

AGENDA
DISTRICT 2 MEETING
17 October 2020
Branch #32, Bay Roberts

1. Opening Ritual / Welcome – Host Branch & District Commander
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – February 15th, 2020 at Branch 22 – Upper Island Cove
3. Business Arising
4. Branch reports:
 - a- Branch 09 - Spaniards Bay
 - b- Branch 15 - Harbour Grace
 - c- Branch 22 - Upper Island Cove
 - d- Branch 23 - Carbonear
 - e- Branch 32 - Bay Roberts
 - f- Branch 39 - Dildo
 - g- Branch 65 - Brigus
5. New Business:
 1. Poppy Campaign 2020. What that looks like this year.
 2. Remembrance Day Ceremonies as directed by Dominion/Provincial Command.
 3. Membership issues and ideas
 4. Branch issues/Concerns
 5. Future District Meetings in light of Pandemic restrictions
7. Closing Ritual

District 2 Meeting

17 October 2020

Branch #32, Bay Roberts

Provincial Command		Berkley Lawrence	Past-President	Present
Provincial Command		Philip Wood	2 nd Vice-President	Present
District Command		Harold Brown	Commander	Present
District Command		Nicole Badcock	Secretary	Present
Branch 09	Spaniards Bay	Paul Sheppard	President	Present
Branch 09	Spaniards Bay	Gordon Parsons	Executive	Present
Branch 15	Harbour Grace	Paulette Morrissey	President	Present
Branch 15	Harbour Grace	Tyson Purcell	Vice-President	Present
Branch 22	Upper Island Cove	Bernice Coombs	President	Present
Branch 22	Upper Island Cove	Dorothy Adams	Secretary	Present
Branch 23	Carbonear	Hal Evelyn	President	Present
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Ross Petten	President	Present
Branch 39	Dildo	Ira Halfyard	President	Present
Branch 39	Dildo	Don Reid	Secretary	Present
Branch 65	Brigus	Gerald Mercer	President	Present
Branch 65	Brigus	Norman Noseworthy	Poppy Chair	Present

1. Welcome:

at 09:30 hrs. Commander Comrade Harold Brown opened the meeting with parts of the Legion Ritual.
 at 09:31 Upper Island Cove come into the meeting.
 Commander Comrade Harold Brown asked for feed-back from the audience after the meeting as to how the meeting should proceed efficiently in these unusual circumstances. He then advised everyone of the content of the documents given to each person: the 2020 National Poppy Campaign, the Remembrance Ceremonies, the agenda of this meeting as well as the Minutes of the last meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

Commander Comrade Harold Brown asked if there was a need to read them as everyone received them electronically after the last meeting. With no objection from the floor, Commander Comrade Harold Brown asked for a motion to accept the Minutes as presented.

Comrade Gordon Parsons moved to have the Minutes be accepted
 Comrade Gerald Mercer Seconded the Motion
MOTION CARRIED

3. Business arising: none.

4. Branch Reports:

➤ Branch 09: Comrade Paul Sheppard, President:

- ✓ Finances: Money is indeed “tight” but we are holding our own. We opened in July and spending more money than we take in of course. Any financial support would be a great asset. We have several functions already booked under Covid rules: Auction tonight for 60 people, a Craft Fair for November 07th with a great response of 20+ tables. We use both upstairs and downstairs. We will apply for an Horizon Grant. We are doing okay.
- ✓ Activities: We had a lot of weddings booked but because of the situation, some have been moved to next year and some have been cancelled so we had to reimburse all those moneys. We have a Moose license this year.
- ✓ Sports: Bingo is in the talks as it is a great asset for Spaniards Bay. Our Men and Women Dart League teams started 3 weeks ago; they are doing very well even under Covid rules. We have 48 men and 28 women.
- ✓ Advertising: Our advertising is done through Facebook and we thank Paula Lynch for updating this media for us.
- ✓ Meetings: Because of Covid, our Annual General Meeting is postponed until February 2021 so our executives are the same as last year.
- ✓ Membership: is doing well.
- ✓ Poppy Campaign: is on the way but we don’t expect it to be as good as other years as we cannot go into businesses. Hopefully the boxes we will put will do alright.
- ✓ Remembrance Day: our activities are going on with the school but “watered” down from previous years. We will raise the Flag at the school but on November 11th our Remembrance Day Service will be “watered down”.

