

**Wellington District 31 Executive Meeting Minutes**  
**November 18, 2019**  
**UGSB Board Room, Guelph ON**

**Present:** Stephen O'Connell, Joan Miller, Rick Goodbrand, Shirley Goodbrand, Joan Berry, Nancy Baker, Mike Curtis, Frank Tersigni, Patrick Bruder, Pam Niesiobedzki, John Ritchie, Marina Howlett, Joyce Barnes, Carol Christie, Mary Hermann, Brenda McGinnis

**Regrets:** Lynn Morrison

**Special Guest:** Martin Higgs

- **Welcome:** Stephen welcomed Martin Higgs, our RTO/ERO Board Liaison to our meeting.

**2. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda:**

Two additions were made to the Agenda: Correspondence was added after Archives and Brenda requested that she make a Motion during the report on Pension and Retirement Concerns.

**Motion** to approve the Agenda with the two additions, **Moved by** Stephen O'Connell, **Seconded by** Nancy Baker, **Carried**

**3. Martin Higgs - Board Liaison Update**

**New Logo**

Martin distributed examples of the RTO/ERO swag with the new logo on it. We thanked Martin for the notepads, mints, luggage tags, and pens. It has been a long process but finally we have refreshed our logo. There have been problems with the name change and this process is still ongoing. Our old logo faded into the background whereas this new one pops. The new logo was developed after a great deal of discussion with stakeholders.

**Grant Structure:**

There is a potential change in grant structure. If approved, it will benefit our district by about \$1593 based on our 2019 membership. The grant structure is being simplified. There will still be a distance grant.

**Advocacy:**

ACER-CART - RTO/ERO is a member plus 13-14 other senior organizations have partnered to identify common issues for seniors. All groups have agreed upon three main issues. RTO/ERO Board and staff had third annual Lobby Day at Queen's Park. Teams of three met with individual MPP's. The focus was on age friendly communities, elder abuse, geriatric training of doctors and health care workers. Seniors make up 25% of population. Martin met with Mike Schreiner and the Green Party Caucus. RTO/ERO sponsored a luncheon.

**Foundation:**

has After a slow start, the Foundation has dispensed \$325,000 in grants. It focused on issues of Social Isolation and Geriatric Training. A survey will be going to members re: forming a vision for the next 20-25 years.

**Benefit Plan:**

Changes are coming. A new Benefit plan will be sent out to members. More information will be in Communiqué.

As of Jan 1, 2020 our travel insurer change to Global Excel from Allianz Global. There were many concerns from our members about Allianz. We hope to provide an even better level of service

**Governance Structure:**

A few changes will need to be made to our constitution - now referred to as Governance. We have some time. RTO/ERO Board will set up a schedule for Districts for updating constitutions (governance structures).

**Questions from Executive:**

**What was the cost of the rebrand?** About \$50,000 was spent for the last two years of work

**What is the process for selecting a preferred partner company?**

**How did IRIS and Hearing Life Canada get chosen?**

Companies approach staff or sometimes staff approach companies that might have something to offer our members - what would be a good deal for our members. Some make financial contributions to our Foundation - not necessary though other organizations can advertise – they do not have not exclusive rights. RTO/ERO does put out feelers to companies that cater to seniors

**Renaissance:**

10 of 40 pages were ads.

Someone in RTO is giving out our names and companies are approaching us. Are companies paying for lists of names?

Ads are picking up the cost of Renaissance.

Martin will check out the issue of lists of names being distributed?

Charles Tabone is very concerned about contact information on website and privacy issues. We have 26 office staff providing service for 80,000 people

**Our logo and the Legion?**

Is there any concern that our new logo looks like the poppy?

No –it hasn't come up

**New banners for Districts:**

What is the cost? Why was mailing mixed up?

Martin has no idea what the cost of the banner was. He's not sure why the mailing labels were mixed up - our banner went to Norfolk.

Jim Grieve is investigating and will follow up.

**Swag:**

Are we preaching to the converted?

Members do get something. Swag provides an opportunity to tell our story. They are giveaways for every conference we attend.

**Symbol:**

Explanation - can you get an explanation of our logo from the designers?  
There is something available - Brenda will remind Martin to send it. Swag may be available through Souvenir Canada in the spring - at a cost

New RPW posters will be more inclusive.

