



AVB PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings and best wishes from Michael Stephens, President of the Algonquin Valley Branch (AVB). It is mid-June 2018 as I prepare this update on our Branch activities.

Branch Annual Meeting – This year's Branch Annual Meeting (BAM) was held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Petawawa on April 4.

I reported that during 2017-18 AVB members participated in, organized, or initiated the following activities:

- The 2017 Branch Annual Meeting with a presentation on "Managing Finances: What Seniors and Families Need to Know".
- Lunch & Learn Workshops: "So you want to be an Executor" in Deep River and in Petawawa.
- Veterans' Town Hall in Petawawa on making the transition to civilian life.
- BBQ Picnic Social In Petawawa.
- AVB reports in Summer 2017 and Spring 2018 issues of SAGE.
- Article "Returning to Work after Retirement" on the AVB website

- Information booths at the Spring Petawawa Showcase and the Deep River Craft Fair in November.
- Reduced CAA membership fees for AVB members for a second year.
- Renewed member recruitment efforts at Garrison Petawawa.
- Periodically updating of the AVB website (55,000 visits in four years).
- Two Regional meetings with Ottawa, Ottawa Valley, and Cornwall & District Branches.
- Representation of the Branch at the Association's Annual Meeting of Members in Ottawa in June.

Our invited speaker Sean McCord of Johnson Insurance spoke on "The Ins and Outs of Home and Auto Insurance". The draft minutes from the meeting are posted on the Branch website www.fsnaalgonquinvalley.com under the tab "Members Area/Minutes from Annual Meetings".

The election of Branch Officers produced the following AVB Executive for 2018:

President - Michael Stephens
Vice-President - vacant
Secretary - Ela McDonald
Treasurer - Judith Cloutier
Membership Secretary - Leo Buckley
Past President - Paul Ballantyne
Director - John Allen
Director - Jeff Bishop
Director - Keith Greenfield
Director - Barrie Hallett
Director - Ken Philipose
Director - Bill Turner

We were sorry recently to lose two of the Directors, Barrie Hallett and Ken Philipose, who have stepped down due to personal reasons. Barrie was Branch President for seven years, and Ken was Vice-President for six years. We owe them many thanks for their efforts on behalf of Branch members.

The Executive is always looking for new blood and new ideas for serving our members. If you think you might be interested in joining the

Executive, send an email to avb.fed.retirees@gmail.com or contact any member of the Executive to find out more about what's involved. You are always welcome to observe our meetings to see how the branch operates and help you decide if getting involved is your cup of tea. Volunteers are also always welcome to help us organize single events or carry out short-term projects. We are currently particularly looking for help to strengthen Branch communications.

Branch Activities in 2018 - At the BAM I suggested that the Branch should focus its efforts this year on the following initiatives:

- Renewed recruitment efforts at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories in Chalk River
- Continued member recruitment efforts at Garrison Petawawa
- Continued collaboration with local seniors groups (e.g., presentations on health issues, "Neighbours Helping Neighbours" facilitator training)
- Improved AVB web page
- Greater use of the national website to improve information sharing among branches
- Continued advocacy efforts on Bill C-27, if and when required.

Upcoming Branch Events – A list of upcoming branch events is posted on the Branch website www.fснаalgonquinvalley.com under the tab "News and Events". The list is updated from time to time as details for events are finalized.

By the time you read this, our annual picnic on August 26 will be history, and Leo Buckley will have completed presenting his popular series of three Lunch and Learn (L&L) talks at Danny's Restaurant in Petawawa on different aspects of Estate Planning.

In September Leo will give his L&L session on "Medical Insurance Coverage" at the Royal Canadian Legion in Renfrew. In October Leo

will present his Estate Planning L&L on "Arranging Your Affairs, Wills and Trusts" at the Royal Canadian Legion in Cobden.

Branch Booth at Spring Petawawa Showcase – Again this year the Branch had an information booth at the Spring Petawawa Showcase at the Petawawa Civic Centre on April 27-29. Several Branch members joined members of the Executive in answering questions from members and potential new members.



1 - Candy Bishop in AVB's booth at the Petawawa Showcase

We'll also have an information booth at the Deep River Craft Fair on November 3.

Renewing recruitment efforts at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories – As I noted at the BAM, I think it is important that the Branch renews new member recruitment efforts at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) staff at the Chalk River Laboratories. This is particularly important now. As of September CNL staff will no longer be able to acquire further qualifying time of service for their

Public Service Superannuation Plan pensions. Many staff may be thinking of retiring now or in the near future, and be quite receptive to consider joining Federal Retirees. Please take any opportunity you have to speak to CNL staff over the coming months. If each AVB member got one person to join the Branch, our membership would double. It would also strengthen us for the longer term, which may be more challenging.

