

Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Junior Common Room, R. Gushue Hall
June 13, 2013

Barbara Cox, President, chaired the meeting which commenced at 1:48 p.m. following a delay due to problems with the amplification system in the Main Dining Hall. The meeting was re-located to the Junior Common Room.

1. Agenda for this Meeting

It was moved by Dick Ellis and seconded by Sharon Buehler that the agenda, previously circulated, be approved. Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of June 6, 2012 were considered. It was moved by Tony Dearness and seconded by Charlie Gosse that these minutes, as presented, be approved. Carried

3. President's Report

Barbara Cox had previously circulated a written report. In her oral comments, she emphasized that it had been a busy, but productive year for the Association and its board of directors. She noted that the MUNPA entrance scholarship will be given for the first time in September. At the current level of the endowment, the scholarship value will be \$930. More donations will, of course, result in a higher amount awarded.

She highlighted the serious challenges to effective communications faced by MUNPA since the change made in the Department of Human Resources to have paperless deposit notifications. Previously, MUNPA relied on those monthly mailings to include a paper copy of the newsletter. She asked for a show of hands of those who read the newsletter on the MUNPA website. A very large majority of those present indicated they did.

A question from the floor inquired as to whether MUNPA would consider two paper mail-outs each year to members for whom we have addresses. The suggestion was that in the fall, we could communicate new directions or new initiatives along with information about the Christmas parties in St. John's and Corner Brook. Another mailing in the spring could summarize the year's activities. Barbara agreed to have the board consider this although she noted that mailing was very expensive.

4. Treasurer's Report

Charlie Gosse led the meeting through an explanation of the Treasurer's Report which had been previously circulated. It was moved by Brenda Mullett and seconded by Dick Ellis that the report be accepted. Carried

The fiscal year of MUNPA runs from April 1 of each year to March 31 of the next calendar year (which coincides with the practice of the University). Charlie explained that it had been the practice of MUNPA to seek approval of each budget at the AGM. However, because our AGM is held anywhere between June and October, that meant that any budget approved would not be implemented for many months (between 6 and 10 months). This made budget formulation very difficult because of being so far in advance. At the 2012 AGM (June, 2012), a budget for 2013-2014 had been approved for implementation. The board decided that in the future, the AGM should approve a budget for the fiscal year in which the AGM occurred, even though that meant that some months had elapsed for that budget year before AGM approval.

Accordingly, Charlie did not seek approval for a 2014-2015 budget but instead, presented a revised budget for 2013-2014. The main difference between what was approved in June, 2012 and the revised budget is the increased income resulting from the fee increase approved last year, and consequently, increased expenditure. It was moved by June Ellis, seconded by Kjellrun Hestekin, that the revised budget be accepted. Carried

A question from the floor inquired why there had been such a large increase in expenditure for services to members. June Ellis, chair of the Services to Members committee, explained that MUNPA wanted to offer more events to members. The travel events and information events (e.g., use of iPads) were very popular. In addition, offering such events will likely be more expensive in the future when we will no longer have use of the meeting room at Mt. Scio Road. Room rentals can be expensive. In addition, the cost of the Christmas party may go up with the new caterers under contract to the University.

Harold Squires, our auditor and a previous MUNPA treasurer, suggested that the board of directors undertake not to spend more than one-third of the budget in the early months of each fiscal year until the AGM can approve the new budget, given the change in timing. There was general support for this suggestion.

5. Committee Reports

The reports from the various MUNPA committees had been made available prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mike Collins (seconded by Sharon Buehler) that these committee reports be received. Carried

6. Nominations Committee

Because Doreen Whalen, Past President of MUNPA and chair of the Nominations Committee, was attending the concurrent AGM of CURAC as the MUNPA delegate, Barb Cox presented this report on Doreen's behalf. Barb began by thanking the six outgoing members of the board of directors for their service to MUNPA: Ed Andrews, June Ellis, Charlie Gosse, Suzanne Sexty, Doreen Whalen and Ed Williams.

The following persons, nominated by the committee, and with no nominations from the floor, were elected:

President:	Bob Lucas
Vice-President:	Brenda Mullett
Past President:	Barb Cox
Treasurer:	Sharon Rose
Secretary:	Jack Strawbridge
Members at large:	Mike Collins
	Tony Dearness
	Tony Dickinson
	Maureen Dunne
	Peter Fisher
	Kjellrun Hestekin
	Phil Kirby
	Paul Murphy
	Liz Stanford
	West Coast representative (to be named)

7. Members' Forum

Someone inquired why Memorial University retirees do not get the same insurance benefits as the retired provincial government employees. Specifically, the inquiry focused on a paid-up insurance policy for \$15,000 to cover funeral expenses. Barb undertook that the board will look into this.

Following an inquiry about the closing of Lifelong Learning, Barb explained that the board had written the University President about the importance of this unit to our members. Subsequently, in a meeting with Dr. Kachanoski, he explained that the University still supported the concept of outreach non-credit courses but that they should be organized and offered by individual departments and units. It is still unclear what mechanism will be used to make known the various offerings.

Maureen Dunne rose to offer special thanks on behalf of all MUNPA members to the outstanding work by our outgoing president, Barbara Cox.

8. Adjournment

It was moved by Kjellrun Hestekin, seconded by David Thompson, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried