

## MUNPA 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trivia Posts

To mark Memorial University Pensioner's Association 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a group of the 2020/2021 Board - Jane Foltz, Bob Helleur, Audrey Power, Anne Sinnott - and the Office Manager, Jackie Collins, got together in the later summer and early fall of 2020 and researched many of MUNPA's archived files, in search of interesting MUNPA history to share with members. Forgotten nuggets of history were gleaned from old records of AGM's, Board meetings, Newsletters, and many other files. Some of these gems were turned into Trivia posts for the MUNPA Facebook Group by Audrey and Bob, made almost every week from November 2020 until the 2021 AGM in June. Some posts were couched as Trivia questions for members to answer, others written as interesting information on the early beginnings and subsequent growth of the Association. This is a collection of those posts.

[Posted on Facebook November 20, 2020 - Audrey Power](#)

### MUNPA's 35th Anniversary Trivia

MUNPA's 35th anniversary has past without the big fanfare originally planned, cancelled like many other events due to Covid-19, but it is not forgotten. Throughout this year, we plan to post Trivia bits about MUNPA's history. We encourage our members to add to our recollections by posting your own memories of MUNPA causes, events, executives, or other areas that stand out for you.



We begin at the beginning... November 13, 1985



MUNPA launched its history of speaking for its members with its very first meeting on Nov. 13, 1985, at 8:00pm in Room 5005 of the Education Building, with 28 people in attendance.

[Posted on Facebook November 23, 2020 - Audrey Power](#)

### MUNPA History - First Meeting – Nov. 13, 1985

We know that 28 people were in attendance, including Mr. C.S. Rennie of MUN H.R., who called the meeting. Dr. Alastair Riach, who initiated the entire effort because of his strong belief that MUN pensioners should have representation regarding their pensions and benefits, was appointed chair and Mrs. Marjorie Cooper Recording Secretary of the meeting. It was moved and approved that a Pensioners Association be formed and Dr. Riach was appointed President. A motion was passed to appoint an executive of 5 – Dr. H.H. Jackson, Mr. B. Tucker, Miss E. Brett, and Dr. G. Moskovite to join Dr. Riach. Other officers would be appointed from within itself later. It was agreed that should MUN Pensions Committee agree to a request for Pensioner representation, a representative and alternate would be appointed by the Executive. Dr. Christopher English of MUN Pensioners Committee was present at the meeting and answered questions on MUN pensions. An invitation to attendees for suggestions of matters for the Executive's consideration resulted in a list of 6 items regarding the creation of the Pensioners' Association and pensioner benefits.



Subsequently, on January 21, 1986, approval was given for MUNPA to have a representative on MUN's Pensions Committee –Dr. Herbert Jackson was MUNPA's very first voice on this committee.

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**Posted on Facebook November 27, 2020 – Bob Helleur****MUNPA Friday Trivia Challenge!**

The number of members on the MUNPA Board of Directors has grown as MUNPA activities expanded. There can now be up to 15 voting members.

Name the department or office where each of MUNPA's Board members from 10 years ago worked before retiring. We ask members who were on the Board that year to please give others a chance to reply.

**ANSWER:****2010-2011 MUNPA Board of Directors**

Doreen Whalen President *Lifelong Learning*  
Barbara Cox Vice-President *Office of Research*  
Glenys Woodland Secretary *Office of the VP (Academic)*  
Charles Gosse Treasurer *Office of the Dean of Science*  
Evan Simpson Past President *Philosophy*  
Sharon Buehler *Medicine*  
Tom Daniels *Grenfell Campus*  
Tony Dearness *Business Administration*  
June Ellis *School of Nursing*  
Joanne Myrick-Harris *Conference Services*  
Dan Stewart *Grenfell Campus*  
Jack Strawbridge *Faculty Relations*  
Ralph Tapper *QEII Library*  
Edgar Williams *Mathematics and Statistics*



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**Posted on Facebook December 4, 2020 – Bob Helleur****MUNPA Friday Trivia Challenge!**

Here is our second weekly trivia challenge. Name the department or office where each of MUNPA's Board members from **20 years ago** worked before retiring.

**ANSWER:****Board of Directors 2000-2001**

John K.C. Lewis (President) *Physics & Physical Oceanography*  
John Lewis (Vice-President) *Facilities Management*  
John Haggas (Secretary/Treasurer) *Faculty of Medicine*  
Millar Ewing *Facilities Management*  
Don Steele *Biology*  
Purima Sen *School of Nursing*  
Paddi Reddy *Physics & Physical Oceanography*  
Bill Marshall *Faculty of Medicine*

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**Posted on Facebook December 11, 2020 – Audrey Power****MUNPA History – First Social**

The very first MUNPA social was a Wine and Cheese held after the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM on September 24, 1987. Since then, social activities for members have become a central part of MUNPA's mandate. By far the most popular are the St. John's and West Coast Christmas Socials. While these were reluctantly cancelled this year due to the pandemic, it is hoped something similar can be planned for this coming spring.



