

AGENDA
DISTRICT 2 MEETING
04 March 2023
Branch #65, Brigus

Special Guest: Soloist Georgia Higdon

1. Opening Ritual / Welcome – Host Branch & Meeting Chair
Welcoming Ceremony
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – 25 September 2022 at Branch 32 – Bay Roberts
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
 - h- Charwood Manor - Carbonear
5. New Business:
 1. Branch Reports (New information/updates only)
 2. Results of District Darts and Cribbage Tournament hosted by Br 22
 3. District Webpage Update(Branch portion of the yearly bill)
 4. Battle of the Atlantic Host of this year (07 May 2023)
 5. Opening of the Poppy Campaign 2023: October 26th (Thursday)
 - 6. Branch By-laws a must**
 7. Host for next District Meeting September 16, 2023
 8. Open discussion of topics of interest/concern.
 - ✓ District events
 - ✓ Ideas/participation in district events
 - ✓ Coffee Houses
 - ✓ Bowling Tournament ????

Branch Reports are to be and contain:

- **One** page type written
- Membership figures for 2023 as of end of Feb 2023
- to be sent to the Secretary at: nicolebadcock@yahoo.ca

6. **Closing Ritual**

District 2 Meeting

04 March 2023

Branch #65, Brigus

Commander		Harold Brown	
Secretary		Nicole Badcock	
Branch 09	Spaniards Bay	Gordon Parsons	Past President
Branch 09	Spaniards Bay	Don Hutchings	Sgt at Arms
Branch 15	Harbour Grace	Christine Janes	Past President
Branch 15	Harbour Grace	Paulette Morrissey	President
Branch 22	Upper Island Cove	Dorothy Adams	Secretary
Branch 22	Upper Island Cove	Terry Walsh	Member
Branch 23	Carbonear	Gary Laine	2 nd Vice President
Branch 23	Carbonear	Gary Davis	Secretary
Branch 23	Carbonear	Ken Tucker	Member
Branch 23	Carbonear	Hal Evely	Chaplain
Branch 23	Carbonear	Mike Butt	President
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Gary Badcock	Member
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Wallace Babcock	Secretary
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Brian Fitzpatrick	1 st Vice President
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Eric Mercer	Service Officer
Branch 39	Dildo	Brian Cranford	President
Branch 65	Brigus	Gerald Mercer	President
Branch 65	Brigus	Kevin Power	Treasurer
Branch 65	Brigus	Juanita Coish	Secretary
Branch 65	Brigus	Govin Ryan	Sgt at Arms
Branch 65	Brigus	Tim Gushue	Member
Branch 65	Brigus	Rick Waddell	2 nd Vice President
Charwood Manor Carbonear			Absent

1. Welcome:

Before the meeting starts, *Miss Georgia Higdon* was introduced to sing the National Anthem. This young lady is the great-granddaughter of Br 32 Lance_Bombardier Fed Dibbon WWII Veteran, her birthday is November 11th and she sings "O Canada" in both languages.

The meeting was then opened with the Legion ritual.

Comrade Nicole Badcock presents a token of appreciation to the singer.

District Commander Comrade Harold Brown presented to the assembly a new member for Br 65, retired Major Tim Gushue, through Br 65 President Comrade Gerald Mercer who presented him to the District Commander. District Commander Comrade Harold Brown then proceeded with the swearing in ceremony and welcomed him to the Branch and District 2.

Br 65 President Comrade Gerald Mercer, as the Branch hosting this meeting, welcomes all, invites all to their Saturday night disco; the door is always open and thanks all for coming.

The Agenda will be on the screen from now on in order to save trees.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

The Minutes of 25 September 2022 were sent electronically and are also available to read on the District 2 website. A motion is needed to accept those Minutes as presented.

Comrade Mike Butt moved to have the Minutes of September 25th, 2022 be accepted as presented

Comrade Hal Evelyn Seconded the Motion

MOTION CARRIED

3. Business arising:

⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock informs all that the Minutes are posted on the District 2 Website.

