

**Minutes of an Executive Meeting
Held At Branch 92
Tuesday 7 December 2021**

Committee Members Present

President	Ray Foster
Past President	Wes Rideout
1 st Vice President	Anne Parker
2 nd Vice President	Bob Howard
3 rd Vice President	Doug Johnston
Members	Alf Read
	Ron Miller
	Owen Fitzgerald
	Sharron Dorey
	Scotty Stoness
	Janet Gaylord
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Beswetherick
Manager	Ann DeWolfe

Committee Members Absent

Joanne Lancaster
Bev Miller
John Beddows
John Robertson

President President Ray Foster noted the 29 November Special Executive Meeting in which members approved, in principal, the lease offered by Bell Mobility to rent a corner of the Branch parking lot to erect a communications tower and a small building. The results of the meeting were passed to Ontario Command which will review the lease details.

Ray then outlined some coming Branch events. Our MPP and the Gananoque and the Leeds and the Thousand Islands mayors will attend the New Years Levee. He thanked the Ladies Auxiliary for its donation of \$3,000 which was presented at the excellent Joint Executive (LA and Branch) Xmas Party hosted by the LA.

The next Branch is scheduled for Sun 9 Jan 2022. Branches are allowed to hold General Meetings. The first one in 2022 will occur Tue 11 Jan. Assuming the Branch can continue to hold General Meetings in 2022, the Annual Election will occur 10 May.

Treasurer Bill Beswetherick noted there was \$136,760 General Fund and \$74,049 in the Building Fund for a total of \$210,809 to operate the Branch. The Branch lost \$2,356 in September.

Membership Anne Parker stated there were 149 members in the Early Bird Draw. The winner was Lloyd Dunham. Members paying five years of due will receive a small gift from the poppy shop. She proposed a welcome event for new members at a General Meeting in 2022. Anne is in the process of updating the membership book in the entrance to the bar. A serving CF member, his/her spouse, and children can join for free the 1st year.

Lottery There was \$11,443 in the Lottery Fund. The Branch had received two requests for donations. The first was from the Linklater School Breakfast Club. Early in 2021 the Branch donated \$500 to the Breakfast Club. Linklater School wrote that the covid epidemic has placed

additional strain on those students who rely on the breakfasts for meals, even on the weekends. Following brief discussions, Bob Howard made a motion to donate \$200 to the Linklater Breakfast Club. Seconded by Wes Rideout. Carried. The other request was from Almost Home. In late 2020 the Branch made a donation of \$200 to the organization. Bob Howard made a motion to donate \$200 to Almost Home. Seconded by Anne Parker. Carried.

Remembrance Day Remembrance Day organized by John Beddows went very well despite the restrictions imposed by the covid virus. There was attendance from CFB Kingston which provided a guard of honour. Scotty Stoness and Cliff Edwards operated the PA system while Anne Parker served as the Master of Ceremony. Many of the photos of Remembrance Day were well covered by the Branch Website.

Bill Beswetherick noted in a related issue that in the event the Branch ever closes, the more than 300 medals issued to Gananoque and area veterans and which are in the large display cases, would immediately become the property of the Town which has an arrangement with the 1000 Islands Historical Museum to secure these items. A letter signed by Past President Wes Rideout was sent to Ontario Command which agreed to this arrangement.

Poppy Wes Rideout noted that the Branch had a very successful Poppy Day. He thanked Owen Fitzgerald for organizing the event. Poppy Fund now stands at \$15,112.

Wes noted that the Poppy Fund must concentrate on supporting only events which support veterans and their families. The branch has received a request for funds from the St Lawrence District Medical Centre in Lansdowne. Over the past ten years the Poppy Fund has supported the Medical Centre which is used by many Branch members, including veterans. Wes Rideout made a motion to make a donation of \$5,000 from the Branch Poppy Fund to the Medical Centre. The Branch will investigate this issue and obtain permission from Ontario Command for the expenditure, which must be for equipment. Motion seconded by Shirley Howard. Carried.

Wes Rideout made a motion to give small Xmas gifts, each valued at about \$25, to veterans in Carveth and Fox Run. A motion by Wes to use the Poppy Fund for the gifts was seconded by Shirley Howard. Carried. It was emphasized that these Christmas gifts from the Poppy Fund are separate from the Sick and Visiting visits done by Bev Miller and Owen Fitzgerald which are meant to include all sick Legion members in retirement homes or living at home. Those visits are funded from the Branch General Fund.

Alf Read noted he had received six more afghan shawls from Rona Offord which should be presented to veterans at Fox Run or Carveth.

PRO Janet Gaylord explained a rain barrel sale in May 2022 in which the Branch would team-up with the Knights of Columbus in Kingston in order to share the delivery truck as we need a certain amount to make the purchase possible. In addition to selling the barrels at the Legion, we can set up a sales area in a place such as the Memorial Centre parking lot at a time when the Horticultural Society has its spring sales. Most sales will be by pre-order, but we will order many more barrels based on what happened during the two previous barrel sales. We will begin advertising these pre-sales early in the New Year.

Youth Education Sharron Dorey noted that St Joseph and Linklater Schools had submitted 306 entries into the 2021 poetry, essay and the black and white and colour poster contests. Unfortunately, there were no entries from the grades 7 and 8 classes at the Gananoque High School. The judging was done by Joanne Lancaster, Sharron Dorey, Pat Fitzgerald, and Judy Horton. The finalists have gone on to Zone G-2 judging at Westport. The Poppy Fund provided \$335 for prizes.

Veteran Services Afl Read updated members on files on which he currently is working.

Manager Ann DeWolfe noted the reduced holiday hours and that because of the cost of bands and the likelihood that we would get few people willing to attend a dinner/dance there will be no New Years Dance. There are plans to hold a euchre tournament 26 Dec. A plumber is investigating the issue of water continually running when toilets are flushed.

Ann noted the increase of minimum wage to \$15 an hour will require the Branch to raise bar prices. This is a decision made entirely by the Executive. The increase will come into effect 2 Jan 2022.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Bob Howard. Seconded by John Robertson. Seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:46 pm.

Ray Foster
President

Bill Beswetherick
Secretary