

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION KINGSWAY BRANCH #175
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY 28 MAY 2024

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

Attendance: Members Guests

The meeting was chaired by Comrade S. Danyi

ROLL CALL:

Present: Comrades, Torrie, Etmanski, W. Hyshka, S. Danyi, R. Wills, C. Wills, J. Hyshka, Fecteau, Walsh, Nelson, Morrill, Simon, Danyi, N., D. MacIntosh

Excused: Comrade Criss, Wiebe, Deugau

Absent:

Guests:

LAST POST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Service (if applicable)</u>
Baier, George	80 yrs	30 Dec 2023	
Sang, Chang	83 yrs	23 Nov 2023	
Frank, John	87 yrs	3 March 2022	
Mazurek, Martin	62 yrs	26 Jan 2024	
Murdoch, Ben	88 yrs	20 May 2024	Army

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA:

Motion: to accept the agenda were made by Comrade P. Earls
Seconded by Comrade Simon

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

Donna Olsen 20 Year Pin
Natsha Guilemette Poppy Fund Bursary

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING DATING 30 APRIL 2024

Motion: To accept the minutes was made by Comrade L. MacIntosh

Seconded by Comrade E. MacIntosh

CARRIED

Errors or Omissions: Ron Falkner received his 10 year pin at the last general meeting.

Business Arising: None

Motion: To adopt the minutes with amendments was made by Comrade R. Wills
Seconded by Comrade E. MacIntosh

CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING DATED 21 MAY 2024

Motion: To accept the minutes was made by Comrade M. Steele
Seconded by Comrade Olsen

CARRIED

Errors or Omissions: None

Business Arising:

Motion: To adopt the minutes was made by Comrade M. Steele
Seconded by Comrade Olson

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER: Comrade N. Danyi

The Finance meeting originally scheduled for February has been rescheduled to March 25 due to the holidays and the temporary unavailability of our bookkeeper, who underwent a minor surgical procedure. During this meeting, we aim to address several critical agenda items:

1. Discussion of items still categorized as negative expense and negative income.
2. Finalization of adjusting journal entries.
3. Confirmation of final account name changes.

Financial Performance:

1. **Year-to-Date (YTD) Net Loss:** Our YTD Net Loss stands at (\$125K), a notable increase compared to the same period last year, which recorded a loss of (\$38K). This represents a concerning trend that warrants attention and strategic planning.
2. **Revenue Analysis:** The Canteen remains the cornerstone of our revenue stream, generating \$213K YTD, constituting 72% of our total revenue. However, this figure reflects a 19% decline compared to the previous year, signaling a potential area for focused improvement.
3. **Gross Margin (GM) Improvement:** Despite revenue challenges, our Gross Margin has shown improvement, rising from 47% to 63% Year-over-Year (YoY). This positive shift can be attributed to effective cost control measures implemented.

However, it's crucial to note that our fixed costs have surged by 46%, significantly impacting our bottom line.

4. Expense Analysis:

- i. Repairs:** The largest percentage increase in expenses is attributed to Repairs, soaring by 98% YoY. This suggests a need for review and potential optimization of maintenance processes.
- ii. Payroll and Interest Expenses:** Payroll expenses have surged by \$38M YoY, closely followed by a \$22M increase in Interest Expenses. These significant upticks demand careful scrutiny to identify underlying causes and implement mitigation strategies.

5. Balance Sheet Analysis:

We have provided a Year-to-Date Balance Sheet (BS) comparison, delineating the system actuals versus our estimated BS post the Fiscal Year 2023 Closing Journal Entries (CJEs). While numerous minor adjustments have been made, the overarching impact on our net asset position is an approximate increase of \$44K. This analysis underscores the importance of meticulous accounting practices and the potential for positive shifts in our financial standing.

6. Conclusion:

In summary, while our financial performance presents challenges, such as escalating losses and rising expenses, there are notable areas of strength, including improved Gross Margin and diligent balance sheet management. Moving forward, it is imperative to address the identified issues proactively, leveraging strategic planning and operational efficiencies to foster financial sustainability and long-term growth for Kingsway Legion Branch 175.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade S. Charlet

CARRIED

Financial Committee: Comrade R. Wills

We held our Financial Committee Meeting will be on Sat May 25.

BMO – We have our Annual Credit Renewal due by 31 Mar. We have asked for a extension until the 2023 audit review is completed.

AGLC Casino – Last week we received our deposit from AGLC for the February Casino in the amount of \$77,875.48.

2022 AGLC Audit – The fines totaling \$200.00 has been paid.

AGLC Audit Oct 22 – May 23 Audit. Last week we received the audit forms and will begin working on them this week. We must have it completed by July 9, 2024.

Silent Auction – We have had to move the Silent Auction for some time in October, more to follow.

Class Action Lawsuit- No Change

Insurance Claim for Broken Pipes has been approved, we received the cheque last week for \$13,923.84.

