

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION KINGSWAY BRANCH #175
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025

I'd like to acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and traveling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

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

Attendance: 37 Members 1 Guests

The meeting was chaired by Comrade S. Danyi

ROLL CALL:

Present: Comrades, R. Etmanski, C. Wills, J. Hazen, J. Hyshka, S. Danyi, N. Danyi, R. Torrie, W. Hyshka, S. Criss, B. O'Brien, D. MacIntosh, J. Luce, M. Walsh, K. Deugau, and L. Foote

Excused:

B. Wiebe

PRESENTATIONS

James Robicheau – 5 year pin

Kim Earles – 15 year pin

Paddy Earles – 15 year pin

Chuck Colpitts – 55 year pin

LAST POST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Service (if applicable)</u>
John Pinent	94	01 Mar 2025	Ordinary
Gordon Edward Graces		01 Apr 2025	Ordinary
Leslie Sumka	81	17 Dec 2024	Affiliate
Edward Lee	83	06 Mar 2025	Ordinary

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA:

Motion: to accept the agenda as amended made by Comrade N. Danyi

Seconded by Comrade D. MacIntosh

CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING DATING 25 MARCH 2025

Motion: To accept the minutes was made by Comrade C. Wills
Seconded by Comrade P. Earles

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER and FINANCE COMMITTEE: Presented by Comrade N. Danyi

The Finance Committee is pleased to present the following report:

1. Completion of Balance Sheet Audit

After two years of diligent work, we have successfully completed an internal audit and correction of all balance sheet accounts. This significant milestone provides a clearer and more accurate financial picture of our branch.

2. Timely Completion of Financial Statements

Our Fiscal Year End 2024 financial statements were completed on time and submitted prior to the March 31, 2025 deadline. This ensures we remain compliant with reporting requirements and able to make informed financial decisions moving forward.

3. Current Financial Position and Cash Flow

As of this report, we are utilizing \$70,000 of our available credit line, and our liquidity ratio is below 1. This means managing day-to-day cash flow has become a top priority. We are actively monitoring expenditures and working to improve our cash position.

4. Revenue and Operating Margins

While our revenue has increased by 40% year-over-year — equivalent to approximately \$33,000 — we are currently just breaking even. It's important to note that \$20,000 of that increase came from a generous donation by one of our members, which provided essential relief in March.

5. Ongoing Fixed Costs

Our building continues to be our largest expense category, accounting for 43% of our fixed costs. We are evaluating all options to address this challenge and improve operational efficiency.

6. April Committee Meeting

Please note that no Finance Committee meeting was held in April due to urgent family obligations of the Committee Chair. We will resume our regular meeting schedule in May.

7. Budget Performance

We are currently operating within the locked budget that was approved by the

membership. Expense management is on track, and we are projecting to remain within budgeted spending for the year. However, revenue performance is a concern — we are more than 15% below target. At 25% through the year, we anticipated revenues to be near \$350,000. While revenue may fluctuate seasonally, our goal is to close this gap and stay within 10% of target by year-end.

8. Operational Strategy Committee

A new committee is being formed, co-chaired by Ron Wills and Ron Charlet, to advise on changes to the operational structure of the Legion. This initiative is crucial, as our current operations are unsustainable and significant change is needed for the long-term survival of the Branch. This committee will operate separately from the Finance Committee.

All members are encouraged to participate and contribute their insights. If you are interested in joining, please see me after the meeting — I will compile a contact list to share with the committee chairs.

Thank you for your attention and continued support as we work to ensure the financial health and future of Kingsway Legion Branch 175.

I so move my report

Seconded by Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

MOTION made by: Comrade N. Danyi – To pay Ellis Group LLP a total invoice amount of \$1935.00 of which \$235.00 is GST for the completion of the December 31, 2024 Financial Statements.

Seconded by: Comrade R. Charlet

CARRIED

WAYS & MEANS: Comrade Hazen

The Raffle Application for the 50/50 Raffle for \$50,000 has been approved by AGLC; we received confirmation on April 16, 2025. I requested raffle tickets to be printed and the tickets were picked up on April 24, just in time for the Rally in Gibbons and the Alberta NWT Command Provincial Convention. Mac and Rick were to confirm that Kingsway Legion will have permission to sell Raffle tickets at both these events. I am in the process of printing some promotional material to use at the branch, and other community events. Kathy D and Jennifer M have volunteered to monitor and audit the raffle tickets. The front end staff was briefed on processing raffle ticket by telephone. Tickets were ready for sale on April 25, 2025. I will be canvassing for places to sell our tickets other than the Branch, Steve C is looking into having the Cadet Corps sell tickets as well. To support the Raffle and try to sell as many tickets as possible I asking the membership for their full support and a special request to the Sgt at Arms to ask his team if they would help with shifts for the upcoming garage sale. Having veteran members in full uniform, I believe will promote the sale of raffle tickets. Servus has sent notification that they will not be sponsoring the Canada Day Celebration. No word to date from Labatt's for their corporate sponsorship? I will start to canvas

