



ADRP

Association of Dalhousie Retirees & Pensioners

Here For You

Approved Minutes ADRP Board of Directors' Meeting Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:00 pm via Zoom

In attendance: Randy Barkhouse, Susan Holmes (Secretary), Lynn Johnston, Marilyn Klein, David Lewis (Treasurer), David Mercer, Patrick Nearing (Vice-President, Chair), Grace Paterson, Nancy Pitts, Heather Schellinck, David Tindall.

Regrets: Stewart Cameron, Ed Leach, Peter Wallace.

1. Call to order and welcome back by Vice-President, Pat Nearing.
2. Adoption of the Agenda - Agreed
3. Previous Minutes (May 21, 2024)
 - A. Approved
 - B. Matters Arising
Office phone has not been changed over from Heather to Peter. The custodial services would like to get in and clean the office on campus.

ACTION:

David Lewis has a key and will stop at office on regular basis to pick up cheques and mail. Custodial services will be let in for cleaning.

Lynn's key will go to Peter.

Peter and Heather will make arrangements to access voice messages.

4. President's Report – Peter Wallace (read into the minutes by Pat in Peter's absence)
"As President, I did very little this summer and events that occurred will be reported by Susan on Social Events and Heather on Upcoming Retiree get together. One thing Board members should think about is hiring a part time IT student to help Stewart with notices etc. and Marilyn with posting the Newsletter. These are important jobs and I do not want the work to overwhelm them. Just think about this, we can discuss it at the next meeting."

Discussion: Marilyn did not see it as a pressing issue to hire a student to help with her duties. Susan suggested that we first put out a call for a retiree to assist with IT. A student may not meet the needs of ADRP in the long run.

Susan was asked about her workload. It is manageable except when travelling. Stewart and Lynn have offered assistance.

5. Treasurer's Report – David Lewis
 - A. See report. The value of one of the GIC's was wrong and has been corrected. CUA has a new website and we have been having difficulties. Grace has been helping.

- B. Grace reported the difficulty is mostly with etransfers. We have weathered their website update. CUA gave a lot of pluses, such as meeting space, when we moved from BMO in 2018. She expressed confidence in the security of our funds.

Pat summed up that we will remain with CUA for now, but we certainly share concerns that David raised. We must be prepared to make changes if necessary.

6. Other Reports

- A. Benefits – Peter Wallace (read into the minutes by Pat in Peter’s absence)
“Benefits for early retirees, namely the EBAC meeting in June and this morning is being attended by Jenny White and discussions there really do not affect retirees at this time. Hopefully the Benefits Committee will be rejuvenated in the next month once I’m back and can get a notice out to members who might be interested in joining.”
- B. Pension Advisory Committee – Randy Barkhouse
 - a. Hoping for new figures from University Treasurer and possibility of using \$11.5m surplus to catchup indexation. No info on return to June 30, 2024. Returns likely not strong enough to support automatic indexation. RTF Trustees tend to be extremely conservative which is part of fiduciary responsibility, but they are also influenced by university administration.
 - b. Administration’s idea to merge RTF and PTF will likely come up at DFA negotiations in the future.
 - c. Fund now at 104% funded. Break even under new regulations includes a buffer. Not at surplus until 106.8%.
- C. Seniors’ College Association of NS – Nancy Pitts
 - a. Fall semester kicked off last week with presentations at three rural chapters and HRM. Two courses hybrid, two zoom only available to all members anywhere in the world, 13 in-person courses throughout the province. Chapters are now able to do hybrid offerings for 1.5 hr presentations; not tried in courses yet. Registrations open as of September 10. Fee for Year \$172.50; \$115.00 for zoom only. Three public presentations for anyone. Upcoming public presentations: Acadians, Democracy and Neuroscience.
 - b. As always, looking for people who would like to be instructors.
 - c. Membership fell during COVID. In Truro, had 4 new people show up last week at presentation. SCANS is holding its own financially.
- D. Communications Committee – Stewart Cameron
 - 1) Webmaster - Stewart Cameron (Marilyn reported in Stewart’s absence)
 - a. The Communications Committee met recently. Minor revisions to website. Looking at software purchases.
 - b. Most clicks from last bulletin were for the SCANS schedule. Posting first thing in the morning seems to lead to more clicks.
 - c. Marilyn reported on website activity. No down time.
 - 2) Newsletter - Marilyn Klein

ACTION: Marilyn would like to publish a fall newsletter before end of month. DEADLINE next Tuesday – Board Members please send reports or stories of summer fun.

Half of Directors use Facebook. FB requires someone to monitor it.

- 3) Instagram – Pat Nearing

- a. Would like to designate someone to take photos at events and send to Pat for Instagram. Usually Stewart or Susan take photos.

ACTION: Pat would like one photo from each summer event. Susan will send photos.