Outstanding Invoices - We have paid all outstanding invoices. Currently we have just over \$12K that are 30 day or less to pay. I hope to make a dent in these next weeks.

We reviewed our current Balances for all our accounts as of this afternoon.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Foote

CARRIED

WAYS & MEANS: Comrade Criss No Report

MEMBERSHIP: Comrade C. Wills reported that we have 1112 members for 2024 in good standing.

Ordinary
431

Associate
408

Affiliate
248

Life Members
25

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade LaLonde

CARRIED

NEW MEMBERS: Comrade C. Wills – 9 New Applications 4 Transfer 1 Reinstatement

Ordinary
Demaine, Todd D.
Lone, Howard

Associate
Hunt, Alana
Keller, Linda
Gerber, Christopher
Miller, Kinley
Robinson, Kim M.
Ewanchuk, Doris

Affiliate
Buzak, Sam
Amritpal, Ronnie
Chisholm, J. Wayne

TRANSFER

Ordinary

Associate

Affiliate

Limoges, Bernard
Innisfail Br 104

Usher, Kenneth
Penticton Br 40

Tanguay, Robert
Ottawa Br 15

Weber, Matthew
Kingston Br 560

REINSTATE

Ordinary

Associate

Affiliate

Ringdahl, Jack

For a total of 14

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade MacIntosh

CARRIED

PUBLICITY: Comrade Simon/Hazen

As per the minutes of the Executive Meeting dated 21 May 2024, I so move my report with the following amendment: The inhouse TV are now up to date. Any items you would like to see added to the newsletter it must be in by Fri 31 May.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade K.Earles

CARRIED

SPORTS: Comrade Nelson No Report

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Comrade W. Hyshka

Completed a visit with Cadet Unit 1809 RCAAC. Removed the acorn light in the foyer that needs replaced. Assisted in setting the Maple Leaf Room for events. Worked with CB Hill Navy League in cleaning up the grounds. Planted the 75th Anniversary Tree in the teardrop. Repaired the tracker and cut the grass.

Thanks to everyone that assisted in the clean up of the damaged that was done last Fri. Thanks to those that have taken on maintaining the flowerpots and beds.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Etmanski

CARRIED

HISTORIAN: Comrade Deugau No Report

SICK & VISTING: Comrade Wiebe No Report

ENTERTAINMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS: Comrade J. Hyshka

We held two events last month Elvis the Vegas Years very successful.

Wrestling when really while with 94 people in attendance.

A full report will be presented at the next meeting.

Upcoming dates and bands are as follows:

May 31/June 1 – CC & High Rider

June 7/8 – Sweetgrass

June 14/15 – CC & High Rider
June 21/22 – Dean Henry
June 28/29 – Trick Ryder

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 9, 2024
An Evening with Patsy Cline

Friday 14 June, 2024
Music Bingo

Sun June 16, 2024
Fathers Day BBQ

Friday, June 21, 2024
Real Canadian Wrestling
More information to come

Saturday, September 28, 2024
Elvis Show featuring Bruce Stewart
More information to come

Saturday, November 30, 2024
Twilight Time
More information to come

December 31, 2024
New Year's Eve
"The Diamonds Band"

I so move my report.
Seconded by Comrade P. Earls

CARRIED

POPPY: Comrade S. Danyi

The Kingsway Poppy Committee, along with the president of the Kingsway Legion Branch #175, attended the Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund (GEPF) Monthly Committee meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024. The meeting was productive and included several key discussions and decisions that are pertinent to our upcoming activities and ongoing support for veterans.

Key Points and Decisions:

Poppy Fund Requests and Grants: Several Poppy Fund Requests and Grants were approved by committee votes. Detailed information about these approvals can be found in the Kingsway Service Officers Report.

Presence at Sports Events: The GEPF is exploring the opportunity to increase its visibility by being present at both Hockey and Football games during the additional days in the 2024 campaign. This initiative aims to enhance community engagement and fundraising efforts.

Preparation for the 2024 Poppy Campaign: Legions are advised to start assembling their order lists for items needed for the 2024 poppy campaign. Early preparation will ensure that all

necessary materials are available on time for the campaign's success.

Fund Availability and Large Donations: There is currently over \$1 million in the GEPF. The committee is looking to support larger donations that directly benefit veterans, with the stipulation that these funds cannot be used for labour or payroll costs. The first major initiative under consideration is supporting a program for service dogs, with an allocation of \$20,000 per dog for the animal and its training. The GEPF is looking to support the donation of six dogs, providing vital assistance to veterans in need.

Clarification of Fund Reimbursements: The committee clarified the process for fund reimbursements to ensure transparency and efficiency in the use of the funds. This clarification will assist in better managing and utilizing the available resources.

Proposed Changes for Convention Discussion: The committee discussed potential changes to the poppy program that would be beneficial to address at the upcoming convention. These changes include:

Allowing the fund to cover some overhead costs, such as accounting software for the GEPF.

