

AGENDA
DISTRICT 2 MEETING
30 January 2021
Branch #32, Bay Roberts

1. Opening Ritual / Welcome – Host Branch & District Commander
2. 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
3. Invited Guests:
 - Mr. Ken McDonald, MP
 - Comrade Philip Wood, Provincial Command 2nd Vice-President
4. Closing Ritual

District 2 Meeting

30 January 2021

Branch #32, Bay Roberts

Federal Government		Ken McDonald	MP	Present
Federal Government		Shannon Duft	Comms	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	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 Evely	President	Present
Branch 23	Carbonear	Sarah Lawrence		Present
Branch 23	Carbonear	Berkley Lawrence		Present
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Ross Petten	President	Present
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Frank Hawe	Marina	Present
Branch 39	Dildo	Ira Halfyard	President	Present
Branch 39	Dildo	Gordon Reid	Treasurer	Present
Branch 39	Dildo	George Brown		Present
Branch 65	Brigus	Gerald Mercer	President	Present
Branch 65	Brigus	Kevin Power	Treasurer	Present
Branch 65	Brigus	Tony Pitchard	Past-President	Present

1. Welcome:

at 10:05 hrs Commander Comrade Harold Brown opened the meeting with parts of the Legion Ritual due to COVID-19 restrictions. He welcomed all of District 2 Branches as they were all represented and then invited Comrade Philip Wood, 2nd Vice-President at Provincial Command, to say a few words.

- ❖ Comrade Philip Wood brought greeting from Provincial President Nathan Lehr and explained that Command has been disadvantaged as well due to COVIDs restrictions. Only one meeting in person has taken place but numerous ones were through “Zoom” and we are trying to get funding out to the different Branches to help everybody through these difficult times and we are achieving that. Our latest endeavor: Dominion Command President Tom Irvine approached the Federal Government and as a result, \$20M went out to Veteran’s Organizations; 14 of which came to the Legion. On behalf of Command, I thank the Federal Government for this support and I know that our MP Ken McDonald has been working diligently on our behalf along with other Members of Parliament and I thank them for their efforts. But most importantly, I want to thank you Comrades for keeping the Branches open to the best of your ability; you are doing a fantastic job. Comrade Harold Brown can tell you that throughout this Province there are Branches, even big Branches that are not doing as well as you are. The recent Poppy Campaign, some Branches

did not do as well as they normally do but other Branches had great success considering the times that we are in. So, I thank you on behalf of our President and Provincial Executive in which Comrade Harold Brown is a very active member as well as Comrade Berkley Lawrence who holds the position of Past-President and still a part of Dominion Command structure. Thank you all and I wish you the very best in the upcoming days.

Commander Comrade Harold Brown invited the host of this meeting to say a few words:

- ❖ Comrade Ross Petten, President of Branch 32, welcomed everyone, commented on the difficult times and offered that coffee and sweets were available to all present. He then proceeded with his report that appears with the reports of all the other Branches.

Commander Comrade Harold Brown commented on the survival of all the Branches in our District 2 and conveyed his appreciation to each Branch for all the work that they have done. Help is on the way, \$1,000.00 here and there really helps, Branch assessment being forgiven really helps also and there might be more money coming in the future. Branches have experienced a drastic drop in revenue but not in overhead cost. Back on November 10th, the Government announced a \$20M package to get through the Pandemic. The Legion was awarded \$14M to cover the costs of operation such as Insurance, utilities, rent, mortgage, property taxes, administration cost, wages, etc. Branches are apolitical as we all know however; we have a fantastic history of working with the elected government of the time in order to benefit our Veterans. As an organization, we have survived quite a dramatic change in this area because originally the Legion was only for Veterans than, we opened it up to all but the mandate stayed the same: we are here to serve those who have served, Veterans, RCMP, Veteran serving members, their families and to be active in our communities. The Legion understands and honours the courage and sacrifice of those who have served and those who are still serving with Remembrance Day Ceremonies, Poppy Campaigns, Remembrance activities and Youth programs, the Legion honours them all and remembers. This Government and our Member of Parliament have worked hard on behalf of our communities so we say “Thank you”. You did the right thing to support these Branches because they provide a service to the communities that nobody else can. Legions are the corner stone of our communities. Some 1,350 Branches across Canada help Veterans and support Seniors from coast to coast. We are here today to thank our Federal Government via our MP for all the funding that was been provided to the Branches. Now each Branch’s President will say how they used the money. Branch 39 Dildo is a little different because they never applied for funding because they felt that other Branches needed it more but, I will let President Ira Halfyard explain their unique situation.

2. Branch Reports:

- Branch 39: Comrade Ira Halfyard, President:
 - ✓ Greetings from Branch 39 Dildo.
 - ✓ Things are different now but we still have our meetings abiding by Covid’s rules. We have 12-14 members, tables apart and sanitizing but conducting our regular business.
 - ✓ We do not have a lot of expenses because we are living on the proceeds of the sale of our building many years ago. We are still looking after our commitments and paying our rent, but fortunately we are one of the lucky ones that are not financially in trouble. We are

coping along; we have our election coming up soon so we'll continue on and do the best we can.

