

Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners Association

Annual General Meeting October 15, 2009, 3:00 p.m. Bally Haly Golf and Curling Club

DRAFT

President Evan Simpson called the meeting to order and welcomed the approximately 45 members in attendance.

The agenda was accepted by consensus.

1. Minutes:

Christopher English moved that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of October 16, 2008, be approved as distributed. This motion was seconded by Harold Squires. Carried unanimously.

2. President's Report:

President Evan Simpson reviewed highlights of a written report which was distributed. In particular, he noted:

- that Dan Stewart, Editor of our newsletter "*Your Voice*", is currently living in Corner Brook but continues to keep the membership informed of the Board's activities.
- the Board of Directors has worked for months to prepare a set of by-laws to supplement the new Constitution. Particular thanks to Board member, Ed Williams.
- the former Meritorious Service Awards have been transformed into MUNPA Tribute Awards. These will be presented at a December social event.
- the Board is working in collaboration with other bodies on matters concerning pensions and benefits, notably MUNFA at Memorial, as well as the Public Sector Pensioners Coalition. Board member Ed Williams, who is also the Newfoundland President of the Canadian Association of Retired Persons, arranged a joint meeting with CARP in September, and Sharon Buehler has kept MUNPA connected with provincial initiatives in healthy aging.
- the Board expects to pursue a number of matters in 2009-2010. Suggestions were welcomed during the Members' Forum.

It was moved by Ed Williams, seconded by Bill Marshall, that the President's Report be received. Carried unanimously.

3. Financial Statements and Budget:

Treasurer Harold Squires reviewed the financial documents which were distributed. He noted that the documents were audited by Rollie Burke, who offered his services without remuneration, and thanks were expressed.

- The Association is in good financial shape.
- Approximately 60% of the membership are paying membership dues through payroll deduction.
- Investments have been locked in at a good rate.
- Support "in-kind" from the University is acknowledged.
- Expenditures for Services to Members has increased as the Association attempts to offer more

events of interest to the membership.

Harold Squires moved that the audited financial statements be accepted as presented. This motion was seconded by Mark Graesser. Carried.

It was further moved by Harold Squires, seconded by Ed Williams, that the preliminary budget be accepted with the understanding that this document is simply a guideline for the new Board. Carried.

4. Reports of Committees:

Written Committee reports were presented and reviewed. Ed Williams highlighted items from the Benefits Committee report. Members with questions concerning the Blue Cross insurance plan administered by Memorial were asked to contact him and their questions and concerns would be passed on to Human Resources and to the Benefits Committee. The matter of group home insurance which is now available to our membership through Waterloo Insurance was noted. This benefit has been secured for MUNPA members through our membership in CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada). Ed noted that originally this offer was made available to CURAC members in other provinces and it has taken some time and effort to get the offer extended to include Newfoundland and Labrador. MUNPA members may now seek quotes from Waterloo Insurance's local broker, Crosbie Job Insurance.

The President expressed thanks to Ed on behalf of the membership for his efforts in securing this benefit.

As there were no questions or further comment on the other committee reports, the President asked for a motion to receive the reports. It was moved by Carolyn Emerson, seconded by David Bryant, that the Committee reports be received. Carried unanimously.

5. Constitutional Amendments:

The President noted that the Constitution was approved at the 2008 AGM and that this year the Board had spent some time in drafting bylaws. Three amendments to the Constitution were proposed:

1. **New wording for Article 3.1:** It was moved by Ed Williams, seconded by Harold Squires, that the following rewording of Article 3.1 be approved: "To foster mutually beneficial relationships between the Association and other elements of the University Community including faculty and staff unions, non-bargaining groups and administrative bodies." Some discussion ensued on the adequacy of the expression "the University Community" and its interpretation and definition. It was noted that "community" should have a lower case "c" as there is no such University entity. With this grammatical correction noted, the motion was carried.
2. **New Article 11: Dissolution:** It was moved by Ed Williams, seconded by Christopher English, that a new Article 11 be adopted, consisting of two parts:
 - 11.1: A resolution to dissolve the Association shall be decided by at least a two-thirds majority vote of those members present and voting at a Special General Meeting of the Association;
 - 11.2: In the event of dissolution, all assets of the Association remaining after satisfying any liabilities shall be assigned to the Memorial University of Newfoundland to be used for purposes specified in a separate resolution approved by the Association.

There were questions from the floor on the matter of provision for voting by proxy. After some discussion, the President called for a vote on the adoption of the article in the language as written. The motion was carried by the required 2/3 majority (26 for and 13 against).

3. **Article 7.1:** Ed Williams, seconded by Harold Squires, moved that the wording of Article 7.1 be revised to: “A resolution other than a proposed amendment to the Constitution or a resolution to dissolve the Association shall be decided by a majority vote of those members present and voting at a General Meeting.” Discussion ensued on the matter of the interpretation of “a majority vote” in relation to Article 11.2 and whether a vote of 50% plus 1 would be sufficient to determine the distribution of assets, or whether two-thirds would be required. The Chair ruled that the separate resolution approved by the Association calls for only a simple majority.

The motion to change Article 7.1 was carried by a majority vote of well over 2/3. The President noted that the Board would have to give further attention to the matters of wording raised in connection with the set of constitutional amendments.

6. **Members' Forum:**

- **Condolences:** The President sought the advice of the membership on the issue of including condolences in the newsletter “*Your Voice*”. There was a suggestion that a list be included once annually, or even quarterly, of members who have passed and also new members who have retired, but the University declines to provide this information on privacy grounds. The matter will be kept under advisement.
- **Meeting Dates:** It was noted that the last two Annual General Meetings have been held on Thursday and some members are unable to attend on that day. It was noted that we will endeavour to schedule the meeting on another day next year.
- No other issues were raised. President Simpson encouraged members to contact the Board at any time with comments and matters of concern.

7. **Report of the Nominating Committee:**

The Nominating Committee's report was presented by Harold Squires and all nominees were elected by acclamation:

President:	Evan Simpson
Vice-President:	Doreen Whalen
Treasurer:	Charles Gosse
Secretary:	Glenys Woodland
Past-President:	Don Steele
Directors:	Sharon Buehler, Barbara Cox, June Ellis, Sonja Jerkic, Bill Marshall, Joanne Myrick-Harris, Dan Stewart, Edgar Williams

8. **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenys Woodland, Secretary