

Wellington District 31 Executive Meeting Minutes March 6, 2017

Present : Rick Goodbrand, Brenda McGinnis, Stephen O'Connell, Nancy Baker, Anne Smith, Joyce Barnes, Mary Hermann, Carol Christie, Pat Bruder, Marina Howlett, Pam Niesiobedzki, Mike Curtis, Mary Gittins

Regrets : Joan Miller, Joan Berry, John Ritchie, Lynn Morrison

1. Welcome

Rick welcomed everyone to our March meeting.

2. Approval of/Additions to Agenda :

Marina Howlett moved that we approve the agenda.

Pat Bruder Seconded

Motion carried

3. Approval of December 5, 2016 Minutes

Mary Hermann moved that we approve the minutes with the corrections made previously by email.

Nancy Baker seconded

Carried

4. Correspondence

Rick reported that he did not receive any written correspondence. He did receive a phone call from Ann Grant , a member, who suggested that we might want to consider inviting the Women's Choir of which she is a member as possible future entertainment at a luncheon.

A thank you card from a Goodwill recipient was passed around.

5. Next Meeting Dates :

June 5, 2017

Tentative future dates : September 11, 2017

November 27, 2017

Fall Luncheon - booked at Centre Wellington - October 26th

6. Follow ups -

Spring Luncheon , May 4, 2017 - Plans

Celebrate Canada's 150th Birthday

- Entertainment - Lindsay Cox and Gregson Lodge - \$100 - focus on Canadian music and musicians
- decorations : red and white napkins - Pat arranged
- focus on red and white
- centrepieces - red and white flowers - Mary and Nancy
- red and white balloons - clustered in groups of 3
- red and white desserts - including birthday cake - Costco
- draws - baskets with Canadian content - eg maple syrup, fudge, maple leaf napkins, etc
- 4 door prizes
- baskets - \$40 each
- 2 baskets plus 2 gift cards
- books for Action Read - Canadian content/authors
- Nancy will make suggestions in newsletter ad re: possible Canadian authors
- Giving thanks - for being Canadian /living in Canada - Brenda
- everyone - encouraged to wear red and white clothes - note in newsletter ad
- Intro to entertainment - Pam
- Thank you to entertainment - Nancy
- In Memoriam - Joyce
- Motion :** Nancy Baker moved that we ask Mary Gittins to order 200 special Canada 150 pins for our luncheon. Joyce Barnes seconded. Motion carried. One member voted against
- extra pins could be included in birthday cards for over 80's in July
- Pat will book ICC for next year's spring luncheon - Thursday, May 3rd, 2018

Wellness Workshop - Fall 2017

- The Committee will meet at Mary Hermann's on April 20th at 9:30
- send any ideas for Wellness to Mary Hermann
- looking at Thursday, Nov. 9th but no venue yet
- budget? \$500.

7. PSTO Presentations

Suicide Prevention - Sandy Parkinson

- a few key points
- The Suicide Awareness Council of Guelph-Wellington
- it is a community organization includes organizations and people from all walks of life
- one project - an original theatre production called "AfterWhys"
- another project - safeTalk workshop
- information sheets were distributed
- seniors struggle with mental health issues
- highest percentage of suicides in Canada is among older males
- one suggestion is we partner with group to put on workshop and/or play
- a performance costs about \$2,000 to put on

- performance costs \$2,050.
- partner with other groups

J.O.E. - Karen Calzonetti , Josephine Scott, Mike Hamp

- Jobs Opportunities Enterprise
- all about providing inclusion for adults who are developmentally delayed
- sell coffee, treats, and tell jokes at Guelph Public Library
- every Tues, Wed, Thurs from 9 to 1
- also sell coffee at Dawson Medical Centre
- distribute programs at Storm Games
- receive money for these jobs
- would like to build a permanent kiosk at Dawson Road - cost about \$2,000.
- no ministry support
- always looking for job opportunities
- not for profit
- parents have made huge commitment

Eden Mills Writers Festival - Susan Ratcliffe

- started in 1997
- features only Canadian authors
- have bought a property "Rivermead" - an old church
- raising funds to build an outdoor garden

Wellington County Learning Centre - Elizabeth Debergh

- receiving requests for ESL tutors for adult refugees in county
- request for \$2,000 donation to go toward purchasing student curriculum and teacher guides
- information sheet was distributed

8. Reports :

- President :

District President's Workshop - March 19-20

- Anne, Steve and Rick will be attending
- will report back by email before June

Senate 2017 - May 15, 16, 17

- Rick, Steve, Anne and Nancy will attend

- want to check motion/policy passed last year
- Pam and Mike will check
- one policy - President, First and Second Vice-Presidents attend
- plus an observer - usually someone interested in these positions or who hasn't attended at all or recently

District 31 Scholarships

- Rick will notify Upper Grand by June 1st
- new improved method
- will notify head guidance counsellors
- students apply
- counsellors look at applications and decide
- Rick will send us copy of procedure
- Catholic Board - rotates among 3 high schools - Lourdes, St. James, Bishop Mac
- this year will be Lourdes
- guidance counsellors notify Brenda
- we give 3 scholarships
- 2 for Upper Grand - 1 for Wellington Board
- would be great if 1 was from city and 1 from county in Upper Grand but
- it depends on applicants and decision of board committee

Provincial Committees

- applications are on the provincial website
- there is a May 17th deadline
- a signature from District President is needed