➤ Branch 15: Comrade Paulette Morrissey, President:

- ✓ Thank you to everyone.
- ✓ Branch 15 we're holding our own. We're still having meetings and we initiated 2 new members yesterday.
- ✓ We thank you MP McDonald and all your staff for all your hard work.
- ✓ Every dollar that we get helps and there are no words that can express our gratitude and thankfulness that we feel for this money. The money is used for administration purposes, for utilities, for our Cadets and other Youth groups support and our Veteran's care.
- ✓ Thank you very much and it is great to see you all.

➤ Branch 65: Comrade Gerald Mercer, President:

- ✓ Good morning, it is nice to see so many familiar faces.
- ✓ Branch 65 is doing well. Revenues are a little bit down but it's picking up now.
- ✓ With the money from the government we are doing major renovations to our kitchen, new electric grill and new ventilation system. Also we will build a patio deck at our Stag Bar and get a new ice machine for behind the bar.
- ✓ It is great to get this extra money so we're plugging away at every application we can get our hands on as it really helps the community. During the shutdown, we gutted the old washrooms and renovated them.
- ✓ Our Honours and Awards celebration last year was cancelled but we hope to be able to celebrate soon.
- ✓ We thank MP McDonald and his staff for reaching out and getting that extra money from the Government; it is greatly appreciated from Branch 65 Brigus.

➤ Branch 22: Comrade Dorothy Adams, Secretary:

- ✓ Good morning to all.
- ✓ We are a small Branch so any interruption in our operation results in financial difficulty. In March 2020 our club had to close for the 5 months due to Covid-19 so we lost a lot of revenue but we still have to pay our bills and any other expenses. We also had to pay for our pledges to our Cadets, CLB and Community projects that we support. After we re-opened, we lost revenues from events that were cancelled, from our bar and from the VLT machines because of the Covid restrictions and guidelines but our expenses still needed to be paid.
- ✓ We thank MP McDonald for the money; we purchased hand sanitizer and disinfectant cleaner throughout our building. We also purchased a new cooler and had to build a new floor under it as it had deteriorated through the years of use.
- ✓ Our list of monthly bills is: Counsel, Cable, Phone, Internet, Book keeping, Supplies, Power, Oil and all other expenses we need to make. Our light bill and oil bill are very expensive as we burn a lot of oil because our building is not insulated enough.
- ✓ This year we applied for a grant for heat pumps and extra insulation. We hope that Mr. McDonald will help us secure this very much needed grant.

- ✓ We have been able to keep afloat because of all our volunteers at the Branch.
- ✓ Thank you to all areas of Government for all the support we did have during these difficult times. Thank you Mr. McDonald and thank you to our MHA Pam Parsons as she helped us secure a Grant last year and one this year. Thank you to both Pam and Mr. McDonald as they are always there when we need them.

➤ Branch 23: Comrade Hal Evely, President:

- ✓ Good morning everyone.
- ✓ Branch 23 is the best Branch in the District. We are doing well but our total revenue has declined by 50% because of all booked weddings and functions were cancelled last year. We started dances again but with half the numbers so it affects our bar sales
- ✓ Thank you to the Honourable Mr. McDonald for the money that we received.
- ✓ Our Insurance went up this year to \$9,800.00, we pay a water and sewer tax of \$1,700.00
- ✓ These are difficult times but we are determined to keep our doors opened. We locked the door on March 16th, 2020 and we have followed all the Covid rules to the letter from the beginning and we are still following all the rules with contact tracing, etc. A Branch in Corner Brook called me one night wanting to know what we did to prepare for the opening of the Branch. They got my number from Provincial Command so we must have been doing something right. An Inspector called me one day to tell me that we had the cleanest and nicest smelling washrooms that she had ever been in as well as the cleanest building I've ever been in.
- ✓ Our election will be on February 21st. We hope to keep our same Executive members as they are the best I've ever worked with at the Branch in 40 years.
- ✓ We are grateful for the money we have received from the Government; it helps to keep our doors open and do what we do to support our Veterans past and present, those who are serving, and our community. Request for donations doesn't stop especially from our community and people needing emergency money; we thank God that we can still do that.
- ✓ Thank you for this meeting today and we thank you Honourable Mr. Ken McDonald.

