

District 2 Meeting

June 5, 2021

Branch #65, Brigus

Present:

Provincial Command	Philip Wood	2 nd Vice-President
District Command	Harold Brown (Chair)	Commander
Branch 9 Spaniard's Bay	Gordon Parsons	Past President
Branch 15 Harbour Grace	Christine Janes	Past President
Branch 23 Carbonear	Berkley Lawrence	President
Branch 23 Carbonear	Susan Goodwin	Secretary
Branch 23 Carbonear	Hal Evely	Chaplin/Past-President
Branch 32 Bay Roberts	Ross Petten	President
Branch 32 Bay Roberts	Tom Harris	Treasurer
Branch 32 Bay Roberts	Anne Harris	
Branch 32 Bay Roberts	Karen Johnston-Fowler	Recording Secretary
Branch 39 Dildo	Brian Cranford	President
Branch 39 Dildo	Marj Higdon	Secretary
Branch 39 Dildo	Gordon Reid	Treasurer
Branch 65 Brigus	Gerald Mercer	President
Branch 65 Brigus	Ron Camp	2 nd Vice-President
Branch 65 Brigus	Craig Pomeroy	S. Officer??
Branch 65 Brigus	Mike Hedderson	1 st Vice-President
Branch 65 Brigus	David Barrett	Membership
Branch 65 Brigus	Kevin Power	Treasurer
Charwood Manor	Sarah Lawrence	Treasurer

Apologies: Branch 22, Upper Island Cove

1. Opening Ritual/Welcome – Host Branch and District Commander

At 10:00 hrs, Commander Comrade Harold Brown opened the meeting by playing the recording of "O Canada". He welcomed all District 2 Branches in attendance and noted that Branch 22, Upper Island Cove, were unable to attend.

Gerald Mercer (Host Branch 65 President) announced that there will be sandwiches and soup to be served after the meeting.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting – January 30th, 2021 at Branch 32, Bay Roberts
The Minutes were made available to everyone.

MOTION: Comrade Pomeroy moved and Comrade Janes seconded the motion that the Minutes be approved. CARRIED

No errors or omissions identified.

3. Business Arising

Comrade Harold Brown announced that Nicole Badcock is having problems with her hands and can no longer physically record the minutes of the meetings. She handed in her resignation, and it was accepted. Harold paid tribute to Nicole by advising all the work she has done and thanked her very much for her service.

Comrade Harold then announced that Comrade Karen Johnston-Fowler has taken Nicole's place for recording the Minutes. Karen is a member of Branch 32 and a supporter of the Legion. He thanked her for taking on the job.

4. Branch Reports:

a) **Branch 09 – Spaniard's Bay** (Gordon Parsons reported)

Finance:

The Branch is holding its own, however, it's difficult. We do owe thanks to NL Command, Dominion Command, Government grants and wage subsidies for all their financial help.

Most of our weekly monies come from bar sales and VLT games. The branch has extended our opening an extra 2 hours per day trying to generate more revenue.

Our new hours are 2:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

Functions:

We reopened our bingo and were doing great until another Covid outbreak in Feb/March and the new rule of having to wear your mask all night while playing bingo was too much for players, so we had to cancel the game.

We have nine weddings booked for this Summer; however, the number of guests has been reduced and guests are not permitted to dance. These Covid rules will certainly cut into our bar revenue.

On June 4th, the branch hosted an afternoon luncheon of soup, sandwiches, and dessert. Members of L.A. and Legion donated the product and tickets sold for \$6.00 each. It was successful.

On July 4th, the branch will be holding a flea market.

We are trying to fill in some Saturday's that are not booked.

Membership:

Membership last year was 105 but we have 93 this year. This was caused by death, transfers to other branches, and non-renewals.

Summary:

I'm sure all branches are struggling because of Covid-19, but if we stay positive and work together in comradeship, the future of this organization will not only survive, but also be stronger.

b) **Branch 15 – Harbour Grace** (Christine Janes, Past-President reported)
Good morning comrades. President Morrissey sends her regards.
Unfortunately, she could not attend this morning due to a family commitment.

The Branch currently has 35 paid members. We just initiated 3 new members in the past 2 months. Things have been quiet because of Covid; however, we did have a beautiful service for Battle of the Atlantic on the Boardwalk by the SS Kyle. We did well with the NTV Bingo, and we just had a successful cold plate fundraiser, partnered with King's Restaurant.