4. Branch Reports: were sent electronically by each Branch and copied to the Minutes.

➤ **Branch 09:**

- ✓ **Finance:** Financially, we are still struggling but remain hopeful that things will be brighter in the future.
- ✓ **Membership:** Our membership is down again this year. We lost six members through death and some from out of Province who did not pay their dues.
- ✓ **Functions:** Wedding and special events are down this year, although we had three functions between January and February. In March we have a Fireman's Ball, Poker tournament and the Ladies Aux. will be hosting a cold plate.
- ✓ **Weekly events:** Monday night bingo, Tuesday & Friday night poker, Wednesday & Thursday night darts, weekly bar sales and VLT revenue.
 - *16 March 2023 starting at 16:00hrs (4pm):* celebration for Mr. Johnny Paul who will be 99 years old. This gentleman put the wreath in the water at last year's Battle of the Atlantic Ceremony in Bay Roberts. The birthday celebration will take place downstairs at Br 9 building and all are invited.

➤ **Branch 15:**

- ✓ Branch is holding its own at 38 members. We had a couple new transfers in, and are currently awaiting the return of a few applications that have been handed out.
- ✓ Poppy campaign this year was down from previous years. Also, the school was very strict on how much involvement they wanted with the legion members. Basically due to covid.

- ✓ As such only 34 entries came in for the contest. In the past this number was approximately 120 or so.
- ✓ Nov 11th ceremony was well attended. We laid 70+ wreaths. As we celebrated our 100th Nov 11 parade in Harbour Grace, we did a great deal of maintenance in the park. Notable the Memorial Banners, bench repairs, and monument re-lettering. The monument was unveiled and rededicated at the Nov 11th Ceremony.
- ✓ Christmas Dinner was hosted by the Masonic lodge. We were very excited to host comrades from other branches in district 2 as well as from Command. It was a great tribute to the branches 100th years in service since the GWVA of Harbour Grace.
- ✓ We continue to fundraise as the construction in the building has been underaken. We received a grant from acoa last year, and finally after a long and arduous time with service nl, we have the building completely electrically upgraded, with three mini splits and baseboard heaters installed. The numbers in the branch are volunteering this past month or so and we are close to having the offices and bathroom completed.
- ✓ We just received a grant from New Horizons to the sum of \$23,000.⁰⁰ for roof repair, new shingles, eaves, downspouts, etc.
- ✓ We have a charity moose this year, and have a take out moose breakfast on April 8th at the Firehall. \$12.00 per plate.
 - *08 April 2023*: Take-out moose breakfast at the Fire Hall in Harbour Grace, \$12.00 a plate with 3 sausages, eggs, toasts, hashbrowns, baked beans, whatever you need.
 - The office is very close to being finished.

➤ **Branch 22:**

- ✓ Since our last district meeting we have received funding under a c e e p grant we employed three workers for this project and were able to purchase paint for our club room. Windows for our bathrooms and a steel door for our emergency exit.
- ✓ We held our annual Remembrance Day service and parade it was well attended this year after the service everyone was invited back to the legion for lunch and listen to the a.c a brass band play.
- ✓ Our branch president attended the annual upper Island Cove firefighters ball and presented them with a cheque.
- ✓ Our secretary attended the annual Trinity Conception Placentia Health Telethon and presented them with a cheque as well as answering the phone.
- ✓ Our branch sponsors the Royal Canadian Legion 2797 army cadet corps

- ✓ We provided them with funding for their annual Christmas party.
- ✓ The branch held their annual Christmas party all members had a very enjoyable evening.
- ✓ A seniors club meets at our branch every week for a game of cards and bingo they also meet once a month for a meal.
- ✓ The branch catered to their annual Christmas party with a roast beef dinner and dance as well as catering to the a c a a dinner and dance.
- ✓ Our branch hosted the district dart and crib tournament this year Spaniards Bay and Carbonear will represent the district for darts Carbonear and Upper Island Cove will represent the district for crib a very entertaining day for all who attended.
- ✓ Financially we are keeping our head above water with the high cost of oil this winter it hasn't been easy, hoping things will get better in the future.
 - We hosted the Dart & Crib tournament on 25 February 2023:
 - Darts: Br 22 Upper Island Cove won
 - Cribbage: Br 23 Carbonear came First
 - both Branches will go to the Provincial Darts and Cribbage tournament in Deer Lake, NL