➤ Branch 09: Comrade Gordon Parsons, Past-President:

- ✓ Good morning Comrades, Mr. McDonald and chairman.
- ✓ We are staying afloat but our building in Spaniards Bay is huge so operating it is costly: \$13,070.00 a month just to stay afloat. Everything we had booked up before Covid last year were cancelled but we hope that Covid will not cancel the 12 weddings we have booked for this summer because if that happens, it will be very bad news for Branch 9. As we say, there is more water getting into the boat than the pumps can handle to pump it out. Last month we had a Bingo on the go, we will try to get "open mike" started again in March and Paul, our President, is trying to get the Bingo going twice a month.
- ✓ The Federal Government has promised a little bit of money so it will help.
- ✓ This year we are lucky because the winter is mild enough to save us some money but the building is huge and we don't have the people to support it anymore; we only have a handful of people.

➤ Branch 32: Comrade Ross Petten, President:

- ✓ We are very thankful to all parties for the funds received during the past few months to offset the huge losses that we have suffered as a result of the COVID Pandemic. Our bar sales and VLT sales have taken a drastic reduction and these funds have helped us immensely. We would like to thank our MP Ken McDonald for all his efforts and support in securing some of the funds. The funds have been and are currently used to pay for building, administration and wharfage insurance of approximately \$7,000.00, as well as our property taxes of \$2,500.00. Funds are also being used monthly to pay for our electrical and heating bills, snow clearing and payroll. This is a very stressful time for our Branch, and we are very appreciative of all the help that our MP has provided and continues to provide to our Branch.

3. Invited Guests:

- ❖ Commander Comrade Harold Brown invited our Member of Parliament Mr. Ken McDonald to speak to all the Branches.
 - Federal Government, MP, Mr. Ken McDonald:
 - ✓ Thank you to everyone and thank you for organizing this today. It is great to visit a group and meet everyone together.
 - ✓ It is had like you said that on evenings and weekends, there's nothing on the go; no celebrations or anything else.
 - ✓ I remember when it all started on March 12th, 2020, I was at the Ottawa airport on my way home when Covid reared its ugly head. The man sitting next to me was a Senator, the Honourable Fabian Manning, and we got a message stating: "Cancel your flights for next week, we are shutting down tomorrow." which was the Friday. It shut down of course and started up again September 23rd but it was different. Using "Zoom" is not the same; you don't have someone next to you that you can pat on the shoulder or touch. It is only a screen with only 24 people at a time. Back then I could not wait to get home on a Thursday night but now I cannot wait to get back to Ottawa to resume some normalcy and talk face to face with my colleagues and other people.
 - ✓ Before the "Zoom" the Prime Minister used to do a Conference call once a week and he'd be on the phone and he'd have statement from 2 or 3 Ministers that might have something to say. At that time I was getting calls from the Legions or the Kiwanis Club and other organizations about the need to speak up on behalf of the Not-for-profit throughout the region. On any of those calls you could listen to what the Prime Minister had to say and then be in a queue to ask question. For many weeks after that, myself and others would always mention the importance of the Legions in our communities and I heard it loud and clear today. Like I told the Prime Minister, it's not just a place to get a bottle of beer or drink, it is part of the community, a place where Veterans can go and talk to other Veterans and deal with issues that one another is having, trying to help each other out. The Legions play such an important part of a community. Any community in my riding who has a Legion is better off because of the fact that they have a Legion as it is involved in celebrations of Winter Carnival or Summer celebrations. The Legion is always front and center in every community and play a part to make sure all the activities run smooth.

- ✓ \$90,000.00 allocated to the Legion and was divided up among the various Branches. I don't know how the money was divided, but in my riding Ferryland and Holyrood Branches did not apply.
 - ✓ We are not out of this yet and it is scary because we don't know when the next big push will happen. I keep hoping that it doesn't, because of our small population.
 - ✓ During this Covid difficult time, many organizations and businesses would not have survived without a helping hand.
 - ✓ Thank you for doing this today and hopefully we'll get back to normal. I enjoy my work and will keep working as long as I can for the organizations I represent.
- Provincial Command, 2nd Vice-President, Comrade Philip Wood:
- ✓ Explains the origin of the last \$1,000.00 given mentioned by Comrade Dorothy Adams, Branch 22 Upper Island Cove.
 - ✓ Through the Government we were able to access the \$60,000.00 for this District for wage subsidy and loan. The last \$1,000.00 that goes out to all the Branches came from the \$75,000.00 that was sent to Command from the Provincial Government to run last summer's Pilgrimage to Beaumont-Hamel. The Pilgrimage did not go so Command wrote to ask how this money could be spread to all the Branches so \$1,000.00 went to each Branch and the other \$30,000.00 will be used by Command to reduce the assessment so all Branches will benefit and also to help out Command or any other Branches that may need emergency support.
 - ✓ I would like to emphasize that the \$75,000.00 came from the Provincial Government; it should be recognized.
 - ✓ The Legion, not just now but when Comrade Ross Petten and Comrade Berkley Lawrence were President, always sponsored the Pilgrimage to Europe and as a result of it they allowed the funds still to go to the Veterans; I just liked to acknowledge that.

4. Closing

At 10:55 Commander Comrade Harold Brown closed the meeting with part of the Legion Ritual due to COVID-19 restrictions.