beswetherick
Manager	Ann DeWolfe

President: There were 28 members present.

Treasurer: Secretary Bill Beswetherick stated that as of the 12 Dec General Meeting, the Branch has \$79,835.87 in its Building Fund and \$52,515.47 in its General Fund for a total of \$132,351.34. President Wes Rideout thanked the Ladies Auxiliary for a donation of \$5,000 which was presented at the Levee.

Raffle: Bill Beswetherick said that there was \$9,094.09 in the Raffle Fund. There were no written requests for raffle funds. Doug Johnston made a motion to donate \$500 to the Gananoque and District Human Society. Following discussion, his motion was seconded by Anne Parker and carried.

Membership: Anne Parker noted that the Levee was a great success.

As of the first week of Jan 2018 79% of members (241) had paid up for 2018. We had 34 new members and reinstated members in 2017/2018.

The Toonie and 50/50 draw jar will be updated and the names of those members not in good standing (i.e., not paid up for 2018) will be removed. They will of course be put back in the jar once they have paid their dues. Anne noted that the book listing Branch and LA members is constantly being updated.

Poppy: Owen Fitzgerald noted that a donation of \$604 was made to 492 Cadet Corps at the Cadet 20 Dec Xmas Dinner along with a donation of \$900 from Branch 92.

Sick and Visiting: Owen Fitzgerald noted that Gerry Walker has moved into Carveth.

Honours and Awards: Alfie Read noted that the 1 January levee was a great success with Ken Stewart and Cliff Weir being named as Honouree of the Year, Bill Beswetherick and John Robertson being given Meritorious Service Medals, Wes Rideout being named Legionnaire of the Year, and Lorraine Payette and Marjory Robertson being presented 150 medals.

Plans are underway for a Friends of the Legion Appreciation Night at which time the Branch recognizes the many people who make the Branch a success.

Sports: Bob Howard noted that Senior Darts will be held at Seeley's Bay 27 January with the cut off date for entering being 13 Jan. There will be Euchre at Brockville 17 Feb with entry deadline date of 27 Jan and District Cribbage 20 Jan. Attending the Cribbage Tournament will be Bob and Shirley Howard and John and Marjory Robertson who won Euchre at the Zone level.

PRO: Bill Beswetherick again noted that many local newspapers such as EMC St Lawrence are closing and that this severely reduces our means of getting free publicity for Branch events. The cost of advertising often is too prohibitive. Members were reminded that events are well advertised within the Legion as well as on the Branch Website and the Branch Face book.

Manager: Ann DeWolfe noted that on Super Bowl Sunday 4 Feb there will be a euchre tournament in the afternoon followed by the game. That day also is our Brunch. Ann noted that January and February are especially slow months after the heavy schedule of December. There will be a meat draw Fri 26 Jan.

New Business: Larry Scott questioned why tickets were being issued at brunches. Wes Rideout responded that this was a way to ensure that customers received only one meal. Larry indicated that this policy will result in fewer people attending the brunches. Wes responded that the Brunches are an important source of funds for the Branch, bringing in about \$8,000 annually. The preparation and serving the Brunch involve an average of 16 Legion volunteers each working about six hours and then there is the food preparations the preceding Saturday.

There was a presentation by Deb McGee who chairs a committee with members Janet Gaylord and Scotty Stoness. They had been tasked by the President to review Branch operations with the intent to streamline operations within the Branch and the LA (her report is attached).

She noted that the Gananoque and District Food Bank, which has occupied the basement of Branch 92 since 1982, occupies a total square footage of 10,804 and that the going rate for long term leasing in Gananoque is about \$11 per square foot. The Food bank is a major user of utilities for its many large refrigerators and freezers. The committee recommended that the Food Bank sign a one year lease with the rent being \$1,000 a month and that the Food Bank provide proof of insurance.

Concerning the LA, the Committee noted that it is the prime user of 4,064 square feet (the Web Room and kitchen) and gains revenue from these facilities but that the Branch absorbs all of the costs (utilities, maintenance staff, washroom supplies, etc.). The relationship of the LA and the Branch will be discussed at a combined Branch and LA meeting to be held Wed 10 Jan.

The Committee noted that some evenings there is no one at the bar after about 6 pm but because events such as LA darts and Bingo often do not end until late in the evening the Branch has to maintain a bar staff to secure the facilities. It would be preferable for these events to end about 7 pm thus saving about \$3,000 annually in wages, especially as the minimum wage recently increased. The committee noted that no outside food should be allowed at Legion events as we have a bar that serves drinks and snack food.

We need to advertise that Branch facilities are available for rent to outside organizations.

Adjournment At 8.06 John Robertson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ron Howard. Carried.

**We Rideout
President**

**Bill Beswetherick
Secretary**