➤ **Branch 23:**

- ✓ Branch 23 is continuing to be very solid financially. The VLTs have helped tremendously with financial returns when the Covid restrictions were implemented. Now that the restrictions have been lifted, we expect to improve on their performance during the coming years
- ✓ The Chase the Ace for 2022/2023 has concluded with a winner in January. We have applied for a new license for Chase the Ace, which will start this March. We also have continued on Saturday nights with the 50/50 draw. These have proven to be a popular attraction on Saturday nights along with live music from various local entertainers. On most Saturdays, there is also a jam session held in the afternoon.
- ✓ Branch 23 continues to support NTV Jackpot Bingo every Sunday with distribution of bingo cards locally and as far north as Bay de Verde. Jackpot Bingo has proven to be a good source of income for the Branch and we will continue this support into the future. The Branch is hosting the Men's dart league on Friday nights and the mixed dart league on Wednesday nights. In addition, the Branch hosts a Texas Hold'em poker game on Tuesday nights. With all these activities, the Branch is a very busy place on weeknights.
- ✓ The Bar and Banquet facilities are doing well with almost operating at pre-Covid numbers. The banquet facilities hosted several events in 2022 and we expect this to improve in 2023. We are advertising this facility aggressively on social media platform and the distributing of posters in various locations.

- ✓ At Februarys Annual General Meeting, a new executive was elected with the installation of officers complete and a smooth transfer of duties has been established.
- ✓ Membership is as follows – Total of 173 members which consists of 14 Life members, 56 Ordinary members, 88 Associate members and 15 Affiliate members. In the last year, we have added 16 new members. In the same period, we have also had 6 comrades pass away. One being the last WWII veteran of our Branch, John Pinhorn.

Position	Name	Phone	eMail
President	Mike Butt	596-5686/589-5615	mike_butt56@hotmail.com
Immediate Past President	Berkley Lawrence	596-2559/597-5445	blawrence@legionnl.ca
1 st Vice President	Jim Ash	596-7689	lottery2@icloud.com
2 nd Vice President	Gary Laing	596-3309	garyanddeblaing@gmail.com
Sargent at Arms	Lloyd Laing	596-6720/589-5633	llaing16@outlook.com
Secretary	Gary Davis	596-5864/905-621-0722	gary.davis10@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sarah Lawrence	596-2559/589-5136	berkleysarahlawrence@bellaliant.net
Service Officer	Bryan Pike	597-9897	bryanpike@me.com
Chaplin	Hal Evely	598-0017	hal_evely@yahoo.ca
Executive Officer	Bill Laing	595-2228/597-2335	bill_1958@hotmail.com
Executive Officer	Charmaine Laing	595-2228	bill_1958@hotmail.com
Executive Officer	Ken Tucker	597-2562	kennethtucker681@gmail.com
Executive Officer	Paula Evely	598-0017	paulaevely50@outlook.com
Executive Officer	Roxanne O'Driscoll	597-3932	roxythirteen@hotmail.com
Executive Officer	Wendy Cheater	219-9828	w.mc.3@hotmail.com

- the new President for 2023 is Comrade Mike Butt
- Case the Ace starts tonight
- the 19 February 2023 Fundraiser successful, we raised \$4,000.00 for the SSDP Food Bank in Carbonear, in a week to 10 days we will make a presentation to them.
- 17, 18 March 2023 will be the Patty's Day celebrations, all are invited
- We have a Crib team and a Dart team who will go to Deer Lake.

