

**Retired Teachers of Ontario District 31**  
**Executive Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 8, 2010 @ 9:00am**  
**UGDSB Boardroom, Guelph, ON**

“Life is like a game of tennis; the organization that serves well seldom loses”

**1. Call to order and welcome:***Stephen O'Connell*

**Present:** Margie Zuccala, Pat Bruder, Nancy Baker, Brenda McGinnis, Stephen O'Connell, Carol Christie, John Ritchie, Mike Curtis, Pam Niesiobedzki, Lynn Morrison, Marina Howlett, Anne Smith, Mary Hermann  
**Regrets :** Joan Miller

Joan's truck would not start this morning and she had to call CAA

Brenda will take minutes

Steve noted that our Service to Others Project was rejected because it did not have enough Involvement of RTO members – we must remember that for future submissions

**2. Approval of/additions to the Agenda:** *Stephen O'Connell*

no additions/amendments

**Motion** to approve the agenda moved by: Pat Bruder; seconded by: Mary Hermann ; carried

**3.Approval of/Amendments to the minutes from March29, 2010 Meeting:** *Stephen O'Connell*

no amendments

**Motion** to approve the minutes as read moved by: Margie Zuccala; seconded by: Nancy Baker; carried

A few notes : Steve hired Ron McKelvey as did another RTO member. They were very pleased with his services.

Ron dropped off 1,000 flyers about his service which we will include in our newsletter distribution.

Brenda will send John a copy of the flyer to put on our website.

Mary thanked RTO for the donation to the Cancer Society in memory of her brother.

**4. Reports**

- Pension and Retirement Concerns

Marina has written a comprehensive report for the newsletter.

If people are following the news, they will be aware of the “big deal” that some are making about school boards employing retired teachers. Teachers seem to be the only employee group that has such strict rules about re-employment. It is a human rights issue. Employing retired teachers is revenue neutral. It doesn't affect the pension plan : no contributions but no claims either.

Marina has applied to serve on a Provincial Pension committee. She will be informed about her application result at the end of September.

- **Treasurer:** *Mike Curtis*

Mike distributed report. Our bank balance is \$16, 813.86

Today's lunch for the executive will be paid by RTO.

Marina Howlett moved that effective September 1, 2010, all executive members will have their Fall luncheons and Spring Banquet meals paid by RTO.

Seconded by Carol Christie

Carried

**Moved by** Mike Curtis to approve Financial Report dated Sept. 1, 2010 ; seconded by: John Ritchie; carried

- **Goodwill**

Margie will not be able to be chair of this committee this year. Three other members of the committee are unable to serve again this year. We will advertise in the newsletter for new committee members and a chair. Pauline Brown has written a job description for this position which we will use in the article.

Margie will ask Provincial for a new list of over 80 members. We send these members birthday and Christmas cards. Steve will ask provincial for copies of total membership lists for the committee. We need these to send cards to members who are celebrating special events or who are ill.

Members of the current committee will use the current over 80 list to complete the year. The committee will have a meeting after the Fall luncheon.

- **Membership**

District 31 has received approval for a retirement workshop. Carol has submitted three possible dates for the workshop.

We want to distribute our invitation to RTO membership letters earlier. WE are getting retirement lists at the last minute. Our package should be ready by mid May. By June 5, secondary teachers are already busy with exams and are hard to contact.

If Nancy has the packages, she can distribute them at the OECTA Banquet at the end of May. Maybe send some packages to Secondary Principals for distribution? 3 packages to every principal?

OMERS/OTTP – Provincial RTO is not doing anything special to include OMERS into presentation because OMERS and School Board are required to provide information. The suggestion is that we call OMERS directly and they will provide a workshop leader who will do a 45 minute presentation to OMERS retirees at our workshop.

- **Health:** *Pat Bruder*

Pat attended a two day workshop in June. Costs of the drug plan keep rising. Usage has increased by 30%. The plan is exploring “catastrophic drugs”. Dispensing fees range from \$4.10 to \$16. Many members have false teeth/dentures and would like more coverage for these items. Our plan is the second best health plan in Canada. The Federal government has the best plan. Claims on insurance are rising – especially the costs of bringing people who have become ill home from trips. These are astronomical costs. Pat will have a detailed report in the newsletter.

- **Newsletter:** *Anne Smith*

Advertising policy is a work in progress. September 9<sup>th</sup> – deadline for submissions.  
September 21 – Packing Bee

Numbers for luncheon – due October 8<sup>th</sup>

- **Political Action:** *Brenda McGinnis*

Article in newsletter focuses on Municipal Elections which are on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Our members are encouraged to become involved and to vote. We should be concerned about elimination of mandatory long form census.

- **Travel:** *Lynn Morrison*

**Evita** October 28: 9 tickets left, cost \$99 each, ad on website, guided tour of Castle Kilbride (Baden),

Lynn is considering overnight trips – maybe Chicago or NYC or Northern Ontario

Phone or e-mail Lynn with suggestions

Spring – no plans yet

- maybe tour of Bruce Power Station – men seem to like this
- Kincardine – lighthouse/museum
- Excellent lunch
- Southampton flea market
- Inexpensive trip
- Wiarton Trip – Kady flea market/ Wiarton lodge/ storytellers
- Rockettes
- Geritol Follies
- Stage West
- Shaw/Wine Tasting
- Approach RWT for participants

- **Website :** *John Ritchie*

- continued plea for information
- e-mail John with information
- Project Service to Others and Good Will forms are on the site
- At provincial workshops, it has been pointed out several times that our website is one of the best and easiest to use
- Congratulations to John

- **Public Relations:** *Nancy Baker and Mary Hermann*

- Getting the RTO/ERO name out there –publicizing us and what we do
- Asking SNAP to come and take pictures of our events
- Try to get pictures and articles in the newspapers
- We exist and here is what we do
- Start small
- Pam has a lot of newspaper contacts

**President ‘s Report :** *Stephen O’Connell*

Stephen’s new phone number is 519-265-2125

Fall Lunch – October 20

Entertainment : Brenda moved that we spend up to \$1,000 for entertainment for Fall luncheon.  
Pat seconded  
Carried

Alma Bible Church – Hall is \$300. Lunch is \$15 a plate.  
New members – free  
PA System - \$75.

Some displays : Diane Glassman – chocolate display  
James Lafferty – poetry book display

Coffee at 10  
Meeting at 10:30  
Lunch at 11:45  
Entertainment – 12:30

Lynn will discuss trips  
Brenda for Carol – Interest Groups – especially for secretaries and EA's  
Draws – gift certificates  
- get 10 plants for tables

Fall election : slate : Stephen, Nancy, Mary, Anne, Carol, Mike, Joan, Pat, Brenda, Marina, Pam, Lynn  
Margie is not returning  
Need a chair and more members for Good Will – will advertise in newsletter and announce at meeting

Fall Senate – October 25-27 – Stephen, Brenda, Anne, Joan

Spring Dinner – May 11, 2011  
Victoria Park East  
Contact : Wendy Gottmers 519-821-2211  
[wendy@victoriaparkgolf.com](mailto:wendy@victoriaparkgolf.com)  
discuss entertainment at next executive meeting  
need a checklist for jobs

Constitution – Revised 2006, 2009, next 2011  
Need 2 or 3 people to work on this

Presidents' Pins – last 3 Presidents did not receive pins – Ruth Scott, Bob Paul, Marina Howlett – present these at fall luncheon

Executive meetings : November 29, March 7, May 30

Carol moved that we adjourn.  
Anne seconded  
Carried

We had lunch at Swiss Chalet.

Special thanks to Nancy B. and Mike C. who supplied the treats and coffee.