



Your Voice

MUN Pensioners Association (MUNPA) Newsletter - Volume 7, No. 11, November, 2009; Daniel Stewart, Editor

Editorial

October 15th

Congratulations to the MUNPA Services to Members Committee on a very successful October 15th. The day saw information sessions of great interest to MUNPA members with lunch, our Annual General meeting and election of officers, then drinks and socializing. If you have never organized one of these things, it is difficult to appreciate how much work (not to mention frustration and anguish) goes into them. Many thanks to Joanne and Sharon and Doreen.

Daniel Stewart



MUNPA members at morning information session, Bally Haly, October 15

Board of Directors

MUNPA's Board of Directors was elected at the Annual General Meeting on October 15. At the first meeting of the new Board on October 20 committee responsibilities were assigned for the coming year. The Executive Board Members and Committee chairs are:

President: Evan Simpson

Vice President: Doreen Whalen

Treasurer: Charles Gosse

Secretary: Glenys Woodland

Past President: Don Steele

Administration Committee Chair: Glenys Woodland

Awards Committee Chair: Barbara Cox

Communications Committee Chair: Doreen.

Whalen (alternate: Dan Stewart)

Constitution, Amendments and Bylaws

Committee Chair: Ed Williams

Services to Members Committee Chair:

June Ellis

Representative to University Pensions

Committee: Charles Gosse (alternate: William Marshall)

Representative to University Benefits

Committee: Ed Williams (alternate to be appointed)

Privacy Officer: Evan Simpson

Newsletter Editor: Daniel Stewart

Webmaster: Daniel Stewart

Information Sessions

Three information sessions were held on October 15 prior to the MUNPA AGM. Close to 100 retirees registered to hear presentations on Medavie-Blue Cross benefits, the importance of naming a substitute decision maker and discussing with family your advance health care directives, and the diversity of options (and costs) in planning a funeral.

Evaluations were very positive, with each of the sessions and the overall program scoring between 4.5-4.7 out of 5. The Services to Members (STM) Committee were gratified

that so many participants took the time to give their opinions on the venue, the lunches and other aspects of the day. Bally Haly had high marks as the venue despite an occasional glitch and lunch received very favorable comments. Perhaps the most interesting set of comments was in response to requests for future topics: tips for emotional transition to retirement; information on discount cards; condo regulations and insurance issues; more on Medavie-Blue Cross Worldwide Travel; estate planning, inheritance taxes and wills; a retrospective report on H1N1; how to structure a will to reduce taxes; housing options for seniors; information on MCP regulations and contact re travel; age friendly communities; options for physical activity depending on physical condition; relationship between MUN and retirees with regard to office space, computer maintenance; joys of retirement; and tips from experienced retirees on travel.

The STM committee will discuss the comments and work to correct some of the concerns—computer glitches, use of microphones, smoother registration, a low fat lunch option, handouts at sessions in addition to website posting, a shorter day. There is not much we can do about the ‘hard seats’ (except to advise bringing cushions for those with less padding) but generally the setup was excellent for writing and viewing.

It was clear to the committee that pre-registration is an important feature, allowing more accurate planning for lunch, seating and handouts. It will be stressed in future. People registered late despite the two notices in the newsletter and repeated emails and there were many ‘walk ins’, a much higher number than expected. Next year there will be a registration desk for those pre-registered and paid to get their receipts, and another desk for those pre-registered but not paid and for those who are walk-ins, hopefully with very few in the latter group.

The STM committee was very pleased with the day and the comments on the evaluation forms--“Thanks for a *very* informative day; good opportunities for questions”; “the sessions were important and useful”; “Keep it up!” - warmed our hearts.

Sharon Buehler, Joanne Harris, Doreen Whalen (Services to Members Committee)

Watch for the posting of the slides used in the information sessions on the MUNPA website and send us your suggestions for future sessions through the munpa@mun.ca email, or write or call the MUNPA office.

Medavie-Blue Cross Presentation on Web

The PowerPoint presentations delivered by Jerry Mercer and Susan King of Medavie-Blue Cross and by Daryl Pullman are now available on MUNPA’s website. Those without web access can write or call the MUNPA office and we will mail you a hard copy.

MUNPA Executive to meet with Acting President

A meeting between the MUNPA executive and Acting MUN President, Chris Loomis, to discuss relations between MUN and its pensioners was scheduled for October 30. The meeting will have occurred by the time you see this newsletter. Watch this space next month for a report.

Contact MUNPA

Mail: Pensioners Association, Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John’s, NL, A1C 5S7
E-mail: MUNPA@mun.ca
Phone: 737 6979
Website: www.mun.ca/munpa

Board of Directors:

Sharon Buehler	skb@mun.ca
Barbara Cox	bcox@mun.ca
June Ellis	jellis@mun.ca
Charles Gosse (Treasurer)	charlesandshirley@nl.rogers.com
Sonja Jerkic	sjerkic@mun.ca
Bill Marshall	wmarshal@mun.ca
Joanne Myrick-Harris	jharris@mun.ca
Evan Simpson (President)	esimpson@mun.ca
Don Steele (Past President)	dstele@mun.ca
Daniel Stewart	stewartd@swgc.mun.ca
Doreen Whalen (Vice President)	dwhalen@mun.ca
Ed Williams	ewilliam@mun.ca
Glenys Woodland (Secretary)	gwoodland@nl.rogers.com