➤ Branch 15: Comrade Paulette Morrissey, President:

- ✓ Membership: we have 38 Members; 2 new members joined our Branch.
- ✓ Finances: we had one fundraiser planned for each month but they were all cancelled because of Covid so the only one that is still going on is the NTV Bingo. We lost a lot of revenues because of Covid. We will apply for this year’s Horizons Grant; hopefully it will not be denied. It seems that the key is in the wording so I will ask our comrades in Branch 23 Carbonear to help me out with this dilemma.
- ✓ Banners: it took 4 months to get a hold of Chris Tyreer from Ottawa. He has 4 banners outstanding for me since December; he told me a few days ago that he will get them to me as soon as possible. I messaged him yesterday but no response.
- ✓ Activities: one event was planned for every month but were all cancelled due to Covid so we’ve had a loss in Revenue since March. We are happy to have our Charity Moose again this year. Remembrance contests. Prizes and Certificates out with Report cards were successful.
- ✓ Building: The Sea Cadets are with us in the building now because of the closure of gymnasiums in all the schools. The Cadets never had a home in Harbour Grace but they are now using the double classroom next to us in the building. They have issues with cleaning and sanitizing as they are not allowed to do any of it but they are allowed to hire somebody to come in and do it. They will be reimbursed but they want to go through the Legion so,

the Legion has to hire somebody to go through it and submit a receipt. Some members said that it can take up to 9 months before the money is transferred to the Branch but I will look into it.

- ✓ Meetings: the time for the winter's meetings had been changed back to 7pm however many members with difficulty driving in the darkness preferred the summer meeting time of 2pm so, the time will stay at 2pm on the first Tuesday of the month all year round now.
- ✓ Ceremonies: the July 1st modified Ceremony went well but we had complaints from the public about no parade.
- ✓ Poppy Campaign: we have only 2 places to canvas: Shoppers and the Canadian Tire Gas Bar in Harbour Grace so we borrowed from Mr. Coombs 2 screens to sit behind. We ordered masks and shopping bags for a fundraiser for the Campaign. We received them yesterday and most of them sold within a couple of hours so a great fundraiser for us.

➤ Branch 22: Comrade Bernice Coombs, President:

- ✓ Finances: it has not been a good year, sales are down and members have lost interest since our re-opening in July. We have to rely on our Legion members to work the bar as we cannot afford a full time bartender. Our CEEP Grant of 2019 finished in 2020. We replaced some windows, painted and did some repairs. We will apply for a New Horizon Grant like all the Legions here; dead line is on Tuesday. We applied for this year's CEEP Grant. We are mucking along, still open but not doing very well. We haven't received any money from anyone: government or anybody. Our building is our own, with very little insulation in the attic and no insulation in the basement so it is very costly to heat up in the winter. We need financial help if available. Application for help has been made 3 times to Command with no response. We are doing better than some.
- ✓ Activities: we had 3 weddings and 3 birthday parties booked but they were cancelled.
- ✓ Meetings: we have not had our Annual General Meeting yet.
- ✓ Ceremonies: July 1st we held our Annual Wreath Laying Service with a few members present. After the Service, a lot of people laid Wreaths in memory of passed Veterans as per Covid-19 guidelines. We are now planning our Annual Remembrance Day Service and Poppy Campaign.

➤ Branch 23: Comrade Hal Evelyn, President:

- ✓ Finances: since opening in July, business has been very slow; sales have been down by 60%. The people have problems with the mask. The VLT machines keep our doors open, like many branches. We applied and received the wage subsidy: a great help.
- ✓ Covid guidelines: as a Branch we are following all the guideline, strict sanitation and keeping a list daily for contact tracing; we do this at darts, every dart night. We are doing everything right according to the people inspecting. When more restrictions lift, we'll have our seniors' card games, Texas Hold'em and the Cadets back on track.
- ✓ Membership: we have 171 members; we sponsor 2 Cadet Corps and 2 Dart Leagues.
- ✓ 2 Dart Leagues up and running. Small numbers but more trickling each week. What happened with the Darts is this: when the Pandemic started, the people gathered in their sheds so it is hard to get them out of this situation and back in the Legion.

