

The Algonquin Valley Branch Report

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter 2013

Greetings and best wishes from your branch executive!!

I can't believe that the summer has just sailed by. No doubt we will also have sailed through the great colours of fall and have had some snow flurries by the time you are reading this report.

Great day, great weather, great people, great food, and great prizes. We had another successful "**Picnic**" **Social** on Labour Day weekend at the marina in Petawawa. In excess of 100 members and guests attended. Some members were happy with the date of the picnic while others commented that it was a bad weekend for them. We are sorry if you could not make it to the picnic due to the date we have chosen. We are thinking of moving next year's event away from the long weekend. We will give the new proposed date (2014 Aug 24) a try and see what would be the response. Stay tuned.

Honour your promise campaign – By now all of you have read about and hopefully participated in this campaign to stop an increase in Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) premiums – doubling in fact. It was remoured that Treasury Board was considering doubling the premiums. The FSNA organization on your behalf has launched initiatives to campaign against this action. Read more about it in ON GUARD. Stay tuned for further news and what happens next.

I am continuing to make presentations at pre-retirement (SCAN) workshops being held at Garrison Petawawa. It is a vital part of our effort to make retirees aware of FSNA and what the organization has to offer. It is also important that we continue to get new volunteers to help with the many initiatives that we work on in our branch and at the regional and national levels. As we move forward with the new governance structure, Ontario and Ottawa (as its own region) will have 2 directors each.

Volunteers retire from Branches and we need other volunteers to join us for a strong succession plan. Approximately 30% of the FSNA membership comes from the Canadian Forces (CF). We currently have a shortage of CF representation on our Branch Executive.

We would very much like to expand our efforts on Veteran's support but need additional members familiar with the area and issues to help with this. So, if you have a few hours to spare once in a while we can use your skills and experience.

We are already planning our AGM for 2014. Please see the official notice in this report for our meeting to be held in Deep River on 2014 Feb 24.

With some dedicated effort and a little luck we should have a working webpage by the time this hits your kitchen table. This will provide the latest information on events and issues much faster than this report does. It will be a work in progress. Let us know what you think and what improvements we can make. (www.fsnaalgonquinvalley.com)

November means membership renewal for those members who pay annually. Remember that it takes a lot of extra work and costs to send reminders and to send in your renewals. There is a chance that if you forget to pay on time you can lose your membership status and the benefits. Please consider changing over to automatic direct deduction. It would be a lot better. (See the form to change that **on your renewal notice**).

I will close by inviting you to contact me at fsnaavbon33 at gmail.com or at 613 687-2259 to discuss any issues or ideas that you have related to what your branch can do for you and what you can do for the branch.

Best Regards
Paul Ballantyne



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY RECOGNIZED



Tom Alburger who has served the FSNA Algonquin Branch for 10 years was recognised for his valuable service by the president Paul Ballantyne. The photo shows Paul giving a certificate of recognition to Tom at the branch picnic in Petawawa.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

We are in need of volunteers to serve on the board to help FSNA defend our pensions and benefits. We are especially looking for volunteers from the Canadian Forces to serve on the board to increase the representation of the retirees from this group.

The Nominating Committee of the Algonquin Valley Branch is inviting nominations for Branch executives and director positions. Directors are needed to head various committees. Members willing to let their name stand should contact Barrie Hallett (613-584-3564 or email to fsnaavbon33@gmail.com or jbh100hull@gmail.com).

The Branch Executive consists of:

President	Secretary
Vice-President	Treasurer

In addition, the Branch Directors are required to direct various activities of the Branch.

Typical Branch Director's duties include:

- Fulfill assigned specific responsibilities.
- Form a strong link between the Board and members, and be actively involved in recruiting.
- Be willing to chair Branch committees.

