

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION KINGSWAY BRANCH #175**  
**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2021**

The President opened the meeting by ritual at 7:00 p.m. Comrade MacIntosh chaired the meeting.

Initiation of Comrade Forner – Treasurer  
Comrade Kuervers – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Comrades Fecteau, Kuervers, Ferguson, R. Wills, C. Wills, Deugau, R. Torrie, Earles, Criss, Etmanski, Biddiscombe, Rayfield, Forner, Wiebe, K. Earles

**Excused:** Comrade Wiebe, Werner

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Comrade K. Earles representing the Ladies Auxiliary

**LAST POST**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>DECEASED</u></b>	<b><u>SERVICE</u></b>
SPRY, William	85 years	Dec 7, 2020	RCAF
KOZORIZ, John	95 years	Dec 7, 2020	Air Force
NAULT, Clarence	84 years	Dec, 2020	Army
MYERS, Stan	93 years	Dec 28, 2020	Navy

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA:**

Motion to accept the agenda was made by Comrade Earles  
Seconded by Comrade Deugau

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING DATED 24 NOVEMBER 2020:**

**Motion:** To accept the minutes was made by Comrade Ferguson  
Seconded by Comrade Etmanski

**CARRIED**

**ERRORS OR OMISSIONS:** General Meeting 24, Nov – page 5 duplicate “Nomination”

**BUSINESS ARISING:** None

**Motion:** To adopt the minutes as amended was made by Comrade Forner  
Seconded by Comrade Criss

**CARRIED**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCIAL CHAIRMAN:** Comrade Kuervers reported I have been unable (thru my own schedule) to put together a Committee meeting prior to today. I do have one scheduled before the next Executive meeting in February.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Criss

**CARRIED**

**FINANCE:** Comrade Forner reported: as per the presented printed financial statement. We have two GIC that are due within the next three weeks:

Due	Amount
26 Jan	\$32,316.88
2 Feb	\$7,643.93

These are used as our overdraft security.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Ferguson

**CARRIED**

Motion: That we reinvest the two GIC.

Seconded by Comrade R. Wills

**CARRIED**

**WAYS AND MEANS:** Comrade Criss reported I am currently working on the CIOG grant, and will be submitting the grant within the following week. All other grants still on hold, but as new grants became open now hoping others will follow soon.

So far, no word on January 26<sup>th</sup> bingo date if it's ago. Calls will go as needed, so far February 9<sup>th</sup> is looking like might be our first bingo back for 2021. Still looking for volunteers for bingos. For those that wish to volunteer please contact myself Steve Criss at 780 278 1263 or by email at [steve.criss@kingswaylegion.ca](mailto:steve.criss@kingswaylegion.ca)

The new online 50/50 is up and going the link is <https://rafflebox.ca/raffle/rclegion175> easy steps to follow just click the link and fill in the blanks. The results of the Mazatlán raffle for those asked for their money back has been returned. The rest that wanted to switch over to the 50/50 there will be \$1,500.00 added to the winner of the draw their tickets will be entered with the other 50/50 tickets at time of the draw. Want to thank everyone for the support of the raffles while we struggle through the covid-19 era. I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Kuervers

**CARRIED**

**MEMBERSHIP:** Comrade C. Wills reported that we have 868 members

Ordinary

Associate

Affiliate

Life Members

I so move my report

Seconded by Comrade Criss

**CARRIED**

**NEW MEMBERS**

Motion: Comrade Wills moves that we accept these individuals for processing into our Branch.  
Seconded by Comrade P. Earles **CARRIED**

**LADIES AUXILIARY:** Comrade Kim Earles reported with our Covid-19 restrictions we do not have a lot going on. In December we were able to provide 120 Christmas gift bags and some games, puzzle books and art equipment for the veterans at the Kipnes. We held our Christmas raffle of which the winners were included in the January Legion newsletter. Once the restrictions are lifted we will meet to discuss our next fundraiser and we will resume our Saturday meat raffles and 50/50 draws.

I so move my report.  
Seconded by Comrade Earles **CARRIED**

**PUBLICITY:** Comrade Wills reported Website had 393 visitors this month and was last updated 18 Jan.

I am currently working on the Feb Newsletter.  
The Pattison Sign ad is up it runs for 5 sec every minute.  
I so move my report.  
Seconded by Comrade Etmanski **CARRIED**

**SPORTS:** Comrade Ferguson reported: No Report

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:** Comrade R. Torrie reported if anyone knows of any organization or person who wishes to buy, we have 15 6' blond tables for sale at \$20.00 each. We need to investigate the cost of cleaning the front & back parking lots of the ice build up.