We are currently looking into options to get the banners up and perhaps stabilized so that the banners don't back off (welding or lock tight). We are putting plans together now for the wreath laying on July 1st.

c) **Branch 22 – Upper Island Cove** (no report)

d) **Branch 23 – Carbonear** (Berkley Lawrence, President reported)

Membership: currently we have 173 members.

Financial: we are doing quite well. We have received \$60,000 in Federal loans and must pay back \$40,000. We have received approx. \$16,000 in payments from Dominion Command, and we have received approx. another \$4,000 for our work with Jackpot Bingo.

Events: We have weekly Saturday evening music. There are usually 50 people attending and every second or third Saturday we have chicken wings on sale.

- we will be hosting a yard sale in our parking lot in July.
- we just hosted a mixed dart tournament, and this was a great day for bar sales.
- we have received approval for an outside patio, and it will be built in the next few weeks and then opened.
- we have decided to open on Sundays from 2:00 p.m. until midnight. We are doing this on a trial basis and the interest level will decide if we continue.

Honours and Awards: We hosted a wonderful afternoon on 24th May for our honours and awards event. Due to Covid-19 we made the event by invitation only to limit the number of attendees. We gave out 1 Palm Leaf to the MSM Leslie Forward, the MSM to Hal Evely, Life Memberships to Gary Laing, Rhema O'Driscoll and Bill Laing. We gave the Branch Volunteer medal to Denis Murphy, and Mike Butt received the Hubert White Volunteer Memorial Award. A highlight of the day was the presentation of 50 years of service medals and pins to 4 members of the Branch and another 2 to members who could not be present. We had a 7th one ready, but unfortunately Comrade Charles Dowden passed away just two weeks prior to the event.

01 July: we will again be hosting a small private event, no cadets, no marching, just forming up at the war memorial and wreath laying with a members-only bar after the event.

Dominion Convention: We will have two delegates to the convention, but to be honest, I am not sure sitting in front of a computer for three days will be a good thing. Hopefully, there will be good participation. It will be either very interesting or very boring.

We would like to extend to the President and members of Branch 9, our regrets, and thoughts on the passing of Comrade Ray Chipman. I always enjoyed my visits with Ray at the Branch and his contributions to the Branch and the Legion Boys will be missed by all.

Our Branch is doing okay for the time being and if we get back to dancing being allowed, and cards being allowed, we will surely improve our financials. Hopefully, we will be back to normal well before Christmas so we can get some bookings for the season.

Regarding banners, we put them on poles, but because some of the poles were owned by NL Power and Provincial Government, and other groups, they were asked to remove some of them.

They presented a cheque and certificate to a Grade 7 student for the 2nd Junior Poetry contest.

e) **Branch 32 – Bay Roberts** (Ross Petten, President reported)

Bartenders: We currently have 2 full-time bartenders and 2 part-time. They are working out very well.

Events: Since the pandemic we had to cancel most of our regular events. For now, we hold the following:

- Matinees – We also hold several Saturday afternoon matinees from 4-7 p.m. during the year that have drawn a fair number of people.
- Community Breakfasts – we held a breakfast on the May 24th weekend, and we had around 50 people. We are planning

another 3, Father's Day, during Klondyke Days, and Labour Day weekend as well.

- Hot Chicken Dinner – on February 11th, we took orders for a take-out dinner. We had a good response for this.
- We held our AGM and Election of Officers on Sunday February 7th.

New Horizons Project: We were awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Federal Government to build a courtesy wharf. The project has started. At the same time, we will be doing some upgrades to the finger wharf on the east side of the marina.

NTV Jackpot Bingo: We participated in the NTV Bingo again this year that was successful for us. The season ended on April 25th. From January to April, we made a profit of over \$6,000 for our branch.

Summer Student: We applied for and got approval for two Summer Students this year. We will begin interviews shortly and are hoping that they will start work later this month. We also applied for a High School student for the summer from the Provincial Government. We have not heard the outcome of that application yet.

Canada Healthy Communities Initiative: We are presently working on an application for grant money to build a park across from the parking lot of our Branch. We had a designer create the look for us that we are pleased with. It will be used by families, friends, veterans, children, and all walks of life. It is meant to help people in the community through the struggles caused by the pandemic.