- ✓ Sports: The TV Bingo card sales are up and down weekly; sales are up as the Jackpot increases.
 - ✓ Meals: on August 09th we had a Roast Beef take-out dinner; it went very well. We received sizable cash donations from members living out of town as well as out of Province. We catered the Thanksgiving dinner for Charwood Manor with good reviews; thanks to all who helped out, the executive worked in the kitchen.
 - ✓ Building: we are discussing alterations to be made in order to make it more user-friendly to seniors as well as handicapped. The one bathroom upstairs is definitely not wheelchair accessible so we'll try to get this done. We want to take one wall down between the snack bar and the Memorial Room to open it up so as you come in you can see it all. We will not remove any pictures.
 - ✓ Banners: For your Information Comrades, recently we had a mishap with one on water Street. They do not move in the wind so they get the full force of it. The galvanized pipe does not have enough thread at the bottom so they break and one of the framed holding our banners fell from a pole and damaged a lady's car to the tune of over \$1,100.00. Our insurance co. says that we are liable so thankfully no one was hurt as we would not be covered for the incident.
- ❖ Comrade Philip Wood asked if Harbour Grace had issues with the banners. Comrade Paulette Morrissey revealed the same problem: the bottom pole keeps unscrewing. Comrade Tyson Purcell advised all present that he has to use a pipe wrench to tighten at least 10 poles every couple of days. A solution of welding is suggested.
- ✓ Poppy Campaign: we cannot go to the TC Mall as they will not let us in, and we are still waiting to hear back from Powell's.
- Branch 32: Comrade Ross Petten, President:
- ✓ Membership: 170 paid-up members; down by 20-24.
 - ✓ Election: we had the Election before the pandemic but the officers could not be installed before July.
 - ✓ Pandemic: we closed on March 16th due to Covid-19 and reopened on July 6th.
 - ✓ Bartenders: our full-time of 13years left so our part-time became full-time and we hired a new part-time who is also a Veteran; they are working out very well.
 - ✓ Events: Saturday Matinee from 4-7pm. Successful but it would be nice to see more members attend. Very few members show up.
 - ✓ Wage Subsidy: we applied and received payments for July and August so far and have applied for September. It's approximately 50% of our gross wages. We are doing well only because of the Marina.
 - ✓ Canadian Emergency Business Account: we applied for and received the \$40,000.00 loan (CEBA) for the Covid-19 relief from the Federal Government. When this loan is paid back by December 31, 2021, a \$10,000.00 amount is forgiven. We used this money to cover some non-deferral expenses and our Covid-19 expenses.
 - ✓ New Horizons Project: we are applying for a New Horizons Seniors Project. We wish to install a Courtesy Wharf on the west side of our Marina in order to help seniors and

people with disabilities to get in and out of their boats easily. This will create opportunities for more people to use our Marina and participate in boat rides and fishing. We will find out in February or March 2021. It is a lot of work.

