

Wellington District 31 Executive Meeting Minutes
Monday September 10, 2018 at 10 a.m.
347 Lee Circle, Waterloo

Present : Richard Goodbrand, Marina Howlett, Joan Miller, Nancy Baker, Anne Smith, Mary Hermann, Stephen O'Connell, Joyce Barnes, Carol Christie, Pam Niesiobedzki, Mike Curtis, Mary Gittins, Joan Berry, Lynn Morrison, Brenda McGinnis

Regrets : John Ritchie, Pat Bruder, Frank Tersigni

1. Welcome

Joan Miller welcomed everyone to her home. On behalf of the executive, Rick thanked Joan for hosting the meeting at her house.

2. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

Motion : Moved by Pam Niesiobedzki and seconded by Mary Hermann that the agenda be approved. Carried

3. Approval of the June 4, 2018 Minutes

Motion : Moved by Pam Niesiobedzki and seconded by Brenda McGinnis that the minutes of the June 4, 2018 meeting be approved. Carried

4. Correspondence

Richard noted that we have received more than you's for the Secondary School Scholarships than had been previously noted in discussions. Rick has filed these but not necessarily shared these with the executive.

5. Next Meeting Dates

The next three executive meeting dates will be : November 19, 2018, March 18, 2019, and June 3rd, 2019 at the Upper Grand District School Board Office
Marina has confirmed these dates with the Upper Grand District School Board Office
May 2nd will be the date of the Spring Luncheon at I.C.C.

President's Workshop is September 28th and 29th - Rick is going as Director
new President could attend
Our past practice is that we send 2 delegates - current and first vice president
Rick will check this out

6. Follow-Ups

Fall Luncheon and AGM - October 25, 2018

Fall Arts and Crafts - Nancy is organizing this activity

AGM will follow same format : start at 11:15

Gayle Manley from RTO/ERO Board will make presentation - 5 to 10 minutes

Rick will ask her to focus on RTO/ERO in the present and future

We need to rent a sound system. Mary Gittins will co-ordinate with Frank about renting a system

Since we only need this once a year when we are at Fergus Community Sportsplex , it is reasonable to rent, not buy a sound system

Pam will phone Dennis at GLT to ask about borrowing one.

Mary will buy tablecloths and napkins

Nancy will arrange centrepieces - dollar store has some very attractive items for centrepiece

Door Prizes - Mary has 3 gift cards

Motion : Brenda moved that one of our door prizes be two tickets to RCMPI play Annie and that Steve ask the group to donate these or if they can donate one, we will buy the other or if they can't donate any, we will buy two tickets for door prizes. Carol seconded. Carried

If vendors donate door prizes, we will use these and save gift certificates for Spring luncheon.

At the luncheon :

Giving Thanks - Joan Berry

Introduction to RCMPI entertainment - Steve

Thank you - Pam

Foundation news - Joan Berry will announce the \$50,000 donation to Health Sciences

Travel Report - Lynn

Treasurer - Mike

Election of Executive - Marina

Entertainment - aim for 12:45

Draw for doorprizes after entertainment - you have to be there

we will give it a try instead of during dessert - we will see if that encourages people to stay

Suggestion : maybe we should add an end time to our luncheon notices - eg the luncheon will end at 1:45 or 2 so that people can plan accordingly

We must finish the meeting part by 12 o'clock

Let's try to start entertainment at 12:45

Special Draw - Quilts

Money will be used for our Community Christmas Charities

Ask people to write their name on a tag

Keep it simple

Tickets - \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

Marina and Brenda will take care of Quilt Raffle

Crafts - set up at 9 - sale starts at 10

Helpers at luncheon - meet Mary at 8:45 at Community Centre

Members also really enjoy "Bring a Book, Take a Book"
We need a table for Quilts and a table for Book Exchange
Rick will invite Gayle for dinner - Provincial will pay for Gayle's dinner and the District will pay for Rick.
If anyone else wants to join them, they will pay for their own dinner.
Gayle is a friend of Marina's. Marina offered Gayle a place to stay if she arrives in Guelph the night before luncheon.