I so move my report.  
Seconded by Comrade Criss **CARRIED**

**HISTORIAN:** Comrade Deugau reported: No report

I so move my report.  
Seconded by Comrade **CARRIED**

**SICK AND VISITING:** No report

**ENTERTAINMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS:** Comrade Rayfield reported - I have drafted an undated 6-month schedule of the bands for Thursday Jams & Weekend Dances.

- I have cancelled the entertainment bands for the Feb & March Dinner Shows.

- I have dropped 3 bands and added 3 different bands for the Thursday Jams & Weekend Dances.

- I have been in contact with all of the bands and booking agents that we will deal with going forward.

- I have contacted several groups for quotes to perform at New Years Eve events and regular dinner shows.

- I have presented an offer to Ruby & the Hitmen to perform for the 2021/22 NYE Dinner & Dance.

- I have met with Comrade Bernie Joly regarding the construction of an additional 2 sections of staging for the President's Ballroom, pending approval by the Executive.

- It became known on Jan 9 that the Drake Hotel has ceased operation as an iconic bar, best known for an array of great country bands, jam sessions and dancing.

I have been contacted by and met with the spokesperson of their long standing house band, The band wants to perform here on Sundays in lieu of the Drake's traditional Sunday afternoon dance/jam sessions.

I have been a regular there for about 9 years, I know all the band members. In fact I had already enlisted them over a month ago as one of my bands for our weekend dances.

I would like to propose we engage the band to play every Sunday from 1 until 5 pm, in the canteen on a trial basis with a \$5 cover charge.

- I have enlisted 2 people, widely known in the Edmonton & area dance community.

I've asked that they include notices about our dances & jams in their weekly newsletters.

They literally have hundreds of people in their contact lists that receive their newsletters.

- I profess that once we are allowed to fully re-open and because of an expected hesitancy of some people to go out dancing, we will probably be seeing smaller crowds initially.

I therefore propose that we continue to utilize the canteen, as opposed to the President's Ballroom, for our weekend dances. In addition, because of this, I highly recommend that the shuffleboard beside the dance floor be returned to its previous location. I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Etmanski

**CARRIED**

**POPPY:** Comrade Biddiscombe Kingsway Poppy Inventory: submitted to the Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund on - Nov. 28, 2020 Completed

- Promotional Items
- School Program Material
- Kingsway Legion Poppy Campaign Supplies
- Tag Day Supplies
- Sea Can Inventory

Actionable Items:

1. Update Volunteer Hours
2. Update Route Sheets
3. Thank you letter to Ammelyka for make key tags for Poppy Campaign.
4. Thank you letter to Ms. Rose Carolyn Johnson for her document about her experiences during WW2 in a concentration camp. Does the Kingsway historical group want this document. Our Historian would like to look at these documents

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Earles

**CARRIED**

**Motions:**

That we approve 175-20-009 for \$350.00 of Poppy Funds to cover the Storage Fees for 2021.  
Seconded by Comrade Fecteau **CARRIED**

That we approve 175-20-11 \$184.80 of Poppy Funds to cover the Veterans Christmas Meal  
Seconded by Comrade Torrie **CARRIED**

That we approve 175-20-012 \$300.00 of Poppy Funds for Food Vouchers.  
Seconded by Comrade Deugau **CARRIED**

That we approve 175-20-013 \$77.70 of Poppy Funds for Acrobat Pro 2020 for Windows.  
Seconded by Comrade Earles **CARRIED**

That we approve 175-20-014 \$12.00 of Poppy Funds for late Fees Pitney Bowes Leasing.  
Seconded by Comrade Kuervers **CARRIED**

That we approve 175-20-015 \$128.46 of Poppy Funds for misc. Office Expenses.  
Seconded by Comrade Ferguson **CARRIED**

**POPPY TRUSTEE REPORT:** Comrade Wills reported

**Assistance for 2019**

Veterans or their Dependants: \$52,667.00  
Donation: Cadet Units \$8,303, Command \$ 50,000  
Bursaries: \$35,803  
Yearend balance was \$837,131

**YTD 2020**

Veterans or their Dependants: \$17,941.44 / 23 Clients  
Donation: \$0.00  
Bursaries: \$4,000 / four Students  
Current Balance: \$ 943,923.

I so move my report.  
Seconded by Comrade Fecteau **CARRIED**

**RESOLUTIONS & BYLAWS:** Comrade Ferguson reported the team all have copies and are reading through them. When we have completed reading them we will meet with Comrade MacIntosh. I so move my report.  
Seconded by Comrade Kuervers **CARRIED**

**HONOURS & AWARDS:** Comrade Fecteau reported: There will be some presentations at the General meeting. I have possibly three 50 year pins to hand out to our comrades,

Roger Page  
Larry Forbes  
Bruce L. McMullan

If you feel that someone is eligible for an award, please do a small write up and submit it to me for action. I so move my report.  
Seconded by Comrade Forner **CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Comrade C. Wills No report  
I so move the correspondence.