Funding repairs to equipment used for storing and managing poppy inventory.

Purchasing a single computer for the GEPF to improve operational efficiency.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Foote

CARRIED

SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT: Comrade Walsh

I have completed 4 requests for Poppy Fund assistance, referred 2 veterans to the Command Service Officer for additional follow-up and assistance.

Comrade J. Hyshka motioned to approve the listed assistance given

Motion 175-24-009 Gas & Grocery cards \$100 each total \$200.00

Motion 175-24-010 Grocery Cards \$ 300.00

Motion 175-24-011 Gas Cards \$100.00

Motion 175-24-012 Grocery Cards \$200.00

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade L. MacIntosh

CARRIED

HONOURS & AWARDS: Comrade Fecteau No Report

CORRESPONDENCE: Comrade C. Wills No Report

CADET LIAISON OFFICER: Comrade Fecteau

570 RCACS: On May 16 I visited 570 RCACS, there were 42 cadets on parade. They had a MRE Cookout. Each division had made an entry of meals. Eight different dishes in total were made. As always, the most important thing is they all had fun.

The current CO is stepping down and I had an opportunity to meet the new CO.

Their recruitment drive is working well.

CO's parade on 6 Jun with the ACR on June 8th.

504 RCACS: ACR on June 15th.

1809 RCACC: 60 cadet on parade no problem with the way thing are going.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade

CARRIED

180 RCACC: Comrade Hazen reported On the 21 of May 2024, I (Jocelyn Guillemette) introduce myself to Capt. Welter as one of the legion's liaisons who will be going to visit the Army Cadet 180 RCACC unit every month.

I also mentioned that I will introduce the other legion's Liaison, which will be Comrade Janet Hazen at the next parade.

On May 21, 2024 there were 32 cadets and 2 instructors on parade and they were practicing for their annual parade, which will be held on the Saturday the first of June 2024. On that note, Capt. Welter asked me about the legion medal of excellence, Janet and myself will be presenting this medal to Cadet WO Cora Leavitt at the June 1st Parade.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade R. Wills

CARRIED

SGT-AT-ARMS: Comrade Etmanski No Report

LADIES AUXILIARY: Comrade K. Earles

Although our year is winding down, we are still doing all we can for the Legion. We are still having 50/50 and Meat Draws every Saturday throughout the summer. There will be a special "All Things Bar-B-Que" Meat Draw on Saturday June 29, 2024.

On May 21 we had our Honours and Awards. Congratulations to all recipients with these special mentions: Eldean Baskerville received her 65 year pin, Loree Hurst received her Life Membership and Rick Etmanski received a "White Skirt" as a thank you for all he does for our LA.

On Saturday May 25th the Kingsway Ladies Auxiliary presented a "White Skirt" to our youngest recipient and a piggy bank donation. Jaxx (great grandson to Blondie and Ron Charlet) has been coming to our meat raffles and bingos throughout the year when his busy schedule allows. He absolutely loves helping the Ladies with the meat raffle and free fun bingos. His enthusiasm is contagious!

The Farmer's Market starts on June 9, 2024 11am-3 pm. Caroline will be there as often as possible selling items for the Legion and LA. She also will have registration and transfer forms for anyone interested. Just drop by to say hello.

If you need a little light reading we have a small Library so come on down on a Saturday or Canada Day and have a look.

We are looking for small items that can be prizes for the Free Fun Bingo. July 1st your Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting Free Fun Bingo from 1:30 PM to 3 PM.

The Ladies are having a Bake Sale on Canada Day also. Donated baking can be brought to the Legion Sunday June 30th between 2 and 3 PM or between 9 and 10 AM on Monday July 1st. Bake Sale starts at 10 AM and will run until approximately 2PM.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Simon

CARRIED

The LA presented a cheque to the branch to offset the cost of Canada Day.

LEST WE FORGET: No Report

KIPNESS CENTRE No report

VETERAN'S VILLA No report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Comrade Torrie announced that the city approved the installation of a cell tower on our property. Sometime in Aug Rogers will be coming in to do a site review and take soil samples.

I so move my report.
Seconded by Comrade

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS:
Canada Day

NEW BUSINESS:

Comrade C. Wills motioned that we put Comrade Etmanski's name forward for Life Membership.
Seconded by Comrade J. Hyshka

CARRIED

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD & WELFARE OF KINGSWAYS BRANCH # 175

1945 Newspaper: Judy Morell asked about caring for a copy we have of a 1945 newspaper regarding the end of the war. It was recommended that se contact the Loyal Eddies Museum for assistance.

50/50 # 565260
Amount: \$65.00

Winner: Mark Chiasson

Motion: To adjourn was made by Comrade W. Hyshka
The President closed the meeting by ritual.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M



Robert "Mac" Torrie
President
Kingsway Legion Branch #175



Carol Wills
Executive Secretary
Kingsway Legion Branch #175