Nominations for Executive
Most of the executive is staying in current positions
Nancy Baker has offered to serve as Second Vice President
Mary Hermann and Joan Miller are switching places

Wellness Workshop

Maybe we could team up with another community group.
We seem to have better attendance when the workshop is in Guelph or very near to Guelph.
We need to publicize the event well.
Put it in Dates to Remember as coming up in the spring - probably late April.
Motion : Nancy moved that we form a Wellness Committee to plan for a workshop in the spring.
Pam seconded
Carried

Members who volunteered to be on the Committee :
Brenda, Joan Berry, Mary Gittins, Steve, Anne, Nancy.

Brenda volunteered to be chair.

7. Reports :

President :

District 31 Scholarships :

Derek Lilley - CHSS - October 18th
Is there a volunteer to present? If not, Rick will present
Sarah MacIsaac - John F. Ross - Carol presented
Justin Glasier - St. James CHS - Mary Gittins presented

Workshops and Senate

Membership Workshop - September 16 and 17th - Carol and Frank will attend
Steve is on Provincial Committee

Governance Workshop - September 23 and 24th - Steve will attend

Pension Workshop - October 14-15 - Marina will attend

District Presidents - before Senate - Steve and Anne will attend

Senate - Senators - Steve, Anne Observer - Mary Gittins

Discussion :

We normally send 4 members to Senate - 2 Senators and 2 observers

Suggestion : because of cost - we send 2 senators and 1 observer (alternate)

We send members who are interested in leadership positions

We treat it like succession planning

We send President and two Vice Presidents

This is a good time to make changes as we consider costs.

Cost of observers is high. They must share a room because district pays.

There is a fundamental question : do we want the Senate experience to be open only to those who will be future leaders or do we want it to be open to others on executive to have the experience of Senate and broaden their experience for their work on executive?

Our decision must be budget driven

If you want to go, you can pay for yourself or at least for your own room.

Deferred further discussion until after lunch.

Lunch

Constitution/Governance Policy

In terms of Social Media, our district now has Facebook and Twitter

We need a specific section in our constitution to deal with these.

If we post on Facebook, there is no cost.

If we "boost", it starts costing.

As of yesterday, since last November, we have a charge for boosting on Facebook of \$1,200. Not all these charges will be submitted to Mike.

Boosting is a fairly effective way of getting information out to a wide audience.

But it costs. Audience can range from 50 to 75 to 4,000 depending on how long a message is left up.

At this point 55 people liked our page.

We need a volunteer to be in charge of our Facebook page. Rick can no longer do this.

Our members like Facebook but not boosting.

We need guidelines.

Mary Gittins has agreed to become our Social Media person.

Code of Conduct

Rick distributed copies to everyone. There were no questions or comments.

Closed Session

No need for closed session. Conflicts from June Meeting appear to be resolved.

Pension and Retirement Concerns - Marina

Often pension meetings and information don't coincide with newsletter dates. Again, the next Pension Meeting is in October, long after publication of Fall newsletter.

Treasurer and Budget 2019 - Mike

Some concerns :

It was pointed out to Rick that a member of District Executive can not receive any financial benefit from the district.

Any "financial benefit" a member received was as part of Goodwill. We have a policy covering this.

Campaign funding for a member pursuing provincial office seems to benefit the district and the provincial organization much more than the individual. It seems totally unfair to encourage members to run for Provincial office and expect them to pay for their campaigns. Those on the executive who have had extensive experience with Federation work when they were active teachers have always had budgets for campaigns for members running for Provincial office. This has always been the practice of all of the Unions.

It was also suggested that the treasurer's report be more detailed. For example, list some of the items under District expenses. Mike thought he might add some notes on the bottom or back of the report. Mike is always open to questions and people can certainly ask questions privately to him. Over the years, there have been very few questions.

Motion : Joyce moved that we defer budget discussions to the November meeting.

Marina seconded

Carried

Mike will work on a proposed budget for discussion for our next meeting.

He will list what we have spent in the past and what is projected spending.

He will list what we have spent on scholarships and donations.

We have a policy that covers donation - \$1500 a year and a different policy that covers scholarships. Three scholarships of \$400 each are given each year - 2 to public board and 1 to Catholic board.

Some members thought that our scholarships were good marketing for potential members.

Motion : Joyce moved that our three district scholarships be \$200 each.
Marina seconded.
Motion was defeated.