other local sponsors for the Canada Day Celebrations. An application to the Poppy Fund requesting funds to host a Veteran's Dinner for 250 members was completed. Rick presented the application at the last Poppy Fund meeting and it was approved, the application is now going up to Alberta Command for their endorsement. The dinner is scheduled for the 13 of June. First veteran's to be invited will be residence of the Kipnes Centre, I will try to arrange their monthly bus to transport them to Kingsway. A mass email will go out to all our Ordinary Members and their spouses or caregivers. All participants must RSVP by a set date, so that the kitchen can arrange for staff, supplies and volunteers. Would like to have volunteers that are not ordinary members to serve and work the door, and help with 50/50 Raffle sales. Everyone will be invited to attend the Juno lounge after the meal at a reduced door entrance. Ali Bright will be performing and we are anticipating a large crowd. Perhaps this will promote more of our members to support the Kingsway Legion by coming out to our events. Last month I was given misinformation on the Horizon Grant that was for a total amount of \$22096.00, this grant was received last year and the notification was only to finalize and to send in the final audit on what the funds were used for. I am continuing to update the website, Facebook accounts and continue to compile a data base of membership emails and other contacts to send out the Entertainment Newsletter each month. I encourage all our members to help assist in the selling of the \$50,000 50/50 Raffle by signing out a ticket book at the front desk and sell the tickets to your family and friends. Tell your friends and family members that they can purchase the tickets via telephone by calling the front desk. Every time we sell one ticket we are helping the Kingsway Legion to continue operations and to provide services for all the members. Big Thank You to all that have already joined the team and sold tickets. Reminder for everyone, that I will be out of the area for the May long weekend, the first week of June and June 16 to the 22.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade B. Charlet

CARRIED

MEMBERSHIP: Comrade C. Wills

MEMBERSHIP: Comrade C. Wills reported that we have 868 members for 2025 in good standing.

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate	Life Members
305	326	237	25

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Fecteau

CARRIED

NEW MEMBERS: Comrade C. Wills

7 New Applications 1 Transfers 0 Reinstatement

New Members

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate
	Ferguson, Wilma	Monaghay, Ernest
	Aitkens, Harry	Symak, Christopher
	Blume, Marlene	Sumka, RoseMarie
		Finck, Gwendolyn

Transfer

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate
Martin, Joseph Surrey, BC Branch 08		

Reinstatements - 0

For a total of 8

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade J. Guillemette

CARRIED

Memberships will be increasing in September 2025 to \$75.00.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Comrade Hazen

Ron Wills has taken that over the newsletter which I am grateful for. I am continuing to update the website, Facebook account and continue to compile a database of membership emails and other contacts so that we can send out more news blurbs or entertainment newsletter.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade E. MacIntosh

CARRIED

SPORTS: Comrade W. Hyshka

Attended the District 2 Spring Rally this past Sunday and Kingsway Legion will be hosting the following sporting events:

8 Ball Doubles – Saturday, November 1, 2025

Dart Senior Mixed – Sunday, November 16, 2025

8 Ball Single – Saturday, November 22, 2025

Shuffleboard (all categories) – Saturday, December 6, 2025

Just reminder to qualify for reimbursement you must have your meetings, your volunteer hours which must include participation in the Poppy Campaign and if we have the finances.

I so move my report

Seconded by Comrade K. Earles

CARRIED

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Comrade Torrie

Routine maintenance for the month of April included:

1. Tap washer in the kitchen sink had to be replaced,
2. Glass washer in the Maple Leaf was serviced,
3. Compressor for the Beer Cooler blew a seal and was repaired,
4. Kitchen hoods were cleaned as required by AHS and Insurance Policy,
5. The Time Clock was serviced, and a new ribbon was installed.

Cost is estimated at approximately \$1,400.

Will be getting the Parking swept and cleaned early next month!

I so move my report

Seconded by Comrade R. Charlet

CARRIED

HISTORIAN: Comrades Etmanski/S. Danyi

No report

Veteran of the Month – Comrade S. Danyi

Trooper Michael Yuki Hayakaze served with distinction in the Canadian Armed Forces as a member of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), an armoured regiment based in Edmonton, Alberta.

