

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION KINGSWAY BRANCH #175
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2025

The President opened the meeting by ritual at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was chaired by Comrade Torrie

ROLL CALL:

Present: R. Etmanski, J. Hyshka, Matheson, W. Hyshka, O'Brien, Walsh, Deugau, Werner, Foote, Torrie, Criss

Excused: Wiebe, Wills, Luce

Absent:

LAST POST

No report

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA:

Motion to accept the agenda as amended made by Comrade O'Brien

Seconded by Comrade W. Hyshka

- 4. Under Committee Reports remove 4(a), (b), (d), (e), (h), (j), (k), (n), (p), (q) and (t)
- 7. Under New Business:
 - a. Legacy Place

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORTS:

No report

WAYS & MEANS: Comrade Matheson

The Raffle ticket sales are at \$ 12,950.00 as we see, so we are a little bit behind according to our calculations.

The only other thing I have to discuss tonight is that there is a grant that you can apply for that needs to be done by July. It is a grant for building maintenance but it a situation where we have to match what we apply for. So what I would like to discuss today if we have any funds available to do so and how much and what would be the priorities.

I so move my report
Seconded by Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

Comrade Criss will assist Comrade Matheson with this grant

MEMBERSHIP: Comrade C. Wills

No report

NEW MEMBERS: Comrade C. Wills

No report

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Comrade

No report

VOLUNTEER REPORT: Comrade

SPORTS: Comrade W. Hyshka

No report

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Comrade Torrie

No report

HISTORIAN: Comrade Etmanski

No report

SICK & VISTING: Comrade Wiebe

No report

ENTERTAINMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS: Comrade Luce

Subject: Entertainment Update – May Events Recap & June Forecast

1. Recap of May - June Entertainment Events:

The month of May brought solid community engagement and a variety of entertainment offerings that continued to build momentum. Highlights included:

- **Canteen Weekend Band Nights** drew between **35 to 75 people** per event, depending on weather, the featured act, and other city events. As per request to bring to the bands on only

performing one night for only \$400. That wasn't well received, so we will continue to brainstorm. I must mention that we are the one group that staying within our Year budget.

- **Extreme Music Bingo** and **Comedy Nights** remained steady with good member feedback.

Overall, entertainment remains **on budget** and continues to support community engagement and Food & Bar revenue.

2. Stanley Cup Playoff Oilers Watch Parties:

Throughout the playoffs, we hosted **Oilers Watch Parties** in all the rooms but mostly Juno Lounge, with **attendance ranging from 2 to 30 people**, depending on the game and time slot.

While I've heard some Executive comments stating that "we haven't made any money on this," I would respectfully counter with the following:

- **What has been the cost?**

None to the Legion. These events are powered by **my personal equipment, my time (unpaid), and my setup**, including the **large screen and sound system**.

- We've offered **Watch Party Menus (all monies go to the Legion)** and we run **50/50 draws** during the games with more than 10 people attending.

- These events have been **advertised on our website, on social media, and posted at the door**, ensuring members know we're open and active.

- Most importantly, these events **keep the doors open and the lights on** during Regular scheduled hours where we can't push people out of the legion for the staff to go home early. — showing life in the building even with modest attendance.

The Watch Parties aren't about massive profits — they're about **consistency, morale, and member engagement**, particularly during one of the city's biggest sporting moments. And we did it **without spending a dime of Legion money**.

3. Neil Diamond Tribute – June 27, 2025:

Ticket sales are currently at as of today **169 out of 216**, putting us **over 75% sold** with 10 days to go.

Marketing efforts include:

- Continued radio coverage on **96.3 The Breeze**
- Social media posts and event reminders
- Internal signage and vinyl street sign displays
- Member-to-member buzz and personal outreach

A final push is underway, and we are confident we can **sell this out**.

4. Concerns and Challenges:

While event performance has been solid, I must continue to raise concern regarding **lack of support**, linked to **Executive and Staff challenges** that have impacted planning, morale, and volunteer participation.

The Entertainment Program is **volunteer-driven**. If leadership cannot align and show consistent support, we risk losing the very people keeping this department running.

This needs to be addressed now. I strongly urge a meeting between Executive, Staff, and Entertainment Committee to rebuild trust, improve communication, and create a clear path forward.

5. Final Note:

To our loyal supporters — volunteers, members, and staff — Thank you!
With hard work and persistence, we've held the line. With unity and leadership, we can rise further.

Comrade Criss so moves Comrade Luce's report.
Seconded by Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

Comrade Etmanski – to have Joe add to his next poster that we are going to have a meat draw at 1:00 pm on Canada Day. That was Bill and Mary's suggestion. I think it is a great idea to do all barbecue stuff and we should make some good money.

WEEKLY DANCES: Comrade O'Brien

An idea that I have been toying with is to raise the admission fee to \$15 from \$10 and with the extra \$5 will buy a tray of sandwiches which will be freebies. Free food seems to attract people. It is just an idea to try and increase the population. We would not do it until September. It is just some food for thought.