4) Socials – Susan Holmes

- a. Upcoming events:
 - i. Sept 24, 9:00 am Hike the Ancient Forest of Blue Beach with Peter as guide. Optional lunch after.
 - ii. Oct 22, 7:30 pm Exploring the Night Sky, York Redoubt with David Hoskin and Stewart
 - iii. Nov 8, 7:30 Symphony NS & Kellie Loder. Optional dinner before at LeBistro.
 - iv. Dec 17, 1:00 pm General Meeting and Holiday Social, Ashburn
 - v. Jan 18, 2:00 pm Neptune Controlled Damage: The Story of Civil Rights Icon Viola Desmond, Optional lunch prior.
- b. Pat is now dealing with promotions manager at Dalplex for upcoming events (pickleball, varsity games' tickets).
- c. Lynn suggested making it clear that people can attend one or both events when a meal is part of an event. This will be made clearer.

E. Membership – Heather Schellinck

827 members, 788 by payroll. Details needed from people who pay by e-transfer. The Dal President's Tea is being held for people who retired in 2019, 2020, 2021. Susan is invited as a retiree. Heather is attending as ADRP rep.

F. CURAC (College & University Retirees Association of Canada).

Susan is a new Board member and there is a Board meeting Sept 18. Randy is on Conference (oversight) Committee.

7. New Business – 3:00 pm

Proposal from Dr. Sue Hutchinson:

Welcome to Retirement, Tour & Workshop

(Received by Board in advance.)

Pat welcomed Dr. Hutchinson and invited her to share her proposal.

Dr. Sue provided background for the proposal. She had offered a series of retirement lifestyle planning workshops previously for ADRP. Thinking intentionally and planning for retirement is an important step in living our best life in retirement. Landed on idea of wine tour as many people haven't done that. Going on a tour is a metaphor for moving into retirement life.

She has spoken with tour director for Sip and Taste tours. Two tasting events and third stop for lunch and workshop. Bus picks up in Halifax and brings back 6.5 hrs later. Sue would design workshop and provide materials. Would need minimum of 10 people. Could a special invitation go to new retirees? ADRP required to promote. Would be a lot of fun for everyone involved and an opportunity to introduce people to what ADRP does.

Suggested date: October 18. Sip and Taste Tours affiliated with Grape Escape Tours. This bus has max of 12. Another size 15-24. Cost \$192.19 per person; \$150.00 that each participant would pay. Contributions required from ADRP and from Social budget. (see exact figures in proposal)

There were questions about target audience, timing.

Coffee socials with Q&A about ADRP is a good idea. An ADRP board member could email 20 or so retirees and invite them to coffee.

There is a huge benefit to having seminars and coffee socials. Having someone guide you through non-financial aspects of retirement is valuable. "Welcome to retirement" is a good approach to use in the fall. Lower level of University Club has been renovated and may be a good spot for socials as people know where it is.

David M spoke about the value of his motorcycle club upon retirement. Then COVID came. A group meets at McDonalds for coffee.

Grace mentioned Seniors' Socials – 12 new members/week. Meet at Piano Bar in Dartmouth. Pepper Corn, only 5 people in the restaurant. Perhaps meet there every 2 weeks for discussion led by Susan Hutchinson.

ACTION:

Pat suggested that the topic move into Committee for a further discussion. November might be a good time for a coffee meeting.

Dr. Sue thanked ADRP for their time and signed off.

Continued discussion: Not all retirees have trouble filling their time. Retirees are getting older. At recent Dal employee recognition event, there were people receiving 35- and 45-year service pins. Retirees are not too old to continue to contribute to society and/or the economy in meaningful ways. Retirees' interests are very diverse. Another Social Committee member could organize other types of events.

David M offered to go to Truro and zoom to invite others to the Truro coffee group. Rule: don't talk about medication and aches and pains.

Pat suggested that we find a space where people are comfortable meeting, and they will come.

8. Adjournment 3:30 pm. Thank you to Pat for Chairing.

Next Meeting: October 15, 2024 – 2:00 pm.

ADRP Treasurer Report

15 September 2024

This is an interim report, for this meeting.

Our bank is Credit Union Atlantic.

Chequing account balance \$4,885.76

Savings account balance \$1,207.16

GIC \$11,374.00

GIC \$9,000.00

GIC \$21,451.00

GIC 11,401.50

GIC \$11,434.50

The GICs having varying due dates and are then renewed by the treasurer.

Our income is from:

- a monthly transfer of members dues via Dalhousie payroll deduction

- occasional transfers from Dalhousie; eg for travel

- occasional eTransfers from members; eg fees for events

Expenditures are paid by the treasurer and approved by at least one authorized member. Our annual budget defines the amount available. I expect we will have the funds available without using our GICs.

CUA recently launched a new website. I had some difficulty with the transition and this has required several meetings with CUA, at the branch and at the head office. Grace Patterson has been at these meetings. One drawback (in my opinion) of the new CUA website is that transactions prior to the installation of the new website are not available. BUT, we have maintained a dropbox account which contains this information.

When I became the ADRP treasurer I created a new gMail account:

ADRPtreasurer@gmail.com. All my email activity as treasurer of the ADRP is conducted using this account.

Submitted by David Lewis.

GIC of \$11,401.50 correction as per Grace Paterson, Sept 17, 2024 7:55 pm.