**CADET LIAISON OFFICER:** Comrade Criss reported Cadet organizations are still on stand down for any in-person parades, some online instruction still going on, but a tentative date for parades looking like 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February. Recruitment is still on hold and the fear for this year is that there will not be much for recruitment until covid-19 numbers drop drastically to where life returns to normal. Hopefully more news for next month as things start to reopen once again.  
I so move my report.  
Seconded by Comrade R. Wills

**CARRIED**

**SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT:** Comrade Earles reported I have completed 3 requests for Poppy Fund assistance and assisted with one bursary application.  
I so move my report.  
Seconded by Comrade Etmanski

**CARRIED**

**SGT-AT-ARMS:** Comrade Etmanski : No Report

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** No report

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Comrade Fecteau reported We are now entering a new era for the new year. The uncertainty of our re-opening soon is problematic, but if we are able to re-open after the latest restrictions, we as the executive committee will be make decisions at our meetings that must be sanctioned by the general membership.

Although we will certainly have different opinions, the decisions passed at the meeting must be presented to the membership as a united unit. My door will always be open to suggestions. I look forward to a successful year and thank you all for accepting your nominations.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Kuervers

**CARRIED**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Taxes**

##### 1) Municipal Taxes

###### A. Municipal Property Taxes:

- Property assessment: \$9,869,000

- As of 21 May 2019, we pay \$77,649.68 taxes per year

- \$7,053.06 / month until Dec, now \$6,476.80 / month this year

(reason for difference is tax bill changed mid-year, retroactively)

- This tax rate is at 36.01% (total tax bill would be \$215,633.70)
- 36.01% is the 'licensed' part of the building.

#### B. Alberta Municipal Act

- Exempt Property that can be made taxable Section 363
  - "Property held by and used in connection with a branch or local unit of the Royal Canadian Legion..."
  - Allows municipal council to make us subject to taxation

#### C. City policies, etc.

- City policy is to tax non-profits as per their licenses area (36.01% of the building for us)
- City has a discussion paper on Property Tax Exemption and Relief
- I'll distribute to Exec

[https://www.edmonton.ca/residential\\_neighbourhoods/TaxExemptionAndRelief\\_DiscussionPaper.pdf](https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/TaxExemptionAndRelief_DiscussionPaper.pdf)

- B. - We appear to fall under section 2.5 of this paper "Partial Exemptions - Time and Space", but are also subject to the licensed premises rule (section 2.6)

- This is further exacerbated by the fact that we are not non-profit, we have separate status as the Royal Canadian Legion is established under it's own Federal Act.
- the City could pass a specific bylaw that enforces 100% taxes on us - which goes into effect one year after it is passed. Until then we are only subject to licensed premises expenses.

#### D. Proposed way forward:

1) immediate request for Tax Relief from the city

- what months do we ask for?

2) Reduce licensed part of the building to just the Canteen. Banquet rooms are licensed per event using a liquor license and the cost of the license is incorporated into bookings.

3) Inform city that liquor license has been reduced to just the canteen and the percentage of the building that is now subject to taxation.

- I need to find the percentage calculations for just the three currently licensed rooms

4) Work with Leduc Legion to try and facilitate a bipartisan bill to modify the Alberta Municipal Act to remove taxation on Legions, of all types.

E. Additional thoughts.

Until we can modify the Municipal Act, I'm a fan of implementing a system with the city that is similar to the Shaw Conference Centre, where we pay taxes on the larger banquet facilities when they are licensed (say perhaps 50 days of the year?) This is good corporate citizenship within our community, meeting the City of Edmonton policies within the great AB Government regulations, and reducing our tax bill by at least 50%.

F. Motions:

- are any needed?

### **COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD & WELFARE OF KINGSWAYS BRANCH # 175**

**Motion:** To adjourn was made by Comrade Kuervers

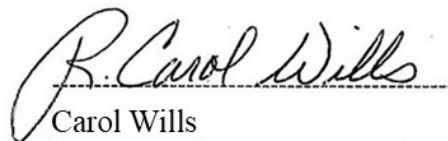
The President closed the meeting by ritual.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Next Meeting: 23 February, 2021 at 7:00 pm



Wm Bill Fecteau  
President  
Kingsway Legion Branch # 175



Carol Wills  
Executive Secretary  
Kingsway Legion Branch # 175