Moose License: We got a moose license and moose this year. That's the fourth year in a row. Thanks to Donnie Bradbury for getting the moose, cutting it up and for cooking burgers at our Matinees. We only have about 50 left so the last sales of these will be June 12th. We've made \$1,300 profit on burger sales.

Summer Hamper: We are selling tickets on a \$250 food hamper to be drawn July 3, 2021. Sales are going well.

Finances: Financially our branch is holding its own. If it were not for all the government subsidies, we would be struggling. Our VLTs have been making some money for us and now that it's boating season, we will start getting income coming in from selling the berths. Our bar sales are low.

Website and social media: We have a website (www.rclbranch32nl.ca) and a Facebook Page. We use these for advertising our events. Thanks so much to our comrades Gary Badcock and Patti Babcock, for keeping these up to date and to our bartender, Jennifer Edmunds for taking care of getting our events posted in other venues.

f) **Branch 39 – Dildo** (Brian Cranford, President reported)

President Cranford introduced his comrades Marj Higdon, Secretary and Gordon Reid, Treasurer. He advised that even though they are located in Dildo, their membership stretches from communities around Trinity South, from Normans Cove and down to Hearts Delight.

To date the Branch has followed the NL Government rules and regulations for Covid-19.

We have had our annual general meeting and election of officers.

At the present time, we have a fundraiser on the go, a framed cross stitch "Forget Me Nots" in recognition of the anniversary of Beaumont Hamel. The draw date is June 15, 2021. Tickets are available here at the meeting.

As well, at the present time we are in the process of moving our photos and such upstairs to the big room at the SUF in Dildo with a new lease with the Lodge being negotiated.

g) **Branch 65 – Brigus** (Gerald Mercer, President reported)

- Our membership is now up to 36 members Paid up and 2 new members waiting to get sworn in.
- We have applied and received an 8-week Student Grant for this summer, the student will start work on June 28.
- We also had applied for a New Horizon grant to do renovation to our kitchen, which we notified that we never received one at this time.

- As with Covid still on the go, one of our Cadets Corps the Navy League Corps never started up this year, hopefully in the fall. Our Sea Cadet Corps did start up with in person classes and virtual online whenever we had too.
- Zumba classes have started up again at our building, going twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays.
- Even with our Branch shut down because of Covid, we still are doing renovations to our building, like renovations to our old washroom from top to bottom, just last month installed new ice machine behind the bar, and a complete overall of the plumbing system in our laundry room.
- Our works committee are now in the process of starting construction on a new 16x24 deck of our stag bar area, also looking at doing repairs to our parking lot.
- Also like to report our Branch has two new lifetime member Comrade Ches Spracklin and myself Comrade Gerald Mercer and there is also one more application sent for approval Comrade Mike Hedderson.
- We had our Honour and Awards Ceremony last month when Comrade Brown was here to review our Financial Report for year end. That same night some of our members received Branch year service pins, medals and bars.
- Our Branch just finished up a Community Enhancement Grant a few months ago, in replacing new siding on our building, new stag bar door, and major renovation to the cadet offices.
- Our Finances are in great shape, considering the year we just had, the VLT games are steadily bringing in revenue. Our bar is holding its own, especially on Friday night, very busy. To where we moved the juke box and pool table out in the main hall.
- With announcement of possible open up travel etc. in July, we are now taking bookings for functions, wedding, anniversary etc.

5. New Business

1) Celebration of Achievements of Branch Members

Commander Comrade Harold pointed out the new Presidents of our Branches: Dildo Branch new President, Brian Cranford; Carbonear's new President, Berkley Lawrence; Bay Roberts President, Ross Petten was re-elected, as was Gerald Mercer of Brigus Branch. He noted how proud he is of the Branches who became innovative as they are work their way through this pandemic and are becoming stronger than before. He also thanked all the branch Executive members and all who have come forth to volunteer.

He also pointed out a few Branch members that have received special awards:

Carbonear Branch had Hal Evelyn – MSM and Palm Leaf to Leslie Forward. Bay Roberts Branch had 1 Life membership – Wallace Babcock; MSMs awarded to Whitfield Andrews and Philip Wood, as well as a Palm Leaf to Eric Mercer.