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**Posted on Facebook December 18, 2020 – Audrey Power****MUNPA History – Second Executive 1986/87**

In the early years of MUNPA, the MUNPA Board was known as the Executive. Prior to 1990, Executive meetings were held in the private homes of the Executive. MUNPA's second Executive (1986-87) was

- Herbert Jackson (President)
- Syd Bown
- Ruby Dewling
- Alastair Riach
- Mary Pike
- Alan Hall
- Kay Matthews

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**Posted on Facebook January 22, 2021 – Audrey Power****MUNPA History – MUNPA Representation on the MUN Pension Committee****Today back in History –**

On January 21, 1986, MUNPA first gained representation on MUN's Pensions Committee. The first representative was Dr. Herbert Jackson. Since then, MUNPA has provided a voice for pensioners on this Committee. The current representative is Chris Dennis with alternate Grant Gardner.

Learn more about MUN's Pensions Committee at

<https://www.mun.ca/regents/about/committees/pensions.php>

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**Posted on Facebook January 29, 2021 – Audrey Power**
**MUNPA Friday Trivia Challenge!**

The MUNPA Tribute Awards renames and expands on MUNPA's former Meritorious Service Awards. The Awards were established to recognize the importance of the ongoing significant post-retirement service and/or achievement of Memorial's retirees to the University or the Community.

**What year was the Meritorious Service Award first presented?**

**What year was the Award renamed to the MUNPA Tribute Award?**

**ANSWER:**

The Meritorious Service Award, proposed at the 1998 AGM, was first awarded July 20, 1999, by President Dr. Art May. Recipients – M. Josephine Barron, Helen Carew, Phyllis Dunn Delaney, John Facey, Marjorie Dodge Frampton, Bernard Jackson, Ian Mennie, T. Corbin Noel, V. Stephen Papezik (deceased) and Arthur Sullivan.

The award was renamed the MUNPA Tribute Award in 2009. The recipients that year were Roberta Buchanan, Joan Scott, and Noel Veitch.

Read about how you can nominate a worthy candidate, the eligibility and selection criteria, as well as citations for many of our past recipients on MUNPA's website

[https://www.mun.ca/munpa/about/tribute\\_awards/](https://www.mun.ca/munpa/about/tribute_awards/)




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**Posted on Facebook February 5, 2021 – Audrey Power**
**MUNPA FRIDAY TRIVIA HISTORY**

When the fledging MUN Pensioners' Association was being created, one of the characteristics that set MUNPA apart from similar pensioner groups being set up at other universities was that it was to be an association for all pensioners of MUN and include faculty and staff and their beneficiaries.

It began as a small organization!

At the Oct 1986 AGM, there were 197 members (74 faculty, 92 staff, and 32 survivors as beneficiaries were called back then).

MUNPA's most recent records show 2451 members (823 academic, 1349 administrative or non-academic, and 279 beneficiaries).

**HISTORY**


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## Posted on Facebook February 12, 2021 – Audrey Power

### MUNPA FRIDAY TRIVIA CHALLENGE!



Starting out, MUNPA's AGMs were held in the fall for many years. At the 2nd AGM, October 26, 1986, MUNPA's first Constitution, prepared by Mr. Bert Tucker (in consultation), was presented, and approved.

It originally provided for an Executive Committee (the precursor to our Board of Directors) to be elected at the AGM.

**How many members of the Executive did MUNPA's 1<sup>st</sup> Constitution provide for?**

#### ANSWER:

MUNPA's first Constitution, approved in 1986, provided for an Executive Committee of 7 members. The past president was an ex-officio member and the positions of president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and MUN Pensions Committee representative were then elected from those 7 members at the first Executive meeting after the AGM.

Since those early years, the Constitution has undergone several revisions and is now known as the "MUNPA By-Laws". Now there is also a policies document as well, "Terms of Reference and General Policies". The current versions of both documents (2020) are available on the MUNPA's [By-laws and Policies webpage](#). MUNPA's By-Laws now allow for the Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President) and at most ten additional Directors, at least one of whom shall reside in the greater Corner Brook area.

## Posted on Facebook February 19, 2021 – Audrey Power

### MUNPA FRIDAY HISTORY – BENEFITS

**DID YOU KNOW? You and your immediate family have access to MUN's Employee Assistance Program at no cost, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.**

**So important for seniors in these stressful and isolating times. See links below.**



One of the many issues MUNPA has advocated for since its inception is access to MUN services and benefits for its members. Health and medical support are particularly important, especially in circumstances such as we are living through now.

A MUN Newsline article from last week reminded us of supports available through EAP (see below for links) if we are having trouble coping during this especially difficult time. Please reach out if you are in need. Other available support in NL can be found on the [NL government Covid-19 mental health and wellness page](#) We all need a helping hand at some point in our lives.

**Newsline – Feb 12, 2021**

“As President Timmons said in her [message to the community today](#), it’s not business as usual at this time. People are feeling anxious and stressed and that is normal. There are resources available to you as members of our community....