The Branch Committees and their responsibilities include:

- **Communications** - prepare Branch Reports, website, newsletters, newspaper articles, and develop a communication strategy for these items.
- **Events** – plan and manage AGM, Picnic, coffee mornings, Lunchtime talks, and other events.
- **Membership and Outreach** – maintain membership database with reporting, maintain contacts with federal retirees, seniors groups and federal employers, and liaise with local politicians.
- **Member Services** – assist with health benefits questions, survivor questions, affinity programs and other FSNA services.

PETAWAWA SHOW CASE (Sept 13-15)

The Branch held an information booth at the Petawawa Show Case from September 13th to 15th staffed by the Branch Board of Directors. The intent of the booth was to help to increase our visibility and provide a venue for public to ask questions on the branch activities.

A few branch members had passed by; most had mailed their "Honour Your Promise" letters to our MP Cheryl Gallant and the Minister for the Treasury Board, Tony Clement. It appeared that the number of people at the Showcase this year seemed lower than last year.

BRANCH WEB PAGE

The Communications Committee has engaged a webpage designer to create a webpage for the Branch on the Internet. It is planned that the webpage will look and function much like the webpage of the Ottawa Branch (www.fsnaottawa.com). Besides providing a constantly available source on information on the Branch, it will allow you to add your name to an email list the Board will use to circulate notices of upcoming events and other information more promptly than we can through quarterly reports.

At the time of writing (mid-October) the designer has started work. He has purchased the domain name www.fsnaalgonquinvalley.com for us, and is putting into place an interim "Under Construction" webpage. He is working on the "shell" of the website. This is the nuts and bolts software of the website, the stuff no one ever sees. He is also developing the site map and populating the content manager with the navigation for the test site. We will start loading site content in the coming weeks.

BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) - SUNDAY 2014 FEBRUARY 23

This is the official notice for the FSNA Algonquin Valley Branch AGM. Watch for 2014 February advertisements in the North Renfrew Times, Petawawa Post and The News regarding contact information for registering for the lunch and any further details regarding the meeting.

Location: The General Paul Manson Legion, Deep River, Ontario

Agenda

12:30 PM

Networking

Opportunity for socializing and informal discussion related to operation of Branch and member interests.

1:00 PM

Lunch

Complimentary lunch provided to Branch members and spouses who have pre-registered.

1:45 PM

Annual General Meeting

Key business includes accepting year end reports and electing Branch Officers for 2014.

Other business includes items arising from the 2013 AGM.

2:30 PM

Presentation: To be Announced.

Compiled by: K. Philipose, VP FSNA Algonquin Branch

FOR YOUR SURVIVORS—KEEP FSNA INFORMED
(Keep this form in the “You and Your Survivors” workbook.)



For members who have dues deducted from their pensions, the government notifies FSNA when deductions have stopped, but the Privacy Act prevents the government from notifying FSNA that the member has died. (There may be other reasons why deductions have stopped). When members who pay dues each year pass on, it's up to their survivors to let FSNA know. Mail sent by national office is returned to the sender, and left to our branch to track down. Please ask your survivors to fill in and mail the remainder of this form below:

Mail to: Membership Chair, FSNA Algonquin Valley Branch, Box 1930, Deep River, ON, K0J 1P0.

Notice of Death

To FSNA Algonquin Valley Branch:

I regret to inform you that _____, a member of FSNA
Algonquin Valley Branch, died on _____.

Please amend your records accordingly, and inform the National Office of FSNA.

Signature: _____ Relationship: _____

MOVING? LET US KNOW - SO WE CAN KEEP YOU INFORMED

Are you moving to a retirement home or another location? If you don't let FSNA know, you won't get On Guard, and risk losing your membership and its benefits. Please use the form below to let AVB know if your address changes. 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.

If you are moving out of Renfrew County, do you want to remain in the Algonquin Valley Branch? Yes/No (Circle one).

Member's Name: _____

Membership number (from FSNA card): _____

New Address: (No., Street, P.O. Box #) _____

City, Town: _____ Province _____ Postal Code: _____

New telephone no.: _____ E mail _____

Effective date of address change: _____.

**Mail to Membership Secretary, FSNA AVB, Box 1930,
Deep River, ON K0J 1P0**