

AGENDA  
DISTRICT 2 MEETING  
30 September 2023  
Branch #32, Bay Roberts

1. Opening Ritual / Welcome – Host Branch & Meeting Chair
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – 04 March 2023 at Branch 65 – Brigus
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. District Darts and Cribbage Tournament 2023 to be hosted by Branch 32
  3. District Webpage Submission/Use
  4. Opening of the Poppy Campaign 2023: October 26<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)
  5. Host for next District Meeting March 02, 2024
  6. Potential Last Post Fund Presentation
  7. Open discussion of topics of interest/concern.
    - ✓ District events/activities

*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](mailto:nicolebadcock@yahoo.ca)

**NOTE:**

- a) Please have your branch Sports chair or designate in attendance if possible.**
- b) Trinity Conception Placentia Health Foundation 34<sup>th</sup> Telethon 01 October 2023.**  
**We have a time slot of 5-6pm to handle the phones. Please bring a cheque from your branch if you are donating.**

6. Closing Ritual

# District 2 Meeting

## 30 September 2023

### Branch #32, Bay Roberts

Commander		Harold Brown	
Secretary		Nicole Badcock	
Branch 09	Spaniards Bay	Don Hutchings	Sgt at Arms
Branch 22	Upper Island Cove	George Adams	President
Branch 22	Upper Island Cove	Dorothy Adams	Secretary
Branch 22	Upper Island Cove	Terry Walsh	Member
Branch 23	Carbonear	Gary Laine	
Branch 23	Carbonear	Jim Ash	
Branch 23	Carbonear	Ken Tucker	Executive Officer
Branch 23	Carbonear	Hal Evely	Chaplain
Branch 23	Carbonear	Berkley Lawrence	
Branch 23	Carbonear	Gord Parsons	
Branch 23	Carbonear	Gary Davis	
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Brian Fitzpatrick	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Ernie Mugford	Membership
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Ruby Barnes	Member
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Rosalind Morgan	Member
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Gary Badcock	Member
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Margaret Rossé	Member
Branch 32	Bay Roberts	Thomas Coombs	Member
Branch 39	Dildo	Gordon Reid	President
Branch 39	Dildo	Ira Halfyard	Vice President
Branch 65	Brigus	Gerald Mercer	President
Branch 65	Brigus	Kevin Power	Vice President
Branch 65	Brigus	Juanita Coish	Secretary
Charwood Manor	Carbonear	Sarah Lawrence	

#### 1. Welcome:

District Commander Comrade Harold Brown opened with the Legion ritual then welcomed and thanked all for their presence.

#### 2. Minutes of the last meeting:

The Minutes of 04 March 2023 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 Jim Ash moved to have the Minutes of March 04<sup>th</sup>, 2023 be accepted as presented

Comrade Brian Fitzpatrick Seconded the Motion

MOTION CARRIED

3. Business arising: none

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

➤ **Branch 09:**

- ✓ **Finance:** Financially, we are still struggling, hoping things will get better.
- ✓ **Membership:** Membership is down a little this year, it's difficult to recruit new people.
- ✓ **Functions:** Wedding are also down this season, however, we held about eight and that seen us through some rough times.
- ✓ **Weekly events:** Monday night bingo, Tuesday & Friday night poker, Wednesday & Thursday night darts, weekly bar sales, donations and VLT revenue.
- ✓ **Up coming events:** Auction/Dinner, November Dinner/Dance (Nov. 18/2023), Three Christmas Parties, Legion Craft Fair (Oct. 28/2023), Legion Raffle (Dec 09/2023), Community Breakfast (date to be announced), New Year's Eve Ball.

➤ **Branch 15:**

No report

➤ **Branch 22:**

- ✓ **Events:** Since our last district meeting we hosted two showers eight parties two weddings and a screech in for five Mexicans who was working at the Port de Grave plant all events