Faculty, staff, retirees, and their immediate families can access comprehensive, confidential services through the [Employee Assistance Program](#) at no cost, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Anyone with urgent mental health concerns should contact the 24-hour mental health crisis line: (709) 737-4668 (St. John’s) or 1-888-737-4668 (province-wide).”

Now more than ever, all members of our community should download the Government of Canada’s COVID Alert app <https://www.canada.ca/.../coronavirus.../covid-alert.html> , follow Public Health guidelines and reach out for support as needed.

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**Posted on Facebook February 26, 2021 – Audrey Power****MUNPA FRIDAY TRIVIA CHALLENGE**

In its formative years, the MUNPA Association was small and informal. It didn’t really have a home. Indeed, while AGM meetings were held each year in various locations on campus, Executive meetings were held irregularly in the private homes of Executive members. Gradually, it was decided Executive meetings would be better served if held on campus.

**What year did MUNPA begin holding regular Executive meetings on campus?**

**What room did MUN provide as that first location for regular Executive meetings?**

**ANSWER:**

MUNPA became more organized through the late 80’s, and by November 1990, arrangements were made with MUN to hold regular Executive meetings on campus in the University Works Board Room, Room 2031, for the 1990-91 year.

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**Posted on Facebook March 5, 2021 – Audrey Power****MUNPA HISTORY – Places we have called home!**

Holding Executive meetings regularly on campus in 1990 was the first step towards MUNPA acquiring a real home.

In 1994, the University provided MUNPA with an office in the former Alumni building, just off campus. Official stationery was obtained and MUNPA became a recognized campus organization with a MUN post office box at the time, Box 206.

In 1995 the MUNPA office relocated to St. John’s College, Room J4005 and settled there for many years.



Somewhere around 2008, give or take a year, MUNPA moved to the Mt. Scio Research Building on Mt. Scio Road, with access to a Board Room in addition to office space. MUNPA resided there quite happily for about 10 years, holding many group activities, serving members needs and carrying out other business of the Association. The building, however, was somewhat lacking in IT capabilities.



In 2018, MUN opened its new Signal Hill Campus and MUNPA was given new office space in the Operations Centre of that beautiful and modern building. We now share our home with the wonderful, friendly Operations, Conference Services and Events team. It is from this location that we serve our members today. Our current contact information is available on our [website](https://www.mun.ca/munpa/contactus/) , <https://www.mun.ca/munpa/contactus/>

**Were you at our MUNPA Signal Hill Opening Event, Oct. 23, 2018? What do you think of our latest home?**




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**Posted on Facebook March 12, 2021 – Audrey Power**

### **MUNPA FRIDAY TRIVIA CHALLENGE - MUNPA Membership Fees**

**At what AGM were the voluntary membership fees approved?**

**What year were they increased to \$2 per month?**

At MUNPA's inception, the association had no set membership fees and depended on voluntary contributions given ad hoc by members, to cover any costs incurred. This often fell to the executive when organizing the AGMs. At MUNPA's October 23, 1986 AGM, it was noted that an annual contribution from each member was essential for the functioning of the association. However, it was decided that by not introducing a membership fee, all pensioners were claimed as members in good standing. By the October 25, 1989 AGM, the Financial Report, such as it was, recorded a Balance of \$35.58.

Sometime after 1989, a voluntary membership fee was eventually included in the MUNPA Constitution to staff our office, run programming, and look out for your interests. Initially, these very modest fees were \$1 per month (\$12 annually). **What year was the AGM that this was approved?**

The fees were subsequently raised to \$2 monthly (\$24 annually). **What year was the AGM when this was approved?**

#### **ANSWER:**

A voluntary membership fee of \$1 per month (\$12 annual) was approved at the September 25, 2002 AGM. An increase to \$2 per month (\$24 annual) was approved at the June 2012 AGM.

Although recognized in 1986 that membership fees were essential to the functioning of the association, it was over 15 years before they were implemented, and they remain voluntary today!

At the October 2001 AGM, it was moved to introduce a \$1 per month (\$12 annual) membership fee. The executive was directed to explore the possibility and how to implement it. In November of 2001, the Board decided to send a questionnaire to the membership. There were 2 questions – do you agree to the implementation, and do you think that all should pay it. By the end of January 2002 most respondents had agreed with implementing the \$1 fee.

At the September 25, 2002 AGM, membership fees were approved. Article III of the Constitution of the time was amended to read that ‘Monthly fees will be deducted automatically at source from each member of the Association’.

By 2012, MUNPA activities were being challenged with the effort to keep expenses within the income from membership fees. At the June 2012 AGM, the fees were increased to \$2 per month (\$24 annually).

MUNPA greatly appreciates the support of its members, without which it could not continue to maintain the office, run its wide range of programming, or look after members’ interests. In recognition, members who have paid their current membership fees are designated as supporting members.