➤ **Branch 32:**

- ✓ The branch is well underway to recovery following the circumstances of the past several years which has impacted all branches of the district, province and even nationwide.
- ✓ At our AGM (Annual General Meeting) and election of officer of 05 Feb, 2023 a new executive was put in place and subsequently sworn in so that they could officially take over the day to day operations of the branch.
- ✓ There are many issues of concern to be dealt with, not the least of which is the aged Veterans Quay Marina, which is in need of an extensive repair/update to remain viable as a functioning marina. The Marina committee is looking at ways to finance this major undertaking. But it is essential that some work be done this year.
- ✓ An initiative to host a Coffee and Chat time for members and the general public was began in late January and has become a successful venture thus far, yielding a weekly attendance of between 15 – 22 each Friday morning.
- ✓ The branch website (rclbranch32nl.ca) now has an extensive section dedicated to our Veterans, including biographies, pictures, and resting place photos of many of veterans of the area. Some 400 plus veterans have been identified, of which 257 currently have biographies, so that the story of their service is ever Remembered.
- ✓ The branch has ongoing activities and happenings each week, month and like most other branches, these activities provide the needed sources of revenue to keep operating.
- ✓ The new executive is working hard to enhance the branch's physical building and the services offered.
 - every Friday morning from 10:00-11:30hrs we have a Coffee Morning and chat over coffee, tea, toast, bagels, hard boiled eggs and baked beans. It is opened to everyone; we have a pot for donations for anyone who wish to donate. It is a nice time for all to chat and make new friends.
 - we started a Cribbage league on Friday afternoon, all are welcomed
 - our new President is Comrade Harold Brown

➤ **Branch 39:**

- ✓ District 2 Meeting notes – Branch 39, Sgt. Levi Hollett Memorial.
- ✓ No significant changes to branch operations since last District meeting.
- ✓ Membership stands at 32. The branch lost 3 executive members during 2022, 2nd Vice George Dawe in February, Comrade George Brown in November and Comrade Secretary Marjorie Higdon in December. Our 1st vice also transferred to Branch 56 with his move to the Veterans' Pavilion in St. Johns.
- ✓ We have scheduled our AGM and election of officers for 15 Mar, 23.
- ✓ Financially, we are still viable. Although we are not in a position to fundraise, our investments are allowing us to stay solvent. Our Poppy Campaign raised over \$4800 and subsequent donations have increased that fund to in excess of \$5800.

- the new President is Brian Cranford
- we are struggling with membership
- we are struggling with the loss of 3 very active members of our Branch

➤ **Branch 65:**

- ✓ Comrade President Gerald Mercer, successfully applied for a big game license for branch and filled the license with a successful moose hunt.
- ✓ Branch applied for a Provincial Community Enhancement Grant and was initially awarded 753 hours. Subsequently, we were awarded an additional 350 hours for a total grant of \$22,000. The project wrapped up the middle of February. Work completed included, painting lower half of walls in main hall, two feature walls in classrooms and a total restoration of our stag bar. Comrade Craig Medlar, kindly, donated two weeks of his vacation time and expertise to do hands on work with grant workers to provide a professional look to our stag bar.
- ✓ Our kitchen renovation project was completed in February when a three tub commercial sink, grease trap and a commercial dishwasher was installed by a contractor.
- ✓ Branch 65 applied for a 50/50 cost sharing grant through Veteran's Affairs for restoration work on our 1941 Howitzer. We received approval in early February. Planned work includes, sandblasting and painting of artillery piece, having a shield made, painted and installed on gun. We received the donated tires and rims from the war museum at CFB Shilo in November. These will be installed on gun during restoration project. We only had one wheel nut to install tires. College of North Atlantic Placentia Campus has agreed to machine 16 nuts for our project. This work is expected to commence in April 2023.
- ✓ Our Annual General Meeting was held on Friday evening February 24, 2023. Financial statements for fiscal year 2022 were presented and accepted by General Membership.
- ✓ Our Branch Bylaws had not been updated since 1982. Comrade Power and Pomeroy undertook this project. A draft proposal was presented to Executive Members on February and was subsequently accepted unanimously by the 7 members in attendance. The proposed Bylaws were presented to the General membership at AGM and were accepted after some discussion. They have since been delivered to Provincial Command, along with a copy of the minutes of the meeting and branch is now awaiting their final approval.
- ✓ Branch has been holding weekly Disco nights on Saturdays since the middle of January, results have been mixed due to snow and recent cold temperatures. We plan on continuing these events to late March and then assess what will happen after that.
- ✓ Branch has 44 paid current members and have benefitted from Legion.ca portal for getting new members.
- ✓ Overall, our Branch continues to do fairly well during the slower time of winter.
- ✓ An election of Officers and Executives was held at the AGM, the results are as follows:

President, Comrade Gerald Mercer.
 Immediate Past President. Position not filled.