Motion : Joyce moved that we increase our donation amount to \$2,000 in 2019.
Marina seconded.
Motion withdrawn.

Mike will devise Draft 1 of our budget for the November 19th meeting.

We should have a discussion about maybe discontinuing scholarships.

Some advice for new executive which will meet in November : any changes to budget and programs should be made by at least 10 members.
At this point we are not incorporating changes but these ideas can be brought forth at the November meeting.
At this point, four members are going to Senate : Steve, Anne, Mary Gittins, Nancy.

Motion : Pam moved that as of today, we do not spend any money to boost our social media announcements.
Mike seconded.
Carried

Goodwill - Joyce

Our policy states that we send roses/flowers to our 90, 95, and 100 plus year old members. One member suggested that a donation be sent to a charitable donation instead of sending flowers.

The cost of sending roses/ flowers to these members has risen. Should we send donations to our Foundation instead?

Discussion :

Some members disagreed. These flowers bring some sunshine into the lives of our very elderly members.

Mike talked about delivering flowers to a member and what a positive experience it was for both of them.

We have about 20 members per year who qualify for flowers/roses. If someone requests a donation, that's fine, we can give one.

Many of us expressed an interest in delivering floral arrangements to the members celebrating these special birthdays.

Joyce will email us and ask who is interested in doing this. Let's try this approach.

Membership and Recruitment - Carol

Carol and Frank are going to Provincial Workshop this month and will report back.

RPW's - Carol

Carol sent invitations for a free first luncheon to our 63 new members. The policy of providing free membership for the first year in RTO/ERO seems to be helping greatly in recruiting members.

We don't have a date yet for next year's RPW. These presentations seem to be really improving.

Foundation - Joan Berry

Joan Berry will provide an article for the newsletter and make an announcement at our luncheon.

Health - Pat

Pat could not be at the meeting today but his article in the newsletter gives an update.

Newsletter - Mary Gittins

Mary provided each of us with a draft copy. Give her any corrections asap.

Presently, 498 members are receiving their newsletter by email. This will have a positive impact on our costs.

There was a concern that we don't refer to "RTO/ERO Theatre Group". These are not connected to RTO/ERO. Rather, call these theatre opportunities and post them on our website.

Next newsletter dates : articles due January 8th at high noon Rough draft ready on January 17th

Travel - Lynn

The *Come From Away* trips were a big success. Two full buses went on two different days and there was a waiting list.

Members really enjoy and appreciate bus trips to plays in Toronto.

One suggestion : The play Dear Evan Hansen is coming to Toronto starting in March 2019. Could we book a trip through Great Canadian?

The Simcoe Railway trip had to be cancelled but we think it was a result of the company changing the date to much earlier in September. The people who had signed up couldn't make the new earlier date work. It is a good trip idea but the date didn't work for most people.

The New York Trip also had to be cancelled but we believe it was for political reasons - the current situation in the US and its current relationship with Canada.

Lynn is looking into several possibilities eg Brigadoon at the Shaw Festival.

Merit Travel has some excellent presentations. Perhaps we can explore these - maybe even as part of Wellness Workshop program.

Political Advocacy - Brenda

The article in the newsletter reminds everyone of the upcoming Municipal Elections in October and highlights two excellent examples of political advocacy at the municipal level - the opposition to the building of the Glass Plant in Guelph-Eramosa Township and the advocacy work of citizens in stopping the Hidden Quarry. The article also mentions the new Federal Minister for Seniors and the priorities for political advocacy of RTO/ERO.

50th Anniversary Celebrations - Brenda

The Fall luncheon of this anniversary year will focus on RTO/ERO's present and future. We have focused on our past through our newsletter and Spring luncheon. Our special project in conjunction with the Mental Health Association was our outreach to the community.

Social Justice Committee Volunteer - Brenda

We do not have a volunteer for this group yet and no one has reached out to Rick to ask for one.

Website - John

John was unable to attend the meeting but he continues to post material that we request to be posted.

Public Relations - Nancy

All of us need to think about this more. Nancy does a great job delivering books and interacting with Literacy Council. We all have to do more in this area. One suggestion is to publish more photos in our newsletter.

The rest of the agenda was deferred to the November meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:30