In late 2007, Trooper Hayakaze deployed to Afghanistan as a Leopard 2 tank driver with C Squadron. On March 2, 2008, while conducting a supply mission in the Mushan region of Panjwayi District, approximately 45 kilometres west of Kandahar City, his armoured vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. Though he was evacuated by helicopter, he succumbed to his injuries upon arrival at Kandahar Airfield.

Trooper Hayakaze is remembered by his peers and commanders as an enthusiastic, capable, and well-liked soldier. He was known for his willingness to support his team, his eagerness to learn, and his positive attitude in the face of adversity. His contributions during pre-deployment training and operational service were invaluable to his squadron's cohesion and effectiveness.

Posthumously, Trooper Hayakaze was awarded several honours in recognition of his sacrifice. His name continues to be honoured by his regiment and the broader military community. Trooper Hayakaze's legacy serves as a powerful reminder of the courage and commitment exemplified by

those who serve Canada in uniform.

I so move my report.
Seconded by Comrade R. Torrie

CARRIED

SICK & VISTING: Comrade Wiebe

No report

ENTERTAINMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS: Comrade J. Luce

Over the past four months, Kingsway Legion has reignited its purpose through entertainment, connection, and community-building. We've hosted some truly incredible events including a high-energy CCR Tribute, a thrilling Murder Mystery Dinner, our ever-popular Music Bingo Night, Valentines & St. Patty's dinner and dance events, and a joyful Cultural Ukrainian Dinner & Dance which was a huge due part of Comrade Jackie Hyshka. Thank you Jackie!

We've also brought laughter back into the mix with Monday Night Comedy – Legion of Laughs. And in our beloved Juno Lounge, we've showcased 16 bands / entertainers—each one bringing life, music, and momentum to our branch.

While attendance hasn't always matched our hopes, here's something to celebrate: we've made money. That means the work is effective, and the foundation is solid. But to continue building on this success, we need something more: a shift in energy, attitude, and ownership from within.

With over 800 members, it's striking to see that only around 30% of event attendees are Legion members, and many of those are from outside our own branch. The majority of our crowd comes from the public—and while that's a positive sign of outreach, we're struggling to make them return regularly.

Why?

Because in many cases, the Legion can feel more like a private club than the welcoming, vibrant hubit has the potential to be. If we want people to keep coming back—and bring their friends—we must become a place that feels warm, safe, fun, inclusive, and exciting. That means leading with hospitality, kindness, and unity at every level.

We cannot build community while we're busy head-hunting each other over ideas or clinging to turf. The future of Kingsway isn't about control—it's about collaboration. It's about every member asking, "How can I help make this better?" not just for ourselves, but for those we hope to welcome through our doors.

And now, it's time to take things to the next level.

Thanks to a generous donation from one of our own members, we're about to launch our first advertising campaign on the radio. We've even created our own commercials for radio and television. While our current budget only allows for radio airtime, this is a huge step forward—and it's only the beginning.

But advertising alone won't bring success. Each one of us is part of the message we're sending out. If we invite people into our house, we all have a responsibility to ensure they're met with the energy, kindness, and excitement that lives up to what we're promoting.

The message is simple: Kingsway Legion is open, alive, and ready to welcome you. Help us spread that message. Help us live it.

This is our time to show what unity, leadership, and community spirit can do. The events have proven the potential. Now let's fulfill it—together.

I so move my report.
Seconded by Comrade R. Charlet

CARRIED

WEEKLY DANCES: Comrade O'Brien

No report

POPPY: Comrade D. MacIntosh

There was no Committee meeting this month only a Directors Meeting.

SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT: Comrade D. MacIntosh

I assisted 3 veterans with \$900.00 in Walmart cards, \$100.00 in Esso cards, paid 2 utility bills and referred 1 to the Command Service Officer. Comrade R. Wills assisted with paper work for 1 of the veterans.

I so move my report.
Seconded by Comrade N. Danyi

CARRIED

HONOURS & AWARDS: Comrade Torrie

No report

CORRESPONDENCE: Comrade J. Hyshka

I received a message from Dan Hansen who is a member of Cold Lake Legion regarding Canadian Walk for Veterans that is run through True Patriot Love Foundation. He is looking for a Team Lead in Edmonton.

I so move my report.
Seconded by Comrade J. Guillemette

CARRIED

CADET LIAISON OFFICER: Comrade Criss

No report

SGT-AT-ARMS: Comrade L. Foote

The Honour Guard will be present at a Celebration of Life at the Branch on Friday 25 Apr 2025 at 1200 hrs for Comrade Tim Murphy.