First Vice President, Comrade Kevin Power.
 Second Vice President, Comrade Rick Liddell.
 Secretary, Comrade Juanita Coish.
 Treasurer, Comrade Melanie Ryan.
 Sergeant At Arms, Comrade Gavin Ryan.
 Executive at Large, Comrades, Craig Medlar, Chester Spracklin, Rod Delaney and Tom Noseworthy.

✓ All members will be sworn in in the very near future.

- we go full tilt ahead

➤ **Charwood Manor:**

- ✓ The Board of Directors of Charwood Legion Manor in Carbonear is pleased to present a positive report for this Seniors Housing Complex.
- ✓ All twenty-eight apartments in the Manor as well as the ten Cottages on the property are presently occupied.
- ✓ There is a waiting list of forty applicants for Charwood Manor at this time.
- ✓ On October 4, 2022, an Annual Operational Review of Charwood was conducted by Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation. Following the inspection, NLHC provided funding to replace the shingles on the entire Manor. This job was completed on November 18, 2022 at a cost of \$147,495.55.
- ✓ New furniture and window treatments for the lobby and lounge of Charwood were purchases in November. Our appreciation and thanks to NLHC once again for their monetary support of our Seniors.
- ✓ Charwood Legion Manor has a dedicated webpage on the District 2 Website.
- ✓ An exciting initiative has been undertaken by the Board of Directors of Charwood to possibly purchase land adjacent to the existing Cottages for the purpose of construction additional units. A special committee has been formed with Harold Brown as Chair. Many hours have been dedicated to this project. The Town of Carbonear has yet to give approval for this project to move forward.

5. New Business:

a- District webpage update:

- ⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock is the Web master.
- ⇒ on the webpage, the main page for the District 2 Website, there is a lot of information you can use at your leisure but each Branch has its own webpage within the website. An example with Br 15 webpage is shown.
- ⇒ each Branch is represented as well as Charwood Manor.
- ⇒ the only way additional information gets posted on your behalf for your Branch on your webpage; you must provide it. You can send it to me but preferably send it to Comrade Gary Badcock (garybadcock@yahoo.ca), the Webmaster.
- ⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock addresses this topic:

- ⇒ I update the Website when I find new information. If you look on the first page you will see that I have included some information for Veterans concerning their passenger vehicle: a 10% discount on vehicle registration is offered to Veterans. There is also an application form for Veteran license plate and one for the 10% discount on vehicle registration.
- ⇒ whenever I find something new that might be interesting, I will post it on the Website.
- ⇒ I would like to hear from every Branch. Information like: the names of your new Executives, the President's message needs to be changed when a new President is elected, pictures of whatever activities you have going on, pictures of last week's Darts and Cribbage Tournament would have been nice to put on, etc.
- ⇒ this is for the District, this is a tool that we should use to get it out there. There are no other District Websites in the Province and hardly any in the Country. We are starting something here that we need to keep updated. I have no problems to keep it updated so please, give me information to post.
- ⇒ I look after 3 Website now: Branch 32, District 2 and the Command one.
- ⇒ the address is www.rcldistrict2nl.ca
- ⇒ special event like the 99th birthday celebration for Mr Paul at Br 9 Spaniards Bay, that would be nice to be there and invite everyone; that is what we are looking for.
- ⇒ there are no limit on the pictures to post.
- ⇒ it is your tool to use, use it to your advantage.
- ⇒ a lot of people don't use computers, a five year old knows more about computer than I do but at our Remembrance Dinner and Dance last year, we put a little card with the Branch Website address on every plate. If you want to do something like that, it is appropriate and that would put the information in their hands.
- ⇒ the Minutes of all the meetings are on the Website.
- ⇒ if you have a Facebook account at your Branch, I'd like to put that on as well. The Command Twitter account is maintained by Comrade Philip Wood here and it is on the District 2 Website.
- ⇒ whatever I can find, I put on; there is no limit.
- ⇒ Comrade Harold Brown added that at the Convention last summer in St. John's I mentioned that our Provincial Command Website is an embarrassment. It had not been updated since 2019 I believe but it was 2015 according to Comrade Gary Badcock. Obviously the people who were looking after it left or something so Comrade Gary Badcock accepted to take it on. He made it more user friendly and updates it regularly.

