

Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association
Presidents' Meeting (Notes)
May 6, 2024
Waverley Legion, Waverley, NS

Provincial Executive

President Bernie Conrad, Vice President Patricia Murray, Treasurer Gary Meisner, Membership Secretary Sharon Braine, Pensions & Benefits Representative Bernie LaRusic, Secretary Shannon Kelly

Regional Presidents

Region 1 – Ron Borne
Region 2 – Paul Harvey
Region 3 – Kathleen Bugby

Region 6 – Larry Stewart
Region 9 – Richard Elliott
Region 10 – Shannon Kelly

Regrets - Region 8 – Keith Shears
Absentee - Region 7 – Joe Boardway

Guest Speaker

Glenn Macinnis of Employee Benefits Plus addressed the meeting attendees regarding the existing NSGREA Dental Plan and the newly formed Federal Government Dental Plan.

Glenn provided a printed handout outlining research that Employee Benefits Plus representatives have completed in the comparison between the NSGREA Dental Plan and the Federal Government Dental Plan.

The outline included Comparison of Key Services between the two plans (12 points were outlined), as well as Dental Plan Points of Note (4 points were outlined).

Discussion was held with numerous questions/concerns presented and answered. Glenn advised that Employee Benefits Plus will be more than happy to financially support a mail out of the provided handout to NSGREA members should NSGREA proceed with a mail out.

Pension (President Conrad)

Keiren Tompkins has been appointed by NSGREA as representative on the Pension Board; a five year appointment effective April 1, 2024; suggestion made by a Regional President to have K. Tompkins address Convention;

Treasurer Report (Gary Meisner) – verbal presentation to the meeting;

Average cost for annual convention – 9,519.17

The Treasurer and past Provincial Executive decided to make financial investment – three (3) year term – 5% return;

August 2023 – March 2024

Total Income: 71,601.14

Total Expenses: 57,048.15

Net Ordinary Income: 14,552.99

Petty Cash: 150.00

Savings Account: 100,066.20

Chequing Account: 54,690.55

Total Current Cash Assets: 154,906.75

President Report - Three positions up for election at upcoming convention (President, Secretary, Membership Secretary); Private Sector employees now in the pension plan; possibility of future indexing resuming in January 2026;

Vice President Report - Noted this is her first year in NSGREA and learning a lot; has attended a number of regions' meetings, with plans to visit more; interesting inquiry regarding divorced spouse's entitlement with regards to NSGREA;

Pension & Benefits Report - Concern with loss of members due to introduction of Federal Dental Plan; future work with NSGEU to gain info on all workers involved with the pension plan;

Membership Secretary Report - Recently finished membership dues recording on computer; paid membership numbers down this year; 600+ reminder letters are still to go out;

Regional Reports - were individually provided; general consensus / discussion on the following topics – number of meetings held each year, location/cost of meeting venue, percentage of members attending meetings, use of speakers at meetings, regional information sessions, review of bylaws, Certificate of Appreciation for members, NSGREA 40th Anniversary celebration.

President Conrad requested all Region Presidents send a listing of the Region Executive to the NSGREA office as soon as possible (name, position, telephone number, and email address).

Sharon Braine / President Conrad set date of July 15.2024 for resolution submissions.

New Business - convention resolutions; region executive records keeping process; possible convention venues both inside/outside HRM; setting a permanent date for annual convention; executive succession planning within the region; creation of Benefits Packages for existing members; possible use of Zoom at convention to enable Provincial Executive Voting for members not in attendance; payment of yearly membership dues via e-transfer; using email more than Canada Post whenever possible; training/ education for region executive members/ provincial executive members;

President Conrad announced he has selected the Waverley Legion (Lower Sackville area) as Convention 2024 venue, with the date of October 7.2024.