More information on how membership fees are used and how to pay them is available on the MUNPA website [https://www.mun.ca/munpa/about/Archive1/Automatic Payroll Deduction Email.php](https://www.mun.ca/munpa/about/Archive1/Automatic%20Payroll%20Deduction%20Email.php)

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### Posted on Facebook March 19, 2021 – Audrey Power

#### **MUNPA HISTORY - Ever-Changing MUNPA Community**

MUNPA membership has grown considerably in its 35 years of existence. The MUN Pensioners’ Association was different than most other university retirement associations because it included both retired faculty AND staff receiving pensions from MUN. It also included their beneficiaries. At the 2002 AGM, MUN retirees receiving pensions from TIA or CREF, were recognized as full members of MUNPA.



Unfortunately, records on membership have been sporadic and inconsistent. We have grown from approximately 150 members in 1985, to 839 members in 2001, and about 2450 members in 2020.



Many of our members live in the St. John’s and Corner Brook areas, but we have members all over Newfoundland, across Canada, and around the world. Of the 216 members in 1988, 165 lived in St. John’s, another 10 in other parts of NL, and 41 elsewhere. In 1996, 118 of the 667 members lived outside NL. By 2018 over half of the 2230 members lived outside the St. John’s area.

Sadly, as our Association gets older, so do our members. As we respectfully remember friends we have lost over the years, we welcome their beneficiaries into our midst. Our beneficiary members have increased from 31 in 1988 to about 325 in 2020.



What we do know is that we are a growing, diverse, and ever-changing community. In the last number of years especially, MUNPA's membership has seen a remarkable increase each year as MUN has gone through a significant period of retirements. While many of our members still live in NL, more of our members are scattered around the world. MUNPA services and programming for members are evolving over the years with members needs. Previous generations of members make way for new members with new ideas and new skills to guide MUNPA into the next stage of retirement for MUN Pensioners.



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**Posted on Facebook March 26, 2021 – Audrey Power**

### **MUNPA FRIDAY TRIVIA CHALLENGE – Oldest MUNPA Focus and Special Interest Group**

One of MUNPA's more enjoyable goals is to foster and promote the well-being of its members. The MUNPA Programme Committees (St. John's and Grenfell) work hard organizing and facilitating various events and social activities throughout the year for members. The St. John's Committee supports a number of Focus and Special Interest Groups where members can gather and have fun sharing common interests.

**Of MUNPA's 9 Focus and Special Interest Groups, which group was the first one to be established?**

#### **ANSWER:**

The Memoir Group was MUNPA's first established Special Interest Group. It was founded sometime before the 2005 AGM, where Roberta Buchanan was asked to speak to attendees on how the group worked. It continues to be an engaging space for members to share their memories.



Since then, eight other Special Interest Groups now provide opportunities for members to share interests - Bowling with MUNPA, Craft Group, Games Group, Health and Aging Discussion Group, Music Group, Outing Group, Shutterbug Club, Woodcarving Group.

These groups are all independently organized by group leaders.

Check out MUNPA's St. John's Events and groups webpage

[https://www.mun.ca/munpa/activities/st\\_johns/](https://www.mun.ca/munpa/activities/st_johns/)

It explains the support available for a group and has links to web pages for each group as well as all the other activities organized by the Programme Committees.

Many of the groups have adapted to the Covid-19 social distancing restrictions and continue to meet this year, either on-line or in-person when possible. The group webpages have contact information if you are interested in joining.

Perhaps starting your own special interest group is more appealing and you need help getting started and finding like-minded MUNPA members. E-mail your ideas to [munpaevents@mun.ca](mailto:munpaevents@mun.ca)

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**Posted on Facebook April 2, 2021 – Audrey Power****MUNPA HISTORY – Advocating on Behalf of Members**

Dr. Alastair Riach founded MUNPA because he recognized a need for a single entity to promote and defend the interests of pensioners, particularly with regards to Memorial's pension and benefit plans and access to the University and its facilities. This mandate is embodied in MUNPA's Constitution.

Each year MUNPA actively advocates on pensioners behalf, bringing several matters of concern or interest to the appropriate officials of the University. While not all issues have been resolved successfully, MUNPA provides a voice for members and keeps them informed of issues. A few of the many issues raised over the years include:

- Pension issues: indexing, stacking and/or integrating of pensions, vesting periods, and portability, cost-of-living increases.
- Group Health and Insurance benefits issues: improving group benefits and minimizing premiums, retroactive purchasing of benefits, raising issues with new services and clarifying coverage.
- Continued access to MUN services after retirement: computer accounts, free library privileges to all pensioners, on-campus parking, free tuition for some members and dependents.

In recent years, MUNPA has been actively advocating for a continued voice throughout the development of a Joint Sponsorship governance model for the MUN Pension plan, yet to be finalized.

Read more about MUNPA's past advocating efforts on your behalf on MUNPA's web site

<https://www.mun.ca/munpa/about/history/>



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**Posted on Facebook April 9, 2021 – Audrey Power****MUNPA FRIDAY TRIVIA CHALLENGE**

A three-part quiz to test your knowledge...

**What year was the Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners Association (MUNPA) Entrance Scholarship Fund established? Who was MUNPA's president at the time? Who was Memorial's president?**

**Bonus points if you can name the first recipient of the scholarship.**

MUNPA's Entrance Scholarship was established through generous donations from members of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners Association (MUNPA) and is awarded annually based on scholarship standing of students entering their first year at either the University's, St. John's, Corner Brook, or Marine Institute campus.