b- Provincial information from Provincial 1st Vice-President Comrade Philip Wood:

- ❖ Greeting from our Provincial President Comrade Gerald Budden.
- ❖ Br 56 will do renovation to the building because it was flooded.
- ❖ Comrades Paul and Brenda are working from home so you cannot phone them but if you email them, they will respond as Provincial Command is still open if you need it

- ❖ Website: Comrade Gary Badcock is doing the Website so it is much appreciated as it is important to keep up with the times. Take a few minutes to look at the Provincial Website from the District Website.
- ❖ the list of winners for the Remembrance Day Literary Contest was sent out recently; winners from a number of schools in this area went to Provincial so Congratulation.
- ❖ Educational Bursary: participation is down, it was doubled last year from 1 to 2 for 1st and 2nd year students so there are 4 Bursary available so keep those in mind when Bursary time comes up.
- ❖ Veterans in need: Most importantly, with the Provincial office being shut down, the needs of Veterans who are in need are being met. I am on that committee and trust me, that the Veterans in need of assistance is still a major priority. Those Veterans can contact the office through email or a phone call and those calls are still being made.
- ❖ I am on the Poppy and Service Officer Committee; we meet almost on a daily basis.
- ❖ It is great to see your reports and it is great to see that District 2 is very active District. I commend you and urge you to continue working at your Community and at your own Legion. Thank you.
- ❖ Comment or question on this topic:.

c- District Webpage

- Comrade Gavin Ryan questioned the colour Blue of the Website for colour blind people. Comrade Gary Badcock quickly responds that he has no control over that colour; it is set. He can only try different version of it. Then a discussion about Domain and Security on the Website
- Security for website: a good idea but expensive; it is necessary for Command. Our website does not hold any personal information, credit card numbers, mailing addresses or anything like that. If it is hacked, I can always put it up again.
- At beginning of addresses there is a: http. On a secure site the address starts with: https. You require it when your site holds pin numbers, credit card numbers, etc. Our site is a roaming site but to have a https site, it is not cheap; maybe \$500.00 a year or something like that. I will check and give options to the District 2 Commander Comrade Harold Brown.

d- Battle of the Atlantic:

- ⇒ was held in Bay Roberts last year because Br 23 Carbonear's wharf was being renovated.
- ⇒ we are a District with 7 different Branches, I would like to see all our events, including a meeting like this, be moved around to all the various Branches. We can do them in order or change the order but I need to see the full participation of every single Branch no matter their size.
- ⇒ we are in this together therefore I see us as one as opposed to seven.
- ⇒ Volunteer Branches to host it:

- 07 May 2023: Br 23 as their new wharf is completed
- Br 15 extended an invitation to the district to attend the Battle of the Atlantic service that will be held in the park by the SS Kyle.
- 2024: Br 39
- Br 22 suggest that each Branch in order of location around the Baccalieu Trail loop.
- all agree with this suggestion

e- Opening of the Poppy Campaign 2023:

- occurs on the last Friday in October is the official opening of the Campaign.
- only District 2 has an opening Ceremony on the Thursday before where all the Branches get together to share the celebration.
- for 2023: Br 65 Brigus offers to host it.
- Each Branch, large or small, should have the honour of hosting the District 2 Poppy Campaign opening.