Brigus Branch had Life Membership awarded to Gerald Mercer, Chesley Spracklin and Mike Hedderson.

Condolences were expressed to Branch 9 on the passing of Ray Chipman.

The flags of the Branches were requested to be lowered to half mast for 215 hours out of respect for the 215 indigenous children found in a mass grave in Kamloops, BC. The hours will be up on June 9th at 1100 hrs.

2) July 1st Ceremonies

Commander Comrade Harold announced that the July 1st ceremony should be kept small like last year. There is to be no parade, just a gathering at the respective memorials. If people want to lay wreaths, they are encouraged to do so after the official ceremony. This is in keeping with Covid restrictions. The strong recommendation is that we keep it small this year.

3) Dominion Convention

Normally the convention is in the off year from the Provincial convention.

This year the Convention will be done virtually. To become a delegate, you need to go through the same procedure as if you were there in person. Newfoundland has 63 delegates that could possibly participate in it. The number is based on the number of members that each branch has...1 delegate per 100 members or portion thereof. Votes can be passed on to another delegate. June 20th is the deadline for information to send to Provincial Command.

Berkley Lawrence urged those members not attending to let Command know so that they can send out proxies. He is running for 2nd Vice of Dominion Command. Delegates must log on through your email and push a button to vote. There is no 'live' participation. Therefore, people who have any questions must email Command to get an answer. He respectfully asked the branch delegates for their support.

4) PEC update information

Provincial Convention will be held in August 2022. Those currently on the Executive for a 2-year term were asked to stay on for an extra year to bring it back on track of holding it in the off year of the Dominion Command convention. All agreed. Therefore, the election of provincial command executive will be in 2022. A Branch has been approached to host the next convention, but they have not heard a response yet.

5) Other

6) Branch Issues/Concerns

Berkley Lawrence (Carbonear) advised that Payton Fahey won 2nd for Junior Poetry. There were 4 National winners in our province, 2 of which were 1st place. Winner were in:

Branch 23 Carbonear; Branch 5 Botwood; Branch 50 CBS and Branch 12 GFW, respectively.

There are Legion coins that you can get from Command that are nice. Berkley recommended these as a good way of recognizing people as they can be given to anyone. He also mentioned that to their surprise, their flower planter box was painted and filled with new flowers for the summer. He is very thankful to whomever did it!

Gerald Mercer (Brigus) advised that his branch had fallen behind in awarding service award pins to members. The 5–15-year pins will be presented shortly.

Charwood Manor – (Sarah Lawrence, Treasurer reported)

All is well at Charwood Manor. Our financials are at the auditor, and we are hoping to have it back by June 30th so we can have our Annual Meeting on that date.

The budget we presented was approved by NLHC, however, we received no allocation for capital repairs. We are hoping to get funding for a new HRV, some plumbing replacements and our parking lot sealed. Maybe those items will come later after their budget from the government has been allocated.

At the cottages, the board approved \$7,000 for replacing decks and a block of concrete in one of the walkways. With the price of materials this year we were able to replace two decks only with this amount.

There are no vacancies and no indication of anyone is leaving soon. We had a flurry of activity between December and February with three apartments in one hallway. Our list is not as long as it once was, so if you know anyone who is qualified to come into the Manor, this might be a good time to put in an application. You must be a senior with an income of less than \$32,500.

We are planning a Garden Party for the tenants for July 31st with some fun activities.

Provincial Command – (Philip Wood, 2nd Vice President, Provincial Command reported)

They have been holding meeting via Zoom. They are planning an in-person meeting in the Fall. Brenda Slaney was off due to surgery and is returning on a limited basis for now. Regarding the Poppy and Remembrance Committee, he advised that District 2 is the leader in literary and poster contests throughout the province.

Gerard Marsh is stepping down as Treasurer. Ian Walsh will be back to finish off the term.

Phil will be having surgery any time now so he advised that he will be out of commission for 2 weeks. He also advised that he will be stepping down as Mayor this year but that he will continue to be active in the Legion.

Gordon Parsons of the Spaniards Bay Branch advised that it's hard to get things going. They have not had an AGM for 3 years. There's not enough going on to keep people's interest. He enjoyed hearing what other branches are doing and is hopeful.

Commander Comrade Harold said that it's how we present ourselves in the community. We need to get your families involved so that they would become future members. He also asked them to reach out for help if needed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.