- ✓ NTV Jackpot Bingo: the sales have been a lot lower because people can get their cards online and in advance plus, they participate in the 50/50 draw online.
- ✓ Summer Student: this year we got a very dedicated one. Ben Smith was hired as a Web Designer but he actually was able to contact families of Veterans, requested pictures and information, then he uploaded all into a database. He visited the graveyards and got more information. He also shot the Canada Day video and put it all together. Wonderful job.
- ✓ Moose License: we got a moose license and a moose for the 4th year in a row. Thanks to Veteran Donnie Bradbury for getting the moose. He'll cook burgers for the Matinees soon.
- ✓ Finances: our finances have been challenged this year. The monthly Government Wage Subsidies and the CEBA loan have helped us greatly with monthly expenses but the long term is a concern. Our Bar sales are down 65%, VLT sales are down 57% and, we don't have the crowds at the Matinees like before the pandemic. We noticed that other businesses around us are going through the same problems.
- ✓ Poppy Campaign: the only place of concern for us is Shoppers Drug Mart. We are working with Powell's the same as Carbonear and we are trying to come up with a solution but the Mall is out. The letters from Comrade Eric Mercer to businesses for donations are on the go.
- ✓ Website and Social Media: we have a website www.rclbranch32nl.ca and a Facebook Page. We advertise our events through those Medias. Thank you so much to Comrades Gary Badcock and Patti Babcock for keeping these up to date and thank you also to our bartender Carly Stamp for posting our events through other venues.

❖ Commander Comrade Harold Brown added information concerning young Ben Smith who gathered information about our Veterans. All Veterans' biographies have been written by family members and not by someone who did not know them and only put facts together but adding a personal touch. I did one for my dad, Comrade Philip Wood and his brother did one for their dad; it will take you to a page where you can read about the person. Additionally, in all the Cemeteries in our area for Branch 32 we have Veterans so we have now a database with the location of each Veteran that we know of, along with a picture of the Cemetery plot and where to go to find it. It is rare to find someone who can work so diligently with me looking over his shoulder once or twice a week. It may be something to consider for your Branches.

➤ Branch 39: Comrade Don Reid, Secretary:

- ✓ Meetings: our last AGM was February 18th, 2020. The election was conducted by Past-President Comrade Maxwell Warren; no changes from last year's executive officers. Comrade Ira Halfyard returned as President. Our next General Meeting was held in September with strict provincial Covid guidelines.
- ✓ Finances: are all in order. Our bills were paid and our donations to the 3 Cadet Units as well as the CLB Company were distributed. The Branch donated \$500.00 to the TCP telethon and we paid for the flowers on the Veterans Highway.

- ✓ July 1st Service: we had 2 members attend at each of the 7 Cenotaphs in our district following the Covid guidelines of the provinces Chief Medical officer.
 - ✓ Covid shutdown: during the shutdown the Branch Chaplain and President contacted all our members to see how they were doing; everyone was well but we still put out the offer to help if needed.
 - ✓ Poster and Essay Contest: we had several winners but unfortunately the trip to Beaumont Hamel had to be cancelled. Comrade George Brown has been in contact with them and hopefully down the road, it will take place.
 - ✓ Life Membership: Comrade Ira Halfyard and Comrade Marjorie Higdon were presented this award in recognition of their outstanding work and dedication to the Branch and their Community.
 - ✓ Death of a Member: we lost 3 of our members; Past-President Comrade Gerald Drover, Past-President Comrade Mahalla Reid of the Ladies Auxiliary and Comrade Phyllis Hill. At the request of the family, the Legion ritual was performed at the Funeral Home for Past-President Comrade Gerald Drover.
 - ✓ Poppy Campaign: again this year we will put our containers in the stores but we will not be putting members out this year. We do very well with the stores on the highway.
 - ✓ Meeting: we meet on a monthly basis to keep things going as in the past.
- Branch 65: Comrade Gerald Mercer, President:
- ✓ Membership: 38 paid-up with 1 new member pending for installation.
 - ✓ Support by our Branch: we support 2 Cadets Corps who are just getting started: the RCSCC #249 Effie M. Morrissey and the NLCC 119 Vickers Vimy. We also support another group from the area through donation to the Brigus Recreation Committee.
 - ✓ Extra Activities: Zumba classes twice a week at our Branch; up to 10 people per night.
 - ✓ Bookings: we have weddings booked for 2021.
 - ✓ July 1st: we put out 3 Services at Cenotaphs in our area.
 - ✓ Grants: we just finished a Summer Student Grant; we had one student for 8 weeks. We applied for a Community Enhancement Grant for 2020-2021, and we were notified yesterday that we have received the Grant so we can do some outside work to our building
 - ✓ Building Upgrades: during the shutdown, we hired a contractor to strip and wax the floors from one end to the other. Our new extension is now finished and ready for use and we renovated the men and women's washrooms to make them wheelchair accessible. We are now installing new door and door frame in our stag bar entrance as the old one was damaged a while ago by someone trying to get into the building.
 - ✓ Finances: we are in great shape considering the rough months we all went through.
 - ✓ VLT sales: slow to start but activities have picked up greatly in the last few weeks.
 - ✓ Bar sales: steadily improving over the last few months.
 - ✓ Thanks: we wish to thank our District Commander Comrade Harold Brown for keeping us informed during the pandemic, and thank you to Provincial Command for their guidance for the past few months; that helped our Branches through these difficult times. Other Branches, not in our District, were not as informed as we were.

