

**Wellington District 31
Virtual Executive Meeting
November 30, 2020 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, Pam Niesiobedzki, Joan Miller, Lenore Ralph, Brian Serafini

Regrets: Lynn Morrison, Patrick Bruder, Linda May Bell

- **Welcome**

Anne welcomed executive members and Martin Higgs, National liaison, to our virtual meeting.

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

No additions; approved

- **Approval of the October 19 and 26, 2020 Minutes – Mary Hermann**

Minutes were amended for Budget Motion 2 to include the words: Executive members do not pay for their luncheons.

Motion to accept the minutes as amended; moved by Mary Hermann, seconded by Joyce Barnes, carried

- **Correspondence**

Carol Christie sent an email thanking the executive for the donation to the RTOERO Foundation in recognition of the work she and Frank Tersigni did on the executive.

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

Please refer to the Financial Report dated Nov. 24, 2020 sent By Mike Curtis.

Motion to accept the Financial report; moved by Mike Curtis, seconded by Joan Berry, carried

- **Donation discussion re: Ed Pickersgill and The Bench – Stephen O'Connell**

Stephen spoke about a Guelph initiative by Ed Pickersgill to provide winter items to those in need. A discussion followed. It was decided against supporting this initiative.

- **RTOERO updates – Martin Higgs**

Martin gave an update on RTOERO following their 2-day virtual Board Meeting:

- Pertinent items were that the investments have some minor changes, committee mandates are staying the same with a minor change to the PTSO Committee changing to Community Grant and Scholarship Committee.
- The operational budget has been approved.
- Martin will remain as our Liaison until May 31, 2021.
- The strategic plan is now called the Operational Plan.
- The numbered company which looks after the RTOERO building remains the same.
- Members fees will now be set at \$70; however, anyone currently paying less than that will continue paying that amount, subject to inflation.
- Martin updated the Travel Benefits with regards to Covid. This is covered in the Communique newsletter.

- **President's Updates:**

- Presidents Virtual Meeting

Please refer to the Presidents Update Virtual Meeting on Nov. 27, 2020 emailed to us by Anne prior to this meeting.

Richard gave an update on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram use.

- PSTO Newspaper Article

National Office sent a media coverage of our PSTO winner, One by One, to local newspapers; however, there was no guarantee that it would be published.

- Invitation to participate in RTOERO-supported research

We have been invited to take part in a Keep Well, a web-based application sponsored by a third party. We would need further information.

- **Committee Updates:**

- Communication

RTOERO Communication Webinar – *Nancy Baker, Anne Smith*

Concerns about Newsletters: costs of printing and mailing, publishing programs used by other districts.

Facebook/Twitter – *Richard Goodbrand*

Richard gave an update under Presidents Virtual meeting notes.

Our District Facebook page is rtoeroDistrict31Wellington (no spaces) and our Twitter page is @rto_District31 (no spaces). Send any posts to Richard.

Newsletter – *Tim Cunningham, Anne Smith*

Martin Higgs gave an outline of how he does his District's newsletter. There was a discussion on how to produce newsletters using different platforms.

Editorial Committee Zoom mtg: Anne, Brenda, John, Marina, Tim: January 11, 2021 at 2 pm

Articles are to be sent to Anne by January 8, 2021.

Website – *John Ritchie*

The National Office is encouraging districts to use Wordpress and National Office's template.

- Foundation – *Joan Berry*

Webinar: These suggestions for coping with the pandemic will be provided to our members by email, Social Media and our District 31 website:

- Maintain your routines.
 - Connect with friends regularly.
 - Get exercise and fresh air.
 - Continue with your usual hobby or start a new one.
 - Limit your news exposure.

- Goodwill – *Joyce Barnes*

Joyce reported that 300 members over 80 will receive Christmas cards, 14 members turning 90 received a rose and one member turning 100 received a floral bouquet.

- Governance – *Marina Howlett*

There is a proposed meeting date of Jan. 12, 2021.

- Health – *Shirley Goodbrand*

Shirley reported that the benefits update can be found in the Communique newsletter.

- There was a surplus so there will be a 3% reduction in Health Benefits for 2021 and a subsidy for the next 5 years.
- Dental coverage will be based on the 2021 schedule.
- There will be a new online website for claims with Johnson in 2021.
- Trip cancellation or interruption is not covered if it relates to COVID but it will reimburse expenses if they are unrelated to COVID.
- All claims incurred in 2019 must be submitted by December 31, 2020.

- Membership/RPWs – *Scott Montgomery*

Updated district 31 numbers from the November Membership Lists: 1384 members in total, 8 members who have passed away, 3 new members (2 were spouses of deceased members), and 37 active teaching members

- Pension and Retirement Concerns – *Marina Howlett*

Marina reported that there was no specific information to report at this time. She expressed some concerns since there has been no information related to pension issues from National Office through the Chair's Liaison Reports or the Political Advocacy Committee since the PRC Committee was eliminated about eighteen months ago. She asked Martin to make inquiries with the RTOERO Board to determine how district pension reps could access pertinent information to share with the local membership.

- Political Advocacy – *Brenda McGinnis*

Report: please read the report.

Webinar – Brenda McGinnis and Nancy Baker

Long-Term Care Homes were the main topic of concern. Letters to be sent to Tory members. Their answers will be posted. There needs to be a Federal plan for Longer-Term Care. We are encouraged to sign the RTOERO petition online at Vibrant Voices.

Coalition for Social Justice Motions – *Richard Goodbrand*

Motion: That RTOERO District 31 continue to be a member of the Guelph-Wellington Coalition for Social Justice for 2021; moved by Richard Goodbrand; seconded by Marina Howlett, carried

Motion: That our treasurer be authorized to send a cheque to cover the annual membership fee to the GWCSJ treasurer, Richard Ansett, at 139 Hadati Road, Guelph, Ontario N1E 6N7 as soon as possible; moved by Richard Goodbrand; seconded by Marina Howlett, carried

Richard made a request for more representation to join him on this committee. Amanda Leathem has volunteered to join the Coalition.

Motion reintroduced from Oct. 19, 2020: That travel and related

expenses for activities with other volunteer organizations or agencies will not be eligible for reimbursement. Moved by Marina Howlett, seconded by Michael Curtis, carried

- Travel - NA

10. **New Committees**

- Archives: Anne, John, Marina, Nancy (Chair), Richard
Virtual Meeting date: Dec. 7, 2020 at 4:30 pm
- Community Grant and Scholarship Committee, formerly PSTO: Anne, Brenda, Brian, Richard (Chair)
We are waiting for information from National Office re: the new guidelines: January 2021. Applications are due June 29, 2021.
- Social/Luncheon: Brenda (Chair), Joan M., Lenore, Nancy, Pam
A meeting will be set up for the group to chat about ideas later.

11. **Other**

Pam missed the discussion and vote on the donation to Ed Pickersgill and the Bench and asked that it be revisited at this time.

Motion: Be it resolved that we donate \$100 to the Bench for socks, hats and mitts; moved by Pam, seconded by Mike, defeated

12. **Adjournment**

Anne adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

The next meeting will be Jan. 25, 2021 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.