Comrade Etmanski – to think about seeing what the turnout is this week and then maybe cutting it back to every second weekend for the summer especially if we are not making enough to pay the band. I think that is a consideration you should be looking at.

Comrade O'Brien – As for the meat draw on Canada Day – I will find my own volunteers

I so move my report.
Seconded by Comrade Deugau

CARRIED

POPPY:

No report

SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT: Comrade Walsh

I have completed 1 request for Poppy Fund assistance.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Criss

CARRIED

HONOURS & AWARDS: Comrade Torrie

No report

CORRESPONDENCE: Comrade J. Hyshka –

Comrade Etmanski – I got an email about the tap machines so I will have to get you to look at that. We will need to get Terese involved in that.

CADET LIAISON REPORTS: Comrade Criss

CB Hill

C.B. Hill Navy League cadets held their year end parade and awards ceremony on the 14th of June. I was asked to attend as the Reviewing Officer.

The day was a huge success, well attended by friends and relatives.

On behalf of the legion I thanked the Cadets, wished them well and told them to enjoy their summer.

504 Blatchford Field Royal Canadian Air Cadets

Comrade Fecteau attended the ACR on 11 June 2025. The Reviewing Officer was Major Randy Fisher. Bill was part of the members of the Reviewing Party and presented the Cadet Medal of Excellence.

The Drill Team display pulled off and excellent performance where Major Fisher presented the Lord Strathcona Medal.

180 20TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT, ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADET CORPS

Jocelyn Guillemette and Janet Hazen 2nd Vice President of the Kingsway Legion attended the 180 20th Field Artillery Regiment Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps 85th Annual Ceremonial Review on June 14, 2025, at 11:30am at the Alberta Aviation Museum Parade Square on 11410 Kingsway Ave. There were 21 cadets on the parade and many presentations and awards were presented to many well-deserving individuals. On behalf of Alberta-NWT Command Royal Canadian Legion, Jocelyn Guillemette and Janet Hazen presented the Troop Commander Cadet WO A. Koffi with

the Award of Excellence.

After the ceremony the cadets proudly presented many clinic tables on the activities and training, they have accomplished throughout the year. Light lunch and refreshments were served.

We were approached by a representative from the parent group wanting to know if there were any occasions for the 180 Cadet Corp to volunteer at the Legion as the cadets are always enthusiastic and eager to help out.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade O'Brien

CARRIED

Comrade Hyshka – On June 3, 2025, we attended the 83rd Annual Ceremonial Review for 1809 the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

There were 75 cadets on parade. Last year they had only 44.

I presented Kingsway Legion's Most Progressive Cadet Trophy.

The cadets will be going to numerous camps this year.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Deugau

CARRIED

Comrade W. Hyshka – have we heard anything about that other cadet corp

Comrade Etmanski – I spoke to Greg Laskey from Norwood and he was not even aware that they wanted to volunteer. Nobody said anything to him. He was going to call them. I am going to leave it.

We also need to get another volunteer this fall for 180 20th Field Artillery as Jocelyn Guillemette and Janet Hazen are done.

KIPNES: Comrade Deugau

The Legion is hoping to do a veteran's dinner in September. I have to get numbers from Kipnes as to the number of veterans and spouses/caregivers. I will also need to check on any allergies.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Matheson

CARRIED

SGT-AT-ARMS: Comrade Foote

No report

MANAGER'S REPORT: Flo Werner

I want to thank Stan Hawkes for bringing the midget wrestling here for the weekend. We did very well on liquor sales. I also want to thank the staff and volunteers for the great job done by all. We also have to thank St. Johns Ambulance for the work they did. They only had one incident, and they did good job.

The office will be closed at 5pm for the summer, we are hoping to find volunteers to sell tickets in the lobby on busy evenings until 9 pm.

Comrade W. Hyshka so moves the Manager's report.

Seconded by Comrade Foote

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

NEW BUSINESS:

Comrade Etmanski

1. Resignation of 2nd Vice President – Janet Hazen has resigned effective immediately
2. Resignation of volunteer coordinator – Donna Buchanan has resigned effective immediately
3. Front office – new summer hours – see Flo's report
4. Bursary

Motion by: Comrade R. Etmanski – to approve this bursary of a grandchild of a veteran from the Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund for a total of \$2,000.00 for their continued education towards their Engineering Degree - Section 402(vi)(a) of the Poppy Manual

Seconded by: Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

5. Legacy Place

Motion by: Comrade Walsh – to approve this request for Veteran's Assistance to Legacy Place Society from the Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund for a total of \$12,911.83 for a new furnace

Seconded by: Comrade Criss

CARRIED

Motion by: Comrade Walsh – to approve this request for Veteran's Assistance to Legacy Place Society from the Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund for a total of \$9,023.40 for handi-accessible driveway and sidewalk

Seconded by: Comrade O'Brien

CARRIED

The President closed the meeting by ritual.

Motion for adjournment made by Comrade Criss

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm

Next meeting Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 6:30 pm

 Rick Etmanski President Kingsway Branch #175	 Jackie Hyshka Executive Secretary Kingsway Branch #175
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