- ❖ Commander Comrade Harold Brown thanked all the Branches for their insightful reports and asked “How can we change the format of what we do at these meetings and to make them more efficient.” There is a lot of frustration from people who are passionate about what they do. We heard some unique ideas as to what to do about it. You have received two documents: one concerning the 2020 Poppy Campaign and the other concerning the Remembrance Ceremonies of November 11th 2020. Things will change drastically for the Poppy Campaign as Comrade Paulette Morrissey, President of Branch 15 Harbour Grace mentioned in her report about the tables, Comrade Don Reid, Secretary of Branch 39 Dildo advised all that their members would not be out and here at Branch 32, we used to man 4 stations but this year we will man only 1 because of restrictions and other factors. The document is providing you with guideline information that each Branch can use as they see fit. Do not step out of the guidelines as our members are getting up in age now and vulnerable to Covid and other ailments. Our Branches are doing very well but, restrictions keep people away and they are not coming back to the Branch.

➤ Provincial Command, 2nd Vice President Comrade Philip Wood:

- ✓ Dominion Command advise all Branches to follow the same premise as the July 1st Ceremonies; no parade, pre-positioning of wreaths and so on. All must be done quickly by the Branches at the War Memorial because of the large crowd that gathers. November 11th is a National Remembrance period and you can’t say to people: “Don’t come” because they are determined to attend and place wreaths for their family member. For July 1st, this Branch, like Brigus Branch, had 3 services each at different time; nobody knew the timings and no MHAs were invited so they were quick. I went in as the town representative as I was not allowed to go as a Legion Member but the Legion did their bit and 20 minutes later the town and the Fire department did theirs. But everyone knows that 11:00hrs on November 11th is Remembrance Day so don’t fight with people but do not linger at the War Memorial or Cenotaph; do what you have to do and move on quickly so whatever happens afterward will not come back on the Legion. As with the liability issue with the banners, you don’t want the Legion to get blamed for starting a cluster of Covid case.
- ✓ 22 out of 45 Branches in the Province may not open up after this is all over.
- ✓ We will check on the issue that Comrade Dorothy Adams of Branch 22 Upper Island Cove disclosed in her report concerning financial help available from Command. Provincial Command received \$45,000.00 from Dominion Command in order to help Branches in need and another \$45,000.00 to come but if you are able to keep going at this time, you would be denied financial help at this time but if you’re not able to survive, Command would help you. Comrade Harold Brown could check on that and contact you.
- ✓ The Legion has been campaigning to the Federal Government for some funding for charitable organizations.
- ✓ Commander Comrade Harold Brown divulged that many Branches took advantage of the bank loan of \$40,000.00 (if repaid by December 31st, 2021, a \$10,000.00 is forgiven). He strongly advised all Branches concerned to put aside the \$30,000.00 and not touch it until it must be repaid.
- ✓ The New Horizon program is not for the faint of heart. It is many meetings and many letters.