Today's quiz is all about when it was established and who was president of MUNPA and MUN at the time.

**ANSWER:**

Through the generous donations from members of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners' Association (MUNPA) to Memorial's "Dare To" campaign... **the MUNPA Entrance Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 by then MUNPA president Barbara Cox and MUN president Dr. Gary Kachanoski.**



**The first student selected to receive the Scholarship, valued at \$1000 at the time, was Sasha Taylor of Port Aux Basques.** The Scholarship is awarded annually based on scholarship standing of students entering their first year at either Memorial University's St. John's, Corner Brook, or Marine Institute Campus. In the case of ties between candidates, financial need may be used as a determining factor.

Each year some individual members continue to give to MUNPA's Scholarship Fund. In the 2020/21 fiscal year, MUNPA also contributed to the fund.

You can find the recipient and value of the 2020/21 award, the last Scholarship Report, how to apply and other details about MUNPA's Entrance Scholarship at MUNPA's Scholarships webpage

[https://www.mun.ca/munpa/about/Scholarship\\_Fund/](https://www.mun.ca/munpa/about/Scholarship_Fund/)

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Posted on Facebook April 16, 2021 – Audrey Power

**MUNPA FRIDAY TRIVIA CHALLENGE**

MUNPA's Board of Directors could not serve the membership effectively without reliable and steadfast support in its general office to assist with queries, requests and maintaining its membership lists.

**When (year and month) did MUNPA first hire part-time staff to provide much needed support for MUNPA's general office?**

**ANSWER:**

**MUNPA's first Office Assistant was hired in September 2008.**

In MUNPA's 2007 AGM (September 19, 2007) it was decided to investigate a proposal to hire a paid secretary.

In September 2008, Gwyn Barrowman was hired part-time. MUNPA paid for a Microsoft Access course for her through Lifelong Learning to convert MUNPA's growing membership lists to a database. Gwyn subsequently became the voice of MUNPA for many members, as she was the main contact behind MUNPA's telephone and email. She did an exemplary job for 10 years, until her passing in the Fall of 2018.



MUNPA's current part-time Office Manager is Jackie Collins, who began in March 2019. Jackie is quickly becoming as indispensable as Gwyn was as she maintains our membership lists, runs the office, and supports the Board of Directors. She is at the other end of the phone or email to assist members with questions or issues. Throughout this pandemic Jackie has worked, mostly remotely, ensuring MUNPA has been able to operate and serve members. Contact information can be found on the MUNPA website <https://www.mun.ca/munpa/contactus/>



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**Posted on Facebook April 23, 2021 – Audrey Power**

### **MUNPA HISTORY TRIVIA**

MUNPA's Programme Committees, previously known as the Services to Members Committees, are the vital energy behind the social activities for members.

Prior to 2013/14 there was one committee, responsible for planning MUNPA's social programme for the year. In that year, our colleagues on Newfoundland's west coast formed an active West Coast Committee to share responsibilities for members in the Corner Brook area, maintaining a local members list and organizing a social programme specific to the area.

Much thanks are deserving to members on both committees, who work diligently to plan and put off a varied, entertaining, and informative array of social activities and events for members.

In St. John's, activities range from the ever-popular Christmas social and AGM, to travel talks, shows, tours, presentations, training courses, information sessions, as well as the special interest groups.

On the West Coast, a typical social season would likely include the annual Christmas Social, presentations, luncheons, and more active events like curling, skiing, or snowshoeing.

2020/21 was especially difficult with the pandemic, yet the Programme Committees have risen to the challenge, and MUNPA is now offering many events on-line, broadening the reach of events to anyone who has internet, no matter where you are.

There is still time to register for the last few on-line events of this year-

**"Meat or 'Beyond Meat' and Other Nutrition Conundrums"** (register by April 25)

**"Traditional Skills and Crafts at Risk"**

**"Seniors and Fraud"**

Details on these events, as well as the June 8<sup>th</sup> AGM, and how to register are on MUNPA's St. John's Events page [https://www.mun.ca/munpa/activities/st\\_johns/St\\_Johns\\_events.php](https://www.mun.ca/munpa/activities/st_johns/St_Johns_events.php)

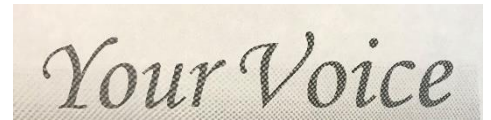
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Posted on Facebook April 30, 2021 – Audrey Power

## MUNPA FRIDAY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

**When was the first issue of *Your Voice* published? Who was the founding editor of *Your Voice*?**

MUNPA's *Your Voice* newsletter has been a key part of the Association's communications with members for quite some time, providing a regular channel for the MUNPA Board to keep in touch with members about the latest with pensions, benefits, and other relevant issues. It informs members of MUNPA events and social activities where members can get together with old friends for a good time. Most importantly, it continues to fulfill the vision of its founding editor, providing the opportunity for members to have a voice - about issues of concern, life in retirement, poems they've written, recollections of the past, whatever thoughts or experiences they wish to share with other members.