The Honour Guard will be present at a Celebration of Life at the Branch on Saturday 10 May 2025.

I so move my report
Seconded by Comrade E. MacIntosh

CARRIED

LADIES AUXILIARY: Madam B. Charlet

On April 12 we held our Spring Raffle and Bake Sale. It was a huge success. Thanks to our hardworking ladies. April 22 attended a memorial service at the Kipnes. April 24 back at Kipnes to help with the monthly birthday party. April 25 served in the Honour Guard. April 27 attended the Spring Rally. April 29 volunteered at Kensington Bingo

I so move report
Seconded by Comrade P. Earles

CARRIED

Madam K. Earles – at the Spring Rally the Kingsway Ladies Auxiliary was awarded most new member for 2024 (14)

LEST WE FORGET: Comrade R. Torrie

No report

KIPNESS CENTRE: Comrade K. Deugau

I met with Bev Friske on April 3. I had a tour of Kipnes, met Shawna Kessler the Recreation Director. Kipnes could use vets to visit vets at Kipnes. If you are visiting the veterans, you need to go through a screening process. Speak to Kipnes.

They are not doing a memorial for veterans so far. Kipnes has 1 military outing per month as they have limited bus service. I did pass on the Shawna Kessler the upcoming possible date of June 13 for the veterans dinner. I would like to start up monthly luncheons for the Kipnes again if we can manage this roughly \$25 per person.

I so move report
Seconded by Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

VETERAN'S VILLA: Comrade P. Earles

No report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Comrade R. Etmanski

We attended the Spring Rally in Gibbons. We had 15 Legion members and 8 LA in attendance. We have 15 delegates and 3 observers going to Convention this weekend. Many of the Legions in attendance at the Rally are having the same problems with Command as we are.

I so move report
Seconded by Comrade R. Charlet

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Facebook

So a friend of mine in Calgary came across this Facebook page called the Royal Canadian Legion Exposed and we were front and center - Kingsway. It is from our favourite friend Matt Scarpino and he has been posting sections from our minutes. He is getting them off the website. So we can either take them off the website or that particular part of the website is password protected like Provincial Command has done.

Motion: Comrade R. Torrie – I move that we remove the Executive and General Minutes from the website.

Seconded by: Comrade E. MacIntosh

DEFEATED
3 for
34 against

2. 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 \$4,000.00 for their continued education towards their Masters - Section 402(vi)(a) of the Poppy Manual

Seconded by: Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

3. 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 \$1,000.00 for their continued education toward their Bachelors - Section 402(vi)(a) of the Poppy Manual

Seconded by: Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

4. Veteran's Dinner

Motion by: Comrade R. Etmanski - to approve this Veteran's dinner for 250 Veterans from the Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund for a total of \$8,750.00 – Section 403ii(h) of the Poppy Manual

Seconded by: Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

5. Petty Cash Replenishment

Motion by: Comrade R. Etmanski – to recommend to the Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund to seek approval for the replenishment of \$400.00 for petty cash

Seconded by: Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

6. Flower Planting (Volunteers)

All the flowers for the flower pots out front, at the cenotaph and the teardrop are being graciously donated by Deb Doyle. We really could use some people to assist in the planting. Possible date of late May. Thank you Deb!!

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD & WELFARE OF KINGSWAYS BRANCH # 175

Volunteer Necessities

To have water and coffee set up for the volunteers in the back so we don't have to keep bothering the bar staff.

Donation

A huge thank you to Bill O'Brien for the generous donation to allow the KWL Entertainment to produce our first radio commercial.

Cancellation of Cribbage on Monday

We have about 50 people in our crib and most of them are seniors. This is a time that they look forward to. The reason it was cancelled was because they deferred this past Monday because of the Election and they held in on Easter Monday.

Dress for Convention

Full uniform for opening and closing ceremonies. We will find out what dress will be during Saturday on Friday night.

Mother's Day and Christmas Day Dinner

This will be the last Mother's Day Tea that Ron and Carol Wills will be doing and they will not be doing the Christmas dinner this year.

Volunteer Coordinator

New Coordinator is Dawna Buchanan and she is looking for volunteers. Volunteers for the garage sale are not doing well.

DRAWS

50/50 # 653148 Winner: Mike Walsh
Amount: \$50.00

The next General Meeting will be on May 27, 2025

Motion: To adjourn was made by Comrade W. Hyshka

The President closed the meeting by ritual.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 P.M

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