- ✓ I want to thank each and every one of you from Command for your efforts; they are not in vain. There are big Branches like Clarenville and Corner Brook who have not opened their doors yet and we don't know if they will open up again.
 - ✓ Times are tough but, the most important things that don't cost a lot of money are your Remembrance activities. That is the big function, the primary objective of the Royal Canadian Legion. It is nice to give donations but the primary objective is the Remembrance Day which is a few wreaths, a Ceremony and Respect, supporting Comrades that have passed; those are our goals.
 - ✓ Provincial Command did shut the doors for safety but always successful through email. All emails and phone calls were answered; Paul and Brenda have done a tremendous job.
 - ✓ It was disappointing, as a mayor, to miss the social functions like the Lions Club Seniors Dinner and we postponed the Summer Games in Bay Roberts which meant the field in Upper Island Cove, the soccer field in Harbour Grace, the pool in Carbonear and the golf course over in Trinity Bay could not be used this past summer.
 - ✓ Command is doing its best. We had a meeting in person a couple of weeks ago and we have numerous ones to resume. Comrade Nathan Lehr is doing his best to keep everyone in the loop.
- Provincial Command Past President: Comrade Berkley Lawrence:
- ✓ Poppy Campaign: refer to the document "2020 National Poppy Campaign". This document was put out by Dominion Command for all across Canada so as the Provincial Poppy Remembrance Chair I questioned Ottawa on some points. On page 2 under Point of Sale: ... *"Funds collected at Point of Sale locations will be processed through a centralized accounting system and branches will receive the donations collected in that location in one lump sum from Dominion Command after 11 Nov 20."*
 - ✓ They advertised on VOCM that you'll have a "Tap and Pay" system. It's a 250 sites trial in the Ottawa area only so that needs to be explained so I will go on the talk show with Patty Daly next week to explain the difference between what was released by Dominion to the public and what we are doing on the Provincial side. There is NO "Tap and Pay" in Newfoundland unless a Branch has paid for it themselves. Last year the Salvation Army in St. John's had the pay machine at the Red Kettle so you could Tap. In the future if the "Tap and Pay" system works out, you'll order from Ottawa a Poppy box like we do now, bigger tray with the coin in the middle, it'll have a barcode right on it and you'll process that barcode so it will have your Branch's bank account number on it. People will automatically be debited \$2.00 per Tap from Credit Card or Debit Card and it will go directly to your Branch's bank account. We know that the younger generation does not carry cash so we hope to get there; it is a trial for this year. In Alberta, the Alberta Command paid \$70,000.00 to have the system installed two years ago so every Branch had to pay a fee to get in that system. This one is done by a Company on a National level and will be at no cost to the Legion at the Dominion, Provincial or Branch level; you just opt in and you'll receive the box. All this needs to be explained to the public.
 - ✓ The Last paragraph down: *"The volunteer should be wearing a N95 protective mask..."* I questioned that also and it is any mask you want to wear; it doesn't have to be a N95 because those are reserved for medical people only.