Nominations for committees and board deadlines are due the end of February

Districts can bring issues to the Board of the National Organization at any time. If the subject matter is of interest to the membership, the issue could be discussed at a forum but there's no guarantee that an issue would reach the forum. Rick would like to have a formal process,

Martin wanted to emphasize that in order to advertise in our magazine, a company does not have to contribute to the Foundation

- advertising is NOT contingent on donation to foundation.

Stephen thanked Martin who stayed for the rest of the meeting.

#### **4. Approval of the June 3, 2019 Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the June 3, 2019 Minutes **moved by** Pat Bruder, **seconded** by Nancy Baker, **carried**

#### **5. Unfinished Business**

There was a discussion about Hearing Life, Iris and Merit being preferred vendors.

**Motion** that the Wellness Committee invite both Hearing Life and Iris to present to our members at the next Wellness Workshop on the conditions we make it clear that these groups are two preferred sponsors approved by the Board of Directors as an option for our members and that we are not exclusively endorsing these groups. They are an option which does offer preferred pricing to our members and do promote good sight and hearing health, **Moved by** Brenda McGinnis, **Seconded** by Carol Christie, **Carried**

There will be information in the January newsletter in the form of a flyer and a Wellness paragraph. Richard will write the paragraph after checking with Simon.

We will have Merit Travel at another time, possibly a luncheon.

The Wellness Committee will meet on December 13, 2019 at 1:00 pm at Brenda's.

#### **6. Luncheons**

The Fall luncheon was poorly attended – 39 attendees plus executive. Shirley Goodbrand suggested we survey the members about a change of

date. There was a long discussion concerning changing the date, entertainment, and where to have the Fall luncheon. If we were to cancel this luncheon, when would we have our Annual General Meeting when we have the installation of a new executive? Marina reminded us we could do this in the Spring. Richard stated that some Districts have coffee mornings or pub nights. There was concern about liability of doing a pub night. Mike gave a report of finances for the past 4 years. This past Fall luncheon was the poorest attended. Brenda stated that in the last the members did not want an evening dinner. It was suggested a committee be formed to create a survey for the luncheons.

**Motion** that a committee be formed to examine the Fall luncheon and to devise a survey that would ask all members about the activities in District 31. They will report back at the March 30, 2020 meeting. **Moved by** Brenda McGinnis, **Seconded by** Marina Howlett, **Carried**.

Planning took place for the Spring Luncheon to be held at the ICC on May 7, 2020. Brenda will send out a completed planning list to the executive

## 7. Reports

### \*President

Stephen O'Connell spoke of the Fall Forum experience: we have 2 corporate members who vote. Other members are observers. Corporate members are paid for by RTO/ERO. Observers would need to share a room, which the District pays for. We should look at how other Districts handle this. Marina stated that the Governance Committee would look at this matter when they meet.

### \*Pension and Retirement Concerns

**Motion** that the District 31 Executive support Marina Howlett's application for RTO/ERO's representative on the OTPP Benefits Adjudication Committee, **Moved by** Brenda McGinnis, **Seconded by** Carol Christie, **Carried**

Marina thanked the Executive for their support.

Marina asked Martin to take the followings points back to the Board of Directors:

It is hard to have a pension representative with no liaison from the Board. There has been nothing on pension/retirement. They need to think of bringing the Pension and Retirement Committee back as we need a voice. Martin will check this out. He thought it was now part of Political Advocacy and doubted that the Pension and Retirement Committee would not be back.

There is a 2% cost of living for 2020. Differs from other groups.

**\*District Governance**

- a The Governance Committee has not met since June. There have been few changes so far. A date to meet in Jan. or Feb. will be set. We have 5-year window to get this done.

**\*Treasurer**

Mike presented a financial report for November 18, 2019.

**Motion** to accept the Wellington District #31 Financial Statement for November 18, 2019 **Moved by** Pat Bruder, **Seconded by** Joyce Barnes, **Carried**

**Information:**

Richard stated that the Fall Senate is now known as Forum. Spring is still the Annual Meeting and Senate

Mike has been in-serviced in QuickBooks at a workshop in September and received a Chrome Book for the treasurer's use.