f- Branch by-laws

- District Commander Comrade Harold Brown shows a leaflet that holds the up-to-date Bylaws for Br23 Carbonear. As most Branches' Bylaws have not been updated in the last 5 years, it is imperative that this be done as soon and quickly as possible before 2024. The template was sent but can be sent again; read them carefully and then each Branch must make the changes specific to their own needs. Once the changes are made, you must send the revised copy of your Bylaws to Provincial Command for approval. This process must be done before March 2024. Remember that those Bylaws are there to protect you and your Branch.
- Comrade Wallace Babcock suggests that Command makes a By-law stating that when a new member is initiated at a Branch, he/she is given a copy of the up-to-date Bylaws along with the insignia. District Commander Comrade Harold Brown agrees with the point and will raise it.
- District Commander Comrade Harold Brown added that the sole purpose of the Legion is that all Veterans (RCMP included) and their families are looked after and cared for. We are part of the Community and want to be involved but our specific reason for existence is to make sure that our Veterans who have served or continue to serve, put their lives on the line, are cared for; you know that.
- about the Welcoming Ceremony this morning; I was honoured to do that. Not every Branch do this ceremony anymore so, I suggest to you that it be written in your Bylaws and that way there are no questions when someone say: "We don't do that anymore".
- Comrade Dorothy Adams declares that at Branch 22, when a member joins on line, the Branch always initiate new members.
- Br 65's Bylaws were date 1982 so Comrade Gerald Mercer and Comrade Kevin Power just wrote new ones this year. Comrade Gerald Mercer offers his help with the writing of Bylaws if anyone needs it.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 16 September 2023. The location will be determined at a later date.

g- Open discussion of topics of interest/concern.

- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown: at the Crib and Dart Tournament last weekend at Br 22 Upper Island Cove, many branches did not show up.
- ⇒ Comrade Wallace Babcock: many people like to play both Darts and Cribbage but for the Tournament they cannot play both because the games are on the same day. I suggests to have a two weekend tournament: one weekend for Cribbage and one weekend for Darts. This should entice more people to participate so everyone gains; the bar especially. Maybe the Provincial Tournament should do the same: having it on two different days.
- ⇒ Comrade Dorothy Adams suggests a District 2 only tournament once a month at different Branches just for fun. It would create more comradeship and revive the interest in the games. But if it's only the one time at Provincial, people cannot play both games.
- ⇒ Comrade Wallace Babcock discloses that playing in tournament is a commitment that a lot of people cannot commit to for different reasons like health or other commitments. I propose that instead of the win being the individuals having to commit to Provincial or National tournaments, the win be their Branch instead so if the individuals cannot play for whatever reason, the Branch can send a replacement members instead of loosing the spot created by the winners.
- ⇒ Provincial 1st Vice-President Comrade Philip Wood advises that: Those changes are made at the Provincial level so you can't just suggest it for it to be done. It can be changed but there is a process for that.
- ⇒ Comrade Dorothy Adams suggests having our own District 2 fun times.
- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown offers that he had the same idea: fun activities such as bowling, dart, cribbage, pool, etc. to do as a District for a bit of fun, that is just an idea. When I talk about District things, I like to see the participation as a District as opposed to a number within the District. Think about that idea and see if it would work for you and your Branch.
- ⇒ Comrade Hal Evely informs all about a practice he has witnessed concerning sports: "I have been playing darts for 4 years and I enjoy it even if I'm not very good at it. I took an Oath when I joined to participate in the Poppy Campaign and other function, community, municipality, charity, etc. Before the play down at our Branch to see who would represent our Branch at Provincial, all of a sudden there is a rush to pay their dues. Where have they been all year? We don't see them all year until the Dart Tournament comes around and in some cases I think the Dart teams are stacked. I did qualify but I'm not the best Dart player; we play one on one, whoever wins the most games is in. I think that the sports chair of each Branch all get together and come up with some kind of rule to say that everyone is treated the same and that every Branch does this process the same.
- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown thinks that getting all the sports Chair together is a good idea the he offers that the solution must be found in the

Bylaws. It is imperative that you write a clause in the event of this situation like: “in order to participate in sports events, a member must volunteer xx amount of hours in the kitchen or in the Poppy Campaign or other event your Branch has.” Make the wording clear that a member cannot become a member just during tournament and do nothing for the rest of the year.

