ADRP
Association of Dalhousie Retirees & Pensioners
Here For You

APPROVED Minutes, ADRP Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2026, 2:00 pm, Monaghan Square, 6140 Young St.

In attendance: Heather Schellinck (President), Kevork Peltekian, Deb Tamlyn, Linda MacNutt, David Tindall, Randy Barkhouse, Ann Barrett
Regrets: Susan Holmes, Susan Hutchinson, Marilyn Klein, Jenny White, and Keith Taylor

The meeting was called to order by Heather Schellinck at 2:00pm.

1. Adoption of the Agenda
    A. The agenda was accepted with one date correction. Motion to accept by Linda, seconded by Kevork.

2. A welcome was extended to new board members Ann Barrett, Susan Hutchinson, Kevork Peltekian, Deborah Tamlyn, and Keith Taylor.

3. Previous Minutes - 17 March 2026
    A. The Minutes were approved as circulated with a motion from David, seconded by Kevork.
    B. Matters arising:
        a. Heather reported that most of the Action items from the March meeting were completed. Many were related to the AGM.
        b. Heather followed up with SCANS regarding the online course attendance request for up to 10 ADRP members.
        c. Dr. Sid Sodhi was able to accept his Honorary Membership in person at the AGM.
        d. Susan Hutchinson's presentation at the Dal retirement planning session was well received and featured ADRP prominently.
        e. Heather heard back from Dave Westwood regarding ADRP representation on the DFA board. They said no but there would be an interest in meeting with ADRP from time to time on relevant matters.
        f. Heather has not contacted union presidents as yet.

4. Notes from the Special Executive Meeting, Tuesday, 28 April 2026
        a. Notes were approved with one correction noted by Randy in 2.4.
        b. Linda reviewed past minutes to see if there had been a motion about bursary contributions during deficit years. A motion was not found but there was mention of this issue in a Newsletter.
        c. Linda clarified that ADRP is registered as a society. ADRP is not incorporated and is a non-profit. She will investigate this further for any implications.

5. President's Report - Heather Schellinck
    A. The AGM went very well this year and turnout was good. The presentation by speakers Marcy Nixon and Laura Nelson was very well received and went on longer that expected with lots of questions from members.
    B. Dr. Sodhi graciously accepted his Honorary Membership award in person at the AGM and gave a very nice acceptance speech. He is 93 years old
    C. Heather heard back from Dave Westwood regarding ADRP representation on the DFA board. They said no but there would be an interest in meeting with ADRP from time to time on relevant matters
    D. Linda supplied a name for the NSGEU President. Heather has not contacted union presidents as yet.

6. Treasurer's Report – Linda MacNutt
    A. The GIC maturity date is fast approaching (May 27) and a decision is needed regarding these funds ($9400.50). Discussion followed.

Action: The funds will be reinvested in a one-year term GIC.

    B. The operating budget came in with a deficit this year. This has happened several times over the past years, hence the special board meeting called on 28 April. Randy noted that up until 2007, $5.00 of each annual membership dues had been deposited in the contingency fund. The accumulated surplus had been used to cover any deficit in the past. Without this source of funds, adjustments in the budget are needed to avoid deficits in future. Discussion followed about several options:
        a. Bursary contributions: Linda noted that the bursary fund is very healthy so we could suspend contributions without any detriment. Randy put forward the following motion:

Motion: *The annual contribution to the bursary fund should be suspended until such time as the budget has an operating surplus. This shall be effective immediately and retroactively to 2025.*

David proposed a friendly amendment:
Motion: *The annual contribution to the bursary fund should be suspended until such time as the budget has an operating surplus. This shall be effective immediately and retroactively to 2025. Reinstatement of contributions should only be by motion of the Board.*
Motion to accept by Randy and seconded by Kevork. All in favour.

        b. Annual membership dues: Deb asked about the annual membership dues and when the amount was last increased (currently $20.00/year). There was discussion of increasing the dues to $25.00/year. Heather mentioned that any change would require a vote at the next AGM. Linda indicated that any increase would require adjustments to the University payroll system and those could not take effect until 2028.

Action: Add potential membership dues increase to AGM 2027.

        c. CURAC travel commitments for this year are still to be determined. It was noted that ADRP does receive a travel grant from the Dalhousie (2025 was $2400.00, 2026 was $1200.00). Deb asked if there was a max number of attendees who are funded. It has varied year to year from one to three.

d. Potential reductions to budget for Communications, CURAC travel and treasurer honorarium were discussed but no decision made.

e. Costs of GM and AGM locations and receptions were discussed. It was decided to have only one reception per year at the GM in December, and that Ashburn is the preferred location for this in-person event. Susan may have already made a booking for this event. The location of the AGM (without reception) should be reviewed, and some possibilities mentioned were Dal campus and Hope United Church.

Action: Follow up on GM (with reception) 2026 at Ashburn and AGM (without reception) 2027 at a TBD location.

7. Other Reports
    A. Benefits Committee – David Tindall
        a. The presentation at the AGM by Marcie Nixon, Manager, Employee Benefits and Laura Nelson, Benefits Coordinator, was very well received.
        b. The booklet of coverage with Medavie Blue Cross is now available by logging into the member portal at medavie.bluecross.ca or https://members.medaviebc.ca then select "Coverage". You can search for a specific Extended Health or Travel Benefit or download the complete booklet.
    B. Pension Advisory Committee - Randy Barkhouse
        a. The PAC meets May 27 so there may be news then. ADRP has an observer on that committee.
        b. There were some members that expressed concern about the pension returns reported at the AGM, but both Randy and Kevork felt that people should remember that the pension investment strategy takes the long view and to only expect conservative returns.
    C. Communications Committee – Marilyn Klein
        a. After some technical issues with the website, things are now running smoothly
        b. The committee would like to look at improving the website Health, and a tentative meeting will be scheduled in June with a former Dal IT technical support person who currently teaches website design at NSCC.
        c. Bulletins have been going out fairly often, with 2 since the last meeting.
    D. Membership – Heather Schellinck
        a. Currently there are 886 regular members and 3 honorary members.
        b. Most pay their fees through payroll deduction, a few by cheque or etransfer. Payroll deduction is much preferrable
    E. Nominations – Randy Barkhouse
    F. Social Director – Susan Holmes
        a. Some discussion came up about discounts to events like Neptune. Deb asked why we offer these discounts. Randy wondered if we should consider a sunset clause on this benefit.

8. Other Business
    A. Discussion of Fall meeting day/time that will accommodate new and returning board members.

a. With so many new members on the board a discussion was recommended to determine the best day/time to have monthly meetings starting in September. Tuesday 2:00pm was not going to work for one new member so the suggestion was made to move to Wednesday at 2:00pm.
b. There was a suggestion to have the September meeting in-person, if possible, to have more board members meet face to face.
c. Action: Ask board members who were not present at this meeting if Wednesday at 2:00pm will work for them starting September 16th. If this time will not work for all, a survey will be developed and sent out over the summer.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 3:43pm.