- ✓ There are rules about how far away from the Poppies you should be sitting once they are on the table, you could have a screen like Comrade Paulette was talking about in her report. Beware of people in our society who only look for what you do wrong so make sure you abide by the rules completely. We don't know it's going to go with the trays of Poppies and everybody picking a Poppy out of the tray, with the General Public there might be some feedback that it's not sanitary that every Joe and Jane to come in and pick their own Poppy out. What I suggest is that when you're sitting at a table, just lay a row of Poppies so people will only pick-up one and have a pair of gloves there so people will see that you wear glove to place the Poppies on the table; it may appease some people. It will be a very difficult Campaign.
- ✓ At the Provincial level: the first Presentation was made yesterday to the Governor General by Gran President Larry Murray and President Tom Irvine; it was done virtually. All three were in different location and did their spiel: first it was Larry, then Tom and then the Governor General receiving the Poppy and she pinned it on herself. Now it falls on each Provincial Command to present the first Poppy to their Lt Governor so we will be giving ours to Lt Governor Judy Foot on the 30th of October like we do every year. It will be myself as the Poppy Chair and Gerry Budden as the 1st Vice-President of Command there. And then we'll move to the Confederation Building for the "Fly the Flag" Ceremony. It will only be myself and Gerry going up with the Flag, the Premier will join us in the lobby in front of the Memorial they have in the lobby, we'll present him with the Flag and he'll have a Commissionaire put it up on the flagpole and we'll leave.
- ✓ Everything is Cut Back as you know; the Ceremony in St. John's will be like July 1st.
- ✓ Poster and Literary contest is still going on this year so get your packages out to the schools. Last year's Provincial winners did not go to Beaumont-Hamel because the trip was cancelled due to Covid. At Command as the Chair of the Committee we have decided that if those people are still available next year, we will take them on the Pilgrimage next year. We will also take the winners for this year's contest and drop the other organizations: Air Cadets, Sea Cadets, Army Cadets but we will petition the Government to increase the number of students so we can still reach out to those organizations but we want to take care of our Legion Sponsored Kids first.
- ✓ We have set up a Committee for the \$45,000.00 from Command to help Branches that really need help. There will be another \$45,000.00 coming from Dominion Command.
- ✓ The Federal Government has put out \$20,000,000.00 to Veterans Affairs to support Veterans Associations. The Legion is the largest Veterans support Organization. We have not heard anything as to how this money will be distributed.
- ✓ Across the nation, we have lost 40 Branches who have closed their doors permanently. Some of those Branches had difficulties before Covid but it was the final nail in the coffin
- ✓ There is help coming down the pipe so re-apply. He will check for Branch 22. As the cold winter months come on and your heating bills go up...
- ❖ Provincial Command, 2nd Vice President Comrade Philip Wood added to the Beaumont-Hamel Pilgrimage: Comrade Gerald was chosen to go as a chaperon this year and he is still chosen for next year. For Veterans is the same, Keith O'Brien is still eligible to go. We're going for extra money for more people to go. We won't be asking for volunteers Veterans, chaperon and a nurse this year.

New Business

- Information: Commander Comrade Harold Brown appreciated all the information he was not aware of, given by Comrade Philip Wood and Comrade Berkley Lawrence.
- Remembrance Day Ceremonies: Commander Comrade Harold Brown encouraged everyone to “Stay Safe” and “Stay away from the Ceremonies”; just watch it on television. He commented that people will come to the Cenotaphs and pleaded with the Branches to make it as safely as they possibly can within reason obviously.
- Facebook: Comrade Bernice Coombs explained her Branch’s use of that media to present Upper Island Cove’s July 1st Ceremony; people watched it as it was being done. Commander Comrade Harold Brown commented that a Facebook page is a good option.
- Laying of Poppies for sale on the tables: Commander Comrade Harold Brown explained the way the hospitals distribute masks; a pair of tongs is used to pick the mask up and give it to the user. He suggested that the same principle can be used for Poppies for any manned station.
- Struggling Branches: in regards to the 22 Branches who are struggling out of 45, it is uplifting to say that all the Branches in our District are surviving. It is very positive, and thank you all for that.
- Membership issues or ideas: none of the Branches had any comments on this topic so, each Branch was asked individually about their membership numbers. Branch 9: the same, Branch 15: up 2, Branch 22: down 6 or more, Branch 23: 6 installed but 2 transferred or passed on, Branch 32: down 10%, Branch 39: down 3-4 people, Branch 65: the same.
- Deceased member: Comrade Bernice Coombs informed all present that Mrs Jesse Lundrigan, a long time member, passed away yesterday and today is her husband Joe Lundrigan’s 85th birthday. Jesse and Joe were and are members since the Branch opened.
- Concerns:
 - Comrade Paul Sheppard offered that the main concern is staying alive; bills are expensive and we are not getting the revenues for it.
 - Comrade Bernice Coombs added that they are very worried about the winter coming.
 - Comrade Berkley Lawrence reassured all present that he will keep Comrade Harold informed of what Provincial can do to help when the new money comes in. There will be more Branches requesting funds but we hope to be able to help everybody.
 - Comrade Ross Petten proposed that it will get better when we can resume our functions to which Comrade Berkley Lawrence added if we don’t get back to our Christmas functions, we’ll be lost. For example the Branch in Grand Falls, one of the oldest Branch in the Province, a beautiful building but 95% of their revenue is from their Summer Theatre which was cancelled completely so, with no income they are really, really hurting so that is why they are still closed and Corner Brook is the same way so it’s not just the small Branches who are struggling.
- At 11:00hrs Commander Comrade Harold Brown excused Comrade Paul Sheppard from the meeting as he has another commitment to attend to.
- First Aid Course: Comrade Paulette Morrissey informed all present that the Fire Department in Harbour Grace is putting on a First Aid course this Thursday and Friday. The cost is \$120.00 for anybody who is interested in getting their First Aid up to date. Jim Barnes is the Fire Chief so just send him a note if you are interested.