- ⇒ Comrade Wallace Babcock adds that one Dart team who came to play was semi-professional team. Worst of all, that team knew before they started that they would not go to the Provincial Tournament in Deer Lake because they had a Provincial tournament to go to, not a Legion one, so all they did was ruin the day for all the players that were there to have a good time.
- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown says again that in the Bylaws it says that: “If they are members in good standing with their dues paid, you cannot stop them from taking part” but, if your Bylaws are written in such a way as to eliminate that particular situation then there is no argument, it is done”. It can be written in such a way to eliminate A, B and C’s outcome. It is covered with the way you operate.
- ⇒ Comrade Brian Fitzpatrick declares that he was proud to participate and represent Branch 32 at the tournament.
- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown appreciates all the comments and the passion; he then offers that tournaments for fun in the District will be helpful to all Branches and helpful to bringing people to the Branches for these activities whose purpose is just to enjoy ourselves.
- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown then explained that 7 weeks ago we started the “Friday Coffee Morning” at Br32 Bay Roberts from 10-11:30hrs. We provide coffee, tea, toasts, bagels and hard boiled eggs. Veterans, Branch members, friends, family, it is opened to all. Everyone enjoy conversations without all the noises because the bar is not opened. Meeting new people is always nice, especially when we find new Veterans! We have a donation basket and we collect about \$35-40.00 a week which is good. All participants agreed that at the end of the year the money collected will be donated to the Food Bank; nothing goes to the Branch. Everyone who comes enjoy the chats, meeting new people, connecting with old friends, Veterans exchange with other Veterans their experiences and life stories and discuss anything they cannot discuss with family or whatever the case may be. It is opened to everybody.
- ⇒ make your Branch as inviting as you can to Ex-military people who do not want to have anything to do with the Legion. We need to make them understand that we are there for them and we are there to provide a service to the community as well. It’s a fun activity and it doesn’t have to be big but it’s an idea.
- ⇒ Comrade Brian Fitzpatrick comments that a lot of the people come in just to chat and then carry-on.
- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown discloses that all the money is kept track of as well as the receipts so at the end of the year we can donate the money to the Food Bank. It helps everybody.

- ⇒ Comrade Paulette Morrissey asks that the “Quilt of Valour” program be advertised on the District website. She admits that a lot of Veterans say “No” to receiving a quilt but this gift is greatly misunderstood. She didn't know she was considered a Veteran; she just wasn't sure of what the quilt was meant to represent. She received her own quilt at home. We had 4 presented at our Branch.
- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown clarifies that each quilt is made for a specific Veteran. The concept of who is considered a Veteran is not understood correctly. It seems to be only associated with WWI, WWII and the Korean Conflict. This concept must be clarified because a Veteran is much more than that and the RCMP are now Veterans as well.
- ⇒ Comrade Paulette Morrissey was on the fence about considering herself a Veteran so it took her a month to decide about receiving the Quilt of Valour. When she received the Quilt and understood it's meaning, she truly appreciated it.
- ⇒ Comrade Brian Fitzpatrick suggests that each Branch nominate as many Veterans as they can to receive a Quilt of Valour.
- ⇒ Comrade Wallace Babcock advertises that today at 15:00 (3pm) Moose burger are available for purchase at Branch 32 Bay Roberts. The burgers must be pre-ordered and cost \$5.00 each.
- ⇒ Comrade Paulette Morrissey adds that Derek St-Clair in Harbour Grace does sausages as well.
- ⇒ Comrade Mike Butt asked about the dress code for Tournament in Deer Lake. District Commander Comrade Harold Brown will re-send the message concerning the Tournament and dress code for it.

6. Closing

At 11:35 Commander Comrade Harold Brown closed the meeting with the Legion Ritual and the songs: “Ode to Newfoundland” and “God save the King.” Thank you to all who attended.