Provincial Executive

- elected at October Senate
- Rick would like to run for a position
- Rick asked us to consider supporting his nomination
- a motion will be made at our June meeting

Pension and Retirement Concerns - Marina

- at this point the pension plan is being reviewed to determine if there is a surplus or deficit
- likely will be a surplus
- hope to eliminate applied conditional inflation
- government is using money surplus as an asset
- totally acceptable
- government is a partner
- if there is a deficit, they record a liability
- government can't "raid" pension

- Marina gave a brief history of our partnership with government
- official report - end of March

Constitution - Marina

- knowing the length of this meeting, discussion of policies will take place in June
- Marina asked for input re: donations and Goodwill policies
- any suggestions/ideas are welcome
- Brenda and Rick will send information re: Scholarship process

Treasurer - Mike

- Mike distributed a report
- Our bank balance is \$9,525.93
- Joyce was concerned that the budget line for Goodwill is going up - largely because of the cost of stamps and the number of little flower arrangements we send to our 90 , 95, and 100 year old members
- everyone thought that this was money well spent
- it is certainly appreciated by our older members and their families
- every year, Mike needs to ask two executive members to "review" the books
- for the last number of years, Marina and Brenda have done that
- Mike, Marina and Brenda all emphasize that members submitting expense forms must include receipts
- this is very important because we must be accountable
- we always subject to an audit
- an observation - when members look at Senate reports as to how much each district spends on its members, we are at the top of the list
- we should and do spend money on our members
- we thanked Mike for the excellent work he does keeping our books

Goodwill - Joyce

- when Joyce receives the monthly change reports from provincial, she forwards this information to the members of the Goodwill committee who are sending cards
- always wait until the second week of the month before sending cards

Membership - Carol

RPW

The RPW is taking place this Thursday, March 9 at Vic East
 Please be there at 4:30 to help Carol assemble kits
 Volunteers : Rick, Brenda, Nancy, Anne, Pat, Mary, Marina (late)

Currently we have 1310 members - 3 over 100, 9 in the 95-99 category and 4 members less than 54 years of age

Health - Pat

- for next newsletter, Pat will write an article on Hearing Aids - good advice
- best places to go
- remind people that our Insurance Plan is not a replacement for OHIP
- eg if you are hurt/ill while travelling and need continued care, you might have to come home to have your treatment covered by OHIP - our insurance plan would not continue to cover you for long term treatment

Communications Rick and Anne

Anne will be attending the Provincial Workshop on June 25/26

Newsletter - Anne

**** **Change in due date for newsletter articles - April 1st at 9 a.m.** ****

- need to get to the printer by April 7

- time sensitive issue

- suggestion : include information about Memberperks program in newsletter
- use Times New Roman 12 for articles
- new policy - newsletter articles must be typed and submitted electronically
- next newsletter articles due - September 13 - 9 a.m.
- we followed the constitution and by-laws and advertised for next newsletter editor

Motion : Mike moved that Mary Gittins be our next newsletter editor. Pam seconded
Carried

Political Advocacy - Brenda

- Brenda was very happy that the Provincial Advocacy Committee and Provincial Executive have produced and distributed a pamphlet highlighting issues that RTO/ERO advocates. It is designed to be sent to politicians and other political advocacy groups. Brenda will mail a copy with a covering letter to our District's MPs and MPPs. She will also share this pamphlet with groups like the Coalition for Social Justice and Poverty Elimination Task Force.

Charitable Donation Submission - Brenda and Rick

- Brenda and Rick completed and submitted the Charitable Donation Form to Provincial RTO/ERO. Our nomination was for the Stopgap Foundation which we discussed at the December meeting. This was the foundation featured on the Rick Mercer Report.

Anniversaries - Brenda

We have planned our Canada's 150th Anniversary Celebration. Given the length of this meeting, we will discuss our 50th Anniversary Celebration at our meeting in June.

Travel - Lynn

Lynn sent us this information from sunny Florida.
The Niagara Belle Lunch Cruise has been booked for September 13. It will cost \$102.
This trip will include a wine tour and wine tasting.

The four day tour to Lancaster to see "Jonah" at Sight and Sound Theatre has been booked for October 2 to 5 at a cost of \$865 twin.

Lynn will have flyers for the Spring luncheon and will have an article for the next newsletter.

Website - John

No report for this meeting.

Public Relations - Nancy

Nancy will contact Snap to see if they will come to our luncheon or to the delivery of books to Action Read.

9. Spring Luncheon - Thursday, May 4th - Italian Canadian Club

The event is booked. Rough draft of agenda will be sent out by Brenda

Please send Brenda suggestions for future entertainment. Remember : groups for Fergus and individual or duos for ICC

10. Other - Discussion of presentations this morning

- Suicide Prevention - possible Wellness topics
- Wellington County Literacy Council - check list of teachers to determine RTO members
- J.O.E. - maybe they could serve coffee to our members before luncheons
- Pat will check if it is ok with ICC
- Rick will send a thank you to all presenters
- while the group doesn't quite fit Provincial criteria, we will pursue ways to support these groups in future
- we will look for ways to help these groups
- Brenda will do write up about presentations for newsletter

11. Adjournment

Rick adjourned the meeting at 2:26

Thank you to Nancy and Pat for delicious treats and to Marina for organizing lunch.
Thank you to Mike for recycling our lunch garbage. Thank you to everyone for contributing to Stone Soup. Brenda's trunk and backseat were full of excellent food that will be gratefully received at 40 Baker.