Do we have your email address? – The Association and AVB Executive do not have email addresses for a substantial number of members. AVB covers a vast area, and sending information to all members by post is very expensive. Being able to send information to you by email makes it possible for us to give you much more timely details on upcoming events. From time to time the National Office also issues news updates, useful information and requests for feedback on issues. If you haven't already provided your email address to the Association, please consider doing so. If you send your email address to us at avb.fed.retirees@gmail.com we'll add it to the Association's database of information on members.

A reminder that reduced rates for CAA membership are available to AVB members Canadian Automobile Association - North & East Ontario (CAANEO) is offering members in Federal Retirees branches in North & East Ontario a substantial reduced rate of all levels of CAA Membership. Your CAA account can be updated to reflect the reduced rate for any pending transactions and your next renewal. The discount cannot be backdated or refunded for previously renewed or purchased memberships.

To find out what discount you can receive, contact:
Melanie Sterling, Corporate Account Manager
CAA North & East Ontario
2151 Thurston Drive, Ottawa ON
K1G 6C9

Tel.: 1-800-267-8713 Ext. 6297

Cell: 1-613-299-8494

Fax: 1-613-247-9487

Email: msterling@caaneo.on.ca

You just need to tell her that you belong to Algonquin Valley Branch and give her your Federal Retiree member number.

Transitioning from military to civilian life -

Last year AVB hosted one of a dozen Town Halls held near Canadian Forces Bases across Canada. Military retirees' views were collected on how well the processes are working for them to make the transition from military to civilian life after retirement. A report on what was heard was issued in the spring, was presented to the appropriate governmental bodies in Ottawa, and will guide future action by the Association. Details are posted on the Association's website www.federalretirees.ca under the tab Advocacy/Veterans Outreach Initiative.

Appeal of Federal Court decision on the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) –

The Association is appealing the court decision rejecting our challenge of the government's action to change the fraction we contribute to cover PSHCP costs. Keep an eye on the Association's website www.federalretirees.ca for the latest developments.

Association response to Bill C-27 –

In October 2016 the federal government introduced Bill C-27 (An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act). The bill would make possible the introduction of "target benefit" pension plans for federally-regulated and Crown corporation employers. The AVB report in the Summer 2017 issue of SAGE included the letter we wrote to our MP, Cheryl Gallant, summarizing the Association's numerous concerns with Bill C-27. The government has still not advanced the bill beyond first reading in the House of Commons, but it is very likely that the idea will resurface sooner or later.

ARE YOU MOVING OR CHANGING YOUR PHONE OR EMAIL? LET US KNOW SO WE CAN KEEP YOU INFORMED

Are you moving to a retirement home or another location? If you don't let the Association know, you won't get SAGE and you risk losing your membership and its benefits. Your spouse's address will be included in the change unless you let us know otherwise. If you move out of the AVB area (i.e., Renfrew County) your membership will be transferred to another branch based on your postal code, unless you indicate that you want to remain in the Algonquin Valley Branch.

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF INFORMATION

Member's name:

Membership number (from membership card):

New address: (No., Street, P.O. Box)

City, Town:

Province: _____ Postal code: _____

New telephone no.: _____

E-mail address: _____

Effective date of address change: _____

If you are moving out of Renfrew County, do you want to remain in the Algonquin Valley Branch?

Yes / No (Circle one)

Mail to:
Membership Secretary,
Algonquin Valley Branch,
National Association of Federal Retirees,
Box 1930, Deep River, ON K0J 1P0

PLEASE ASK YOUR SURVIVORS TO INFORM AVB AFTER YOU PASS AWAY

For members who have dues directly deducted from their pension payments (i.e., DDS), the government notifies the Association when deductions have stopped, but the Privacy Act prevents the government from notifying the Association that the member has died. (Deductions may have stopped for other reasons.) For members who pay dues each year, it is up to their survivors to let the Association know of their death. Mail sent by our National Office is returned to sender, and it is left to the branch to track down the reason. Please ask your survivors to fill in and mail the form below after you have passed away:

(Please keep a copy of the following form in your "You and Your Survivors" workbook)

NOTICE OF DEATH

I regret to inform you that:

a member of the Association in the Algonquin Valley Branch died on:

_____ (Date).

Please amend your records accordingly, and inform the Association's National Office.

Signature:

Your Name: (Please print)

Relationship:

Phone Number

Mail to:
Membership Secretary,
Algonquin Valley Branch,
National Association of Federal Retirees,
Box 1930, Deep River, ON K0J 1P0