

Wellington District 31
Virtual Executive Meeting
February 22, 2021 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Present: Stephen O'Connell, Anne Smith, Nancy Baker, Richard Goodbrand, Mary Hermann, Michael Curtis, Joyce Barnes, Joan Berry, Tim Cunningham, Shirley Goodbrand, Marina Howlett, Brenda McGinnis, Scott Montgomery, John Ritchie, Amanda Leathem, Joan Miller, Pam Niesiobedzki, Lenore Ralph, Brian Serafini, Linda May Bell

Regrets: Lynn Morrison, Patrick Bruder

- **Welcome**

Anne welcomed executive members to our virtual meeting.

- **Approval of/Additions to the Agenda**

Motion to approve February 22, 2021 agenda; moved by Brenda McGinnis, seconded by Nancy Baker, carried

- **Approval of the January 25, 2021 Minutes – Mary Hermann**

Motion to approve the November 30, 2020 minutes; moved by Mary Hermann, seconded by Lenore Ralph, carried

- **Treasurer's Report – Mike Curtis**

- **Action Read**

Brenda asked if we would be donating any monies to Action Read as we will not be collecting books due to Covid 19. To be discussed after Surplus discussion.

- **Surplus**

There is a surplus of \$1335.40. After a long discussion on what we should do with this surplus, a motion was tabled.

Motion to allocate up to \$5000 to Donations from the Surplus and the remainder to be kept in reserve. Moved by Marina Howlett, seconded by Joyce Barnes, carried.

Motion that we contribute \$500 to Action Read from the \$5000 allocated for Donations from the Surplus. Moved by Richard Goodbrand, seconded by Brenda McGinnis, carried

- **Budget Approval**

Mike will adjust the 2021 Budget to reflect the use of the Surplus. Approval of the Budget was deferred to our next meeting.

- **President's Updates:**

Please refer to the Presidents Update Virtual Meeting on February 15, 2021 emailed to us by Anne prior to this meeting.

- A new Website is coming. It will be customized for each District.

- **Committee Updates:**

- Archive – Nancy Baker

Anne is continuing to scan documents. Richard is going through the Treasurer's box. John will update the list of items still needed after Anne and Richard have completed their work.

Brenda and Marina will look for PSTO documents should they be needed.

- Awards – Nancy Baker
Nancy will set up a committee. It will need to look at the criteria for these Awards. Please email Anne if you wish to volunteer for this committee.
- Communication Updates:
 - Facebook/Twitter- Richard Goodbrand
There has been some activity on our Facebook posts. Richard continues to work on setting Twitter up.
 - Marketing and Communication – Richard Goodbrand Nothing to report
 - Newsletter – Tim Cunningham
We had excellent reviews of the last newsletter from our members. Thanks to the committee for their work.
John mentioned that we have had 020-25 members wishing a digital copy.
 - Website – John Ritchie Nothing to report

Community Grant and Scholarship Committee – Richard Goodbrand

Richard wishes to send a email message to members to ask if they know of a group that might like to apply.

Community Grant has replaced PTSO. Each District receives \$2500. Possibly can use Old PSTO applicants.

Pam mentioned Guelph Little Theatre as they are hosting the 2022 Festival and it has many RTO members involved.

- Foundation – Joan Berry Nothing to report
- Goodwill – Joyce Barnes Nothing to report
- Governance – Marina Howlett
The committee is working on revising the Constitution which is now known as a Governance Document.
Some changes to Senate, now known as AGM and Forum. Mostly the rest is the same with a few changes to President's, Vice Presidents' roles.
Marina will send out final copy prior to the next meeting after meeting with the mentor from National, George Merit.
- Health – Shirley Goodbrand Nothing to report
- Membership/RPWs – Scott Montgomery
1381 members,
35 active members,
- Pension and Retirement Concerns – Marina Howlett Nothing to report
- Political Advocacy – Brenda McGinnis
Brenda, as our Political Advocacy rep:

- attended Political Advocacy Committee Regional Liaison Meeting on Zoom on February 2, 2021
 - reported on what our district was doing re: Political Advocacy in Wellington and shared our newsletter article on Political Advocacy
 - National sent a follow up letter to Premier, Ministers on January 13th - since then the number of deaths in LTC homes has tripled - the number was 1,132 and is now almost 3,396 (sadly it will surpass that)
Brenda will follow up with second letters to MPP's using the example and suggestions given by National
 - will try to get data about what is happening in the Retirement Homes in Guelph and Wellington that will be receiving funding - has the money arrived?
Is the money being used to hire more staff who are paid well so they can work in one place, full time?
 - do staff have proper PPE and training?
Please send any information you have or encourage others who might have information to share.
Brenda has been talking to some members who have good information about what is happening and what is needed in homes.
- Brenda also attended the Zoom Meeting of Vibrant Voices on February 10, 2021 - "Rights of Older Persons: Support, Ratify, Demand Now", a truly excellent session
She is waiting for minutes from National but is starting work on a letter to Federal MP's asking for National Standards for LTC homes
learned about International Longevity Centre Canada and Ontario Doctors for Long Term Care - demanding reforms we have talked about
All of our members are encouraged to send letters through Vibrant Voices, *The Toronto Star* petition or on their own to their MP's and MPP's. Links were given in The newsletter. Apparently about 500 members have sent letters through Vibrant Voices. Thank you but when you consider our membership, we could do better, maybe members think group letters are enough but volume counts, also nothing counts like a potential vote of a senior.
One big point that was made on the Vibrant Voices seminar - "now is the time to keep exerting pressure - if we back away now" - shame on us
- Resolution: *Richard Goodbrand*
Nothing yet. Will need volunteers
 - Travel – NA

7. Other

A concern was expressed by Stephen and Anne when Stephen received an email from Jim Grieve about his not having a computer and how it was affecting members. Stephen sent a reply with Anne's help but has had no reply.
Anne too received the same concern during a Zoom meeting. Anne wrote to both Rich Profit and Jim Grieve. No reply from Jim and an apology call from Rich. He is not sure what is going on.

8. Adjournment

Anne adjourned the meeting at 3.32 pm.
The next meeting will be March 29, 2021 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.