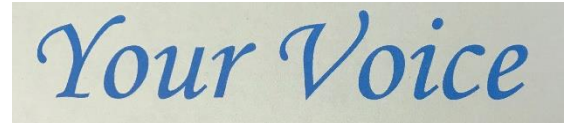


So, the trivia questions this week are when was the first issue of this new *Your Voice* newsletter published and who was the founding editor who had this vision?

### ANSWER:

**The first issue of *Your Voice* was published January 2003 by founding editor Raoul Andersen.**

Early on MUNPA recognized the need to communicate on a regular basis with its members. Although HR was unable to share member contact information with MUNPA, they did agree to distribute a one-page double-sided insert with the monthly pension cheques, and MUNPA's monthly Newsletter began in the Spring of 1987. Of necessity these newsletters were restricted to brief text on a few key issues of the month and were produced by members of MUNPA's Board of Directors at the time.



In the fall of 2002, Raoul Andersen took on editing the Newsletter and by January, he had given it new life and a new name as *Your Voice*. He wanted to encourage members to make it their newsletter, with more articles from members interspersed with the Board's latest on pensions, benefits, and other matters. Raoul's vision was for members to use *Your Voice* to keep in touch and share with others the things of import to them in retirement - their lives, their interests, experiences, needs. Easier said than done and *Your Voice* has seen repeated pleas from the editors for more member contributions over the years.

Still, *Your Voice* evolved, and content improved. As word processing advanced, the issues incorporated other features. Pension graphs appeared in October 2004, and black and white photos of the December Winter Holiday Season Social appeared in the January 2006 issue of *Your Voice*. Following such success, Raoul finally stepped down from the editor position after publishing Vol. 4, No. 10 issue for November 2006.

The format of the newsletter continued to evolve, moving to two columns in Vol. 3, No. 1, February 2005. The stylized *Your Voice* now standard on the banner of every issue first appeared in Vol. 5, No. 12, Dec 2007. More photos, graphs and other formatting helped document the life and times of MUNPA and its members, the social events, talks, groups, progress (or not) on pensions and benefits, and services that were available to seniors.



By 2013, MUN had moved to paperless pension notifications, making distribution of *Your Voice* a very real challenge. By then, *Your Voice* was being posted to the MUNPA website. With costs limiting options, distribution of *Your Voice* was moved primarily on-line, unless members without internet access requested a paper copy. By 2016 there were 6-7 issues a year. A brief single double-sided MUNPA insert continued to be included with HR's spring mailout on benefits to reach less accessible members. However, keeping in contact with members for whom MUNPA does not have an email address continues to be a challenge.

There were advantages to the forced move to on-line distribution of *Your Voice*. In particular, issues were no longer limited to 2 pages and colour photos could be added without significant cost. The editors of *Your Voice* made full use of both. In addition, the issues could be stored and accessed on MUNPA's web site, with the notice of the new issue sent out to members in email (distributed to about 1400 or so of MUNPA's approximately 2450 members). This meant MUNPA did not need to fill up members email with large files and back issues were easily available to be perused at members convenience.

Today, the *Your Voice* team consists of an editor, Bernadette Power, and production manager, Mark Graesser. They are supported by the other Communications Committee members Brian Power (web master) and Jackie Collins (MUNPA Office Manager). They, and the teams before them, can rightly be extremely proud of where they have brought *Your Voice*, fulfilling Raoul's founding vision of giving members the opportunity to have a voice. The latest Vol. 19, No. 2, April 2021 issue is an excellent example of the 5 issues now produced a year. It was a lively 10 pages - 4 pages of articles from members of the Board of Directors and 6 pages of interesting articles from members!

You can check out some of the back issues of *Your Voice* or send a message to the *Your Voice* team from the *Your Voice* web page, <https://www.mun.ca/munpa/yv/>

**Consider adding your voice to a future issue!**

**Better still, post your thoughts here on MUNPA's Facebook Group AND send it to Your Voice for members who do not use social media.**

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**Posted on Facebook May 7, 2021 – Audrey Power**

### **MUNPA HISTORY TRIVIA**

News in MUNPA's first issue of *Your Voice* – January 2003...

The newsletter focused on issues explored and actions agreed on from a productive meeting held in December 2002, between members of the MUNPA board and W.W. Thistle, V.P. Administration and Finance, and G. McDonald, Director, Human Resources. Many of these issues are the basis of the relationship which has since grown and strengthened between Memorial and MUNPA.

MUNPA is pleased to continue this good relationship by having Dr. Vianne Timmons, Memorial President, speak at this year's AGM in June.

