



ADRP

Association of Dalhousie Retirees & Pensioners

Here For You

Approved Minutes

ADRP Board of Directors' Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

2:00 pm

Attendees all on Zoom: Randy Barkhouse, Susan Holmes (Secretary), Lynn Johnston, Marilyn Klein, David Lewis, Patrick Nearing, Nancy Pitts, Heather Schellinck, David Tindall, Peter Wallace (Chair).

Regrets: Ed Leach. Absent: David Mercer - in hospital.

1. Call to order by President Peter Wallace.
2. Adoption of the Agenda
 - A. Accepted with an addition to "other" by Marilyn.
3. Previous Minutes (November 19, 2024)

- A. Approved: Heather/Marilyn
- B. Matters Arising
GM Debrief

The invoice from Ashburn was for \$2,540, \$200 more than last time. This includes rentals which are not charged to the Social Committee budget. The real cost for AV was \$3,270 but Ed negotiated a deal for ADRP with his son: \$233. Our minutes from last meeting said that we would purchase equipment for our own purposes. We do not own any equipment yet. Nancy suggested that the SCANS tech team could offer advice. Helen Griffiths is SCANS President.

It was noted that equipment needed for Board meetings is not the same as for General Meetings or SCANS classes. There were 8 members online for GM and about the same number are sent printed newsletters. If we record the GMs but not live stream, it's less expensive. Members could email questions in advance and the recording could be posted on the website. Motions should have two weeks' notice but could be taken from the floor.

ACTION: Peter will get in touch with SCANS for advice on technology needed.

ACTION: A decision will be made at the February meeting as to how to proceed with technology for the AGM.

4. President's Report – Peter Wallace
 - A. Phone calls – notification of member who died; someone who saw notice on Dal Events and wanted to attend GM. Online quotes from Belairdirect for house and car insurance were low; insurance would indeed be %55 less. After 55 years of driving, the insurance discount for an experienced driver is removed.

- B. Treasurer Position – at end of GM, potential treasurer was identified but they don't have internet or computer. All Board positions require basic computer, internet, computer skills and quick response. Treasurer also checks office for mail.

What do we have to help people self-select? Is there a conversation to determine if it's a good fit? A motion was proposed and later withdrawn that any executive position on ADRP requires that the person have secure internet access.

ACTION: Lynn will draft guidelines for position requirements for Treasurer.

MOTION: That Grace Paterson be appointed Acting Treasurer with duties as noted in the President's report of this date, until such time as a new Treasurer is appointed.

Lynn/Patrick

PASSED

ACTION: Peter will communicate with the volunteer that the Board has concerns with lack of computer, internet and slow responsiveness.

ACTION: Peter will ask Pat Ryall to act as ADRP Auditor.

- C. Credit Union uses Collabria Visa for credit cards and this is not satisfactory. In December, a request was sent for credit card and statement. Nothing received yet. Statements are sent to Ed Leach and he sends them to Grace.
- D. Webmaster position filled by Jerome Singleton and Lynn Johnston. Stewart Cameron has already provided two training sessions and Marilyn will be present for continued coaching. Marilyn has taken on Chair of Communications Committee role.
- E. CURAC 2026 conference proposal – host RA needs to raise \$20,000 to \$30,000 - 2/3 from sponsors. Person to head conference should be going to Montreal conference in May. Randy noted that the CURAC Conference Manual suggests that the conference is a lot more complicated than when ADRP hosted it in 2018. Budget has become larger. In 2018 it was fun and Dal 200th Anniversary provided sponsorship.

ACTION: Peter will contact CURAC conference committee and advise them that ADRP does not wish to host.

- F. Early Retirement Workshop & Social: Debrief of January 10th (Dr. Susan Hutchinson) and continuation
 - a. Reschedule for May after AGM when ADRP can advertise more.
 - b. We need someone on the Board to head this up who can help with reaching out to new and near retirees. This could be considered part of an ADRP membership drive. Could we participate with People and Culture or Pension Services in their retirement communication/workshops? Heather had sent about 50 emails to recent retirees notifying them of the Hutchinson workshop.

ACTION: Randy will contact Ken McDermid and Laurie Creelman regarding people nearing retirement to see if there can be collaboration with ADRP initiatives.

5. Treasurer's Report – Grace Paterson

There has not been much change. Money comes in regularly for dues. All invoices are paid. Credit card has rewards program which can be used for cash or travel. Grace is compiling a report of spending in this budget year. There are regular payments from the credit card. She will investigate a better credit card, and if debit card or e-transfer would be effective for ADRP needs, especially for social events.

6. Other Reports

A. Benefits – Peter Wallace

- a. See report. EBAC (early retirees) met in Dec and will meet again in April. RBAC is scheduled for early February. Telus EFAP (Employee and Family Assistance Program) - looking into this for retirees.
- b. Pension Certificate being pursued by Robyn White.
- c. Affinity agreements are often with businesses run by Dal alumnus.
- d. RTOERO and other Canadian universities have great webinars that are free. The Later Life Learning Committee of CURAC gathers learning opportunities and there is a link on theadrp.ca for these.

B. Pension Advisory Committee – Randy Barkhouse

- a. See report. We will receive indexed pensions in January and an explanatory email from Pension office.
- b. Pension Advisory Committee (PAC) meets in late Feb to set the date for the actuarial valuation. Should there be a large enough surplus shown as of March 31, 2025 in the \$1.2 billion Retirees Trust Fund (RTF) from which pensions are paid, the trustees could then evaluate in late 2025 whether further catch-up indexation is feasible effective January 2026. Otherwise, no decision could be made until late 2026 for catch-up indexation in January 2027, leaving a gap of three years with no reduction in the 10+% of missed indexation. Use of the \$11.5 million would reduce that to below 9%.

C. Seniors' College Association of NS – Nancy Pitts

- a. See report. Information sessions for the winter term have been held with exceptional turnout for the HRM session. Registration open until January 19. This term two courses will be offered as webinar, two as hybrid. "Are you Living Your Best Retirement Life" will be offered online by Dr. Susan Hutchinson to SCANS members. Public presentations are open to anyone and then recorded and available online.
- b. 10 years ago when SCANS began, courses were intended to be "academic." They have morphed from academic to less rigorous, so a committee has been established to prepare a report on this issue.

D. Communications Committee – Marilyn Klein, Committee Chair

- a. Webmaster – Stewart Cameron has accepted position of "Emeritus Webmaster," recruited Jerry Singleton and Lynn Johnston to take over duties, and began training. Mailchimp is used for bulletins to all email addresses we have. Newsletter before GM had an opening rate of 94% with 54% clicking on Newsletter.
- b. In order to update members' email addresses from @Dal, Susan suggested that Marilyn send an email to the new retiree @Dal and ask for the alternate email address. This worked in the past.
- c. Potentially WordPress can do what we do with Mailchimp, which is hosted in US. If Icegram can do similar things, it might make communication simpler. Our aim is to direct members to theadrp.ca.

Newsletter - Marilyn Klein

Stories needed for next newsletter.

E. Instagram – Pat Nearing

It's there but not well used.

F. Socials – Susan Holmes

See report. We are continuing with one or more events per month. Tickets for *Controlled Damage* were sold out in November. Josephine at Neptune hosted by Francoise Baylis also sold out. Glad to have folks volunteering to host. New events added: social bridge hosted by Grace; possibly trip to McNabs suggested by Patricia Manuel. Creating Activities for the Elderly Senior: Fidget Mats and View Books, workshop hosted by Nancy Pitts, March 27.

G. Membership – Heather Schellinck

Total of 838 members!

799 members with payroll deduction. Members who pay by e-transfer have to be emailed and asked to pay.

7. New Business

A. **Next Meeting February 18, 2025 ON ZOOM**

B. Other

Marilyn - An article in Dal News Fall 2024 identified a number of faculty doing research related to aging. We could look at the opportunity for our bursary to be supportive of this research. Our bursary requirements are very general.

ACTION: Marilyn will send website link to story. Randy will pass Dal name along to Peter to make inquiry.

C. Susan announced that she has been Secretary for more than three years and will resign as of AGM. She will continue to organize social events. David Tindall expressed appreciation for her contributions to ADRP.

Adjourned 4 pm.

**Next Meeting February 18, 2025
ON ZOOM**

Respectfully submitted

Susan Holmes
ADRP Secretary