- Meal functions: Comrade Bernice Coombs inquired as to the regulations concerning feeding small groups of people in their Branch. The Branch can have 77 people in bubbles of 6; can we have functions concerning that? Comrade Berkley Lawrence responded that they can in accordance with the Covid regulations but they cannot have dances. The people are not allowed to go from table to table but yes, you can have a meal.
- Window decorations: Commander Comrade Harold Brown discussed that during the Covid, children put up pictures of Teddy Bears, Rainbows and so on in the windows of their house. Just a thought but with that in mind, during the Remembrance period, it might be nice for children to colour pictures of Poppy and display them on the windows of their house in order to honour our Veterans. Comrade Berkley Lawrence who sits on the Remembrance Day Committee added that one Branch has requested that Dominion Command issue a picture of a Poppy for children to colour so it should be coming out shortly. You can download it from the Dominion site, the children can colour that and put it in their windows.
- Copyrights: Comrade Ross Petten brought up the point that on Facebook he saw homemade copyrighted items. Comrade Berkley Lawrence declared that there is a lot of people making Poppies paraphernalia and new facemasks with Poppies on them so every time he sees one he posts it to Ottawa, "I send it up to them cause they have lawyers to look into it. You cannot copy the Poppy and sell it for your own profit. People think that they can copy the Poppy and do what they want with it, they even mark that \$2.00 from the sale of the item goes to the Legion but it's not authorized. Try your best but you'll never catch them all. We had a company in China completely imitate the Poppy store so you did not know if you were buying from China or from Ottawa; they were completely identical. That was 2 years ago; it is shut down now."
- The public: Comrade Philip Wood advised all present to not get into fights at the War Memorial if a crowd of school kids come there or something like that; just do your thing and leave quickly. Make sure that your Ceremonies are proper; you can cut a few hymns but there are things that must be done. Commander Comrade Harold Brown recommended that the Ceremony be short, no laying of wreaths, no Cadet Corps as they are not authorized by DND, no parade, Comrade Berkley Lawrence said that you can do whatever you want at your own Memorial but suggested that you don't use a wreath bearer and a wreath layer but use only one person. You can have the wreaths pre-positioned already and the MC just announce them.
- District Meeting: Commander Comrade Harold Brown remarked that this meeting was the first of its kind and that he had asked for only 2 members from each Branch to be present because of uncertainty. This is a trial run so Suggestions, Ideas or Comments for future meetings, what should we do, is this fine, should we make more changes; I'm opened for your discussions and comments are welcomed.
 - Comrade Ross Petten observed that the way we are set up here today is more than the Covid regulations and we could still have more people attend with no problems,
 - Comrade Gordon Parsons agreed with Comrade Ross,
 - Comrade Ross Petten added that to upset people would not be in our best interest so if people want to come just let them,
 - Comrade Berkley Lawrence advised that as long as the Covid regulations are adhered to having more people will not be a problem,

- Comrade Ross Petten commented that any of the Branches in the District could accommodate a District Meeting but, all are always welcomed at Branch 32.
- Poppy Campaign Opening: Commander Comrade Harold Brown revealed that he cannot see how it can be done in light of the circumstances but he is opened to suggestions.
 - Comrade Paulette Morrissey offered that it should be the President and Poppy Chair only should be present,
 - Comrade Berkley Lawrence declared that Provincial Command suggested that every Branch do its own town for this year.
 - After a vote, the majority opted for doing their own towns.

8. Closing

At 11:02 Commander Comrade Harold Brown closed the meeting with part of the Legion Ritual.