Some of the issues covered in January 2003 Your Voice:

- Discussion of what member data MUN could and could not be shared with MUNPA, including demographical information about membership.
- It was agreed to include MUNPA handouts and membership forms as part of MUN's Exit interview so members could learn about MUNPA and MUNPA could receive members information on those forms.
- Agreement for MUNPA Inc. to have members complete authorization forms for MUN to deduct MUNPA membership fees through payroll deduction.
- Including MUNPA members in University telephone directory could be done on individual basis through membership form.
- Obtaining MUN Pensioner Id cards that might be used at MUN and elsewhere as a corporate card.
- Discussion of ways MUNPA and members could help HR with Pensions issues.
- The designation of a HR point of contact person for MUNPA.
- Ways MUNPA could help with fund-raising for the university. Availing of MUNPA's email list to help raise funds to complete memorial scholarships.
- Association members might represent the university through funeral attendance for pensioners.

Board of Regents recommendation of Indexation of Memorial University Pensions had been sent to government for legislative approval but with the House of Assembly not currently sitting, implementation was uncertain.

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[Posted on Facebook May 14, 2021 – Audrey Power](#)

### **MUNPA FRIDAY TRIVIA CHALLENGE**

**What year was the MUNPA Annual General Meeting first held in June?**

MUNPA's AGMs, now normally held in June, were convened in the fall for many years, in keeping with the very first meeting held Nov. 13, 1985.



What year did MUNPA's Board of Directors decide to hold MUNPA AGMs in June?

**ANSWER:**

**MUNPA first began holding its AGMs in June in 2011.**

As reported in the May 2011, issue of *Your Voice*, the Board of Directors at the time decided to move MUNPA AGMs to June, with the first one being held June 11, 2011 at Lester Farms, St. John's.

Prior to 2011, MUNPA AGMs were usually held in the fall, often in October or November. This left little time for the new Board committees to get up and running in time to organize events for the busy December holiday season. The 2010/11 Board decided to move the AGM to June to provide more time for newly formed committees to organize. As a side benefit it was hoped there might be more enjoyable weather the day of the AGM!

This year's AGM is being held June 8, in-person at Signal Hill Campus, 12:00 – 4:00pm, and on-line via WebEx beginning at 1:30pm where the new Board of Directors will be elected.



**AGM 2021**

Committees will be formed at the next Board of Directors meeting, to be held the week after the AGM.

Anticipating most people will have both Covid-19 shots and public health restrictions will ease by September, the Grenfell and St. John's Programme Committees have already made tentative plans for a busy but safe fall social calendar – watch for more details as the new committee members get organized!

There is still time to register for the AGM, before the deadline of Wednesday, June 2. Full details are on MUNPA's AGM page

<https://www.mun.ca/munpa/about/agm/index.php#AGM2021>

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Posted on Facebook May 21, 2021 – Audrey Power

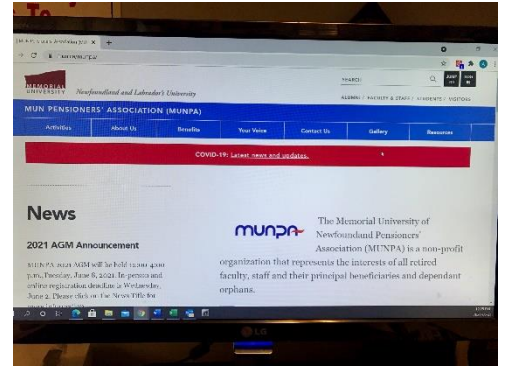
### **MUNPA HISTORY TRIVIA – MUNPA Website**

Making information easily accessible to members has been a challenge for MUNPA right from its early days. With no source of income for many years, MUNPA was dependent on MUN's Human Resources to include 2-page MUNPA inserts with monthly cheque notifications. As technology advanced and "the Web" took off, Memorial was quick to establish its own website. They generously assisted MUNPA in developing and hosting the MUN Pensioners' Association first web site. **MUNPA announced the initial release of its website, <http://www.mun.ca/munpa>, in the July 23, 1997 newsletter**, providing a forum where members could access MUNPA information at their convenience. Still under development, it included, among other things, information on the MUNPA Executive and past pension cheque notices with plans to add a page of links to members. Later expansion included adding issues of the MUNPA newsletter, which became particularly important when MUN stopped sending out monthly cheque notifications in 2013.

Over the years, MUN has upgraded its web development and migrated to new web development software, helping MUNPA transition along with them, and today MUNPA can update and manage its site. MUN continues to host the MUNPA web site and provide support, for which MUNPA is extremely grateful.

The MUNPA website has evolved and changed over time. Not all features that were part of the early site made it through some of the transitions, and some information like older newsletters, are no longer available.

The site has been redesigned and greatly expanded into 7 main categories: Activities, About Us, Benefits, Your Voice, Contact Us, Gallery, and Resources. Each has lots of useful information about MUNPA, MUN pensions and benefits, and other external resources and links that are quite helpful to pensioners. Find out what events are coming up, read MUNPA's by-laws, learn about supplementary health insurance, find a past issue of Your Voice, view photos of events and group activities, find links to how to access your pay advice, or to external sites like SaferMedsNL and SeniorsNL.



The web master for the past three years has been Board of Director and Communications Committee member Brian Power. He frequently reviews the site, bringing information and links up to date and better organizing the site to make it easier to find things. New information is added as it becomes available. Keeping the site current and aligned with members changing needs can be a challenge.