The Newsletter is over Budget. Mike mentioned the budget numbers were wrong.

Goodwill is doing fine.

Christmas donations are in the budget for \$500.

We received one Thank You from a student who received a scholarship.

There will be an increase in Rebate money from RTO/ERO in approximately May, it will be retro active to January.

- Bank, **Motion** that we give \$100 each to EWCS, Centre Wellington Food Arthur Christmas Hampers and Guelph Wellington Women in Crisis, **Moved by** Pam Niesiobedzki, **Seconded by** John Ritchie, **Carried**

**\*Goodwill**

Joyce Barnes reported that 300 members received Christmas cards, 14 received flowers

**\*Membership**

Carol Christie reported that invitations to our Fall Luncheon were sent to new members. Most tend to travel at this time. She said that this is a lot of work. Is once a year enough?

**\*Recruitment**

No report at this time.

**\*Health Benefits**

No report at this time.

**\*Political Advocacy**

**Brenda's Report**

District 31 co-sponsored a very successful All Candidates Meeting

before the Federal Election.

Rick has written a report and expense submission which he is sending to Provincial.

Thank you to Simon for taking care of our RTO/ERO table at the event.

Brenda handed out a copy of the material, which was distributed at the event and to politicians to our executive members.

This material outlines the key priorities of RTO/ERO in terms of Federal Issues: Universal, Public Pharmacare, more secure retirement and a National Seniors Strategy.

We are following closely the events in the education community and what is currently happening with the teacher federations. We can become involved as individuals to support local job action. RTO/ERO as a group is non-partisan but encourages individuals to become involved.

Districts with over 1000 members can apply for \$500 to provide refreshments for those involved in job actions. We'll watch this closely.

The Board and staff at RTO/ERO recently had a lobby day at Queen's Park. I am waiting for a report. We are taking strong stands opposing cuts to education and health care.

Brenda will send Christmas cards to our MP's and MPP's in our three ridings.

#### **\*Social Justice**

The All Candidate's Meeting went well. It was for Guelph only candidates, 6 of 7 showed up. Richard thanked the volunteers.

Richard is aware there are some issues in the Social Coalition. Last meeting in November went well. Our new banner will come in handy.

#### **\*Governance**

**Motion** that RTO/ERO District 31 nominate Richard Goodbrand for the position of Director of RTO/ERO and that \$500 be allocated to support him in the May 2020 election, **Moved by** Marina Howlett, **Seconded by** Brenda McGinnis, **Carried**

#### **\*Travel**

Lynn sent a list of possible events:

Hello Dolly: May

Port Dover Theatre: Murder at Howard Johnson: No date

Longer trip: Severn Lodge: late September- October

Muskoka Cruise: Spring 2021

#### **\*Newsletter**

Anne reported on the Communication Workshop. It was overwhelming. They are pushing for a newspaper/magazine type format with more graphics. A discussion of what we do as far as information to our members, we don't have the money. Should we stay the same or change to Provincial format? We felt we should stay the same.

**January Newsletter:** Articles are due by Jan. 7, handwritten by Jan. 2. The newsletter should be out about Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>.

It was suggested that we send out emails to notify members of the Spring luncheon

**\*Website/Facebook**

Please send items to John. Members do check the site. It is suggested that we go to the WordPress program. There is an advantage but Districts need to be autonomous.

**Facebook:** We will continue to use Facebook as needed for items such as Social Coalition, Luncheons and pictures.

**8. Archives**

Brenda has the items that were collected for RTO/ERO 50<sup>th</sup>. We need a place to store: University or Library.

The President and Secretary should keep items that should be archived- should have one paper copy.

A possibility is to upload to the Provincial server and only designated people would have password access or we could use a Thumb drive. Martin Higgs will send these to the IT Department. His district, which is small, rents a small storage unit.

**9. Correspondence**

Dave Bernon sent a Thank You card for our support and kindness.

There was a picture in the paper showing our support for the Norm Jary Golf Tournament.

**10. Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn **Moved** by Mike Curtis, **Seconded by** Brenda McGinnis, **Carried**

**Time:** 1:55 pm

Thank you to Nancy and Mike for the treats and tea/coffee.