Feedback from members is always welcome! A knowledgeable extra set of hands to assist with maintaining the site would also be a handy addition (you don't have to be on the board!). Interested in helping, or have thoughts about what you would like to see on either the web site or in Your Voice? Send an email to [yourvoice@mun.ca](mailto:yourvoice@mun.ca)

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Posted on Facebook May 28, 2021 – Audrey Power

### MUNPA FRIDAY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

**When did Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners Association become an Incorporated Company?**

MUNPA was an informal association, without any formal (legal) status as an organization for many years. When did MUNPA become a registered company with the Registry of Companies, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador?

**ANSWER:**

**Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners Association was incorporated as a non-profit 'Without Share Capital' company on June 12, 2002.**



As reported in the August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002 Newsletter,

**“MUN PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION REGISTERED.** Our association is now a legally registered entity (MUNPA Inc.), as a not-for-profit organization based on the draft constitution that was circulated earlier. (Fees for this registration had to be paid by the executive committee members from their own money). The next step is to ratify the constitution and to solidify some of its clauses, particularly the one about membership dues, at the next AGM [September 25, 2002]”.

As indicated from the brief article, MUNPA had no form of income prior to this and was being supported by Board members from their own pockets. Incorporation was the key legal step to collecting member fees and not being required to pay taxes.

As a bona fide non-profit under provincial regulations, a revised constitution was approved at the Sept. 25, 2002, AGM, authorizing the receipt of membership dues on a regular basis. This required a release agreement with each retiree for this purpose and the Executive began the legal steps to obtain these agreements through a distribution by the Department of Human Resources. That spring, by April 2003, 133 members were paying member fees through monthly payroll deduction. By March 2004, 588 members had arranged to pay fees through payroll deduction. As of March 2021, 1392 members, 55% of membership, now support the Association, nearly all through monthly payroll deduction.

As discussed in an earlier post, the initial voluntary \$1.00 monthly fee was increased to \$2.00 a month at the June 2012 AGM, to support the tremendous expansion in activities and services provided by MUNPA in the ten years following incorporation.

In keeping with the intent of the members who responded to a questionnaire after the 2001 AGM and members at the 2002 AGM, current member fees remain voluntary. **While members who pay the optional member fee are recognized as Supporting Members, ALL retirees of MUN, or their surviving principal beneficiaries, are members of MUNPA.**

Today, those who wish to support the MUNPA Board in advocating for members and providing a variety of activities and services must still fulfill the legal requirements by agreeing to pay MUNPA's member fees. Full information on ways to arrange this are found on MUNPA's web page

[https://www.mun.ca/munpa/about/Archive1/Automatic Payroll Deduction Email.php](https://www.mun.ca/munpa/about/Archive1/Automatic%20Payroll%20Deduction%20Email.php)

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Posted on Facebook June 4, 2021 – Audrey Power

## MUNPA FRIDAY June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 TRIVIA

### Close of 2020/2021 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

MUNPA's AGM, occurring next Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> this year, is the signal that most MUNPA activities are winding wind down for the summer. It is the close of a very unusual and exceptional 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year!



The AGM is an opportunity for members to gather before turning their attention to summer vacations, travel, or just enjoying the weather. The AGM luncheon gives members a chance to chat. Following lunch, the on-line attendees join. This year we are fortunate to have Memorial's president, Dr. Vianne Timmons, speaking to our members. The business meeting then reviews MUNPA's accomplishments over the past year and looks forward to the next year with anticipation with the election of a new Board of Directors.

At the very first meeting that began the Association on Nov. 13, 1985, there were 28 people in attendance, representing approximately 150 pensioners. Since then, attendance at the AGM has not kept pace with growth in membership, with AGM attendance regularly under 100. Attendance at the 2018 AGM was approximately 80.



Not unexpectedly, registration for this AGM is down due to the ongoing concerns of the Covid-19 pandemic. There are 61 people registered to attend this year - 40 in-person and 21 on-line. Meanwhile, membership has multiplied to 2526 retirees- 1378 retired staff, 831 retired faculty, 342 principal beneficiaries, and 33 people who receive a split pension (some members are counted in multiple categories). There is also a small cohort of members not included in these numbers (possibly 30-50 members) as they do not receive a MUN pension or benefits.

A benefit of this pandemic is the early adoption of on-line technologies much sooner than would have happened otherwise. While a large percentage of MUNPA members remain in the St. John's metro and surrounding area, many more are outside that region, in other parts of NL, Canada, and other countries. This year has seen MUNPA embrace these technologies to make AGMs and other events available to 'away' members.

Whatever your plans, whether you attend the AGM next week or not, enjoy your summer. Be sure the 2021/2022 MUNPA Board of Directors will be gearing up for a busy fall addressing pension and benefit issues on your behalf, as well as holding social activities and other events for your enjoyment.

As this 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year comes to a close, this is the last MUNPA Friday Trivia post – I hope you have enjoyed reading the memories and bits of less known trivia from MUNPA's 35 years of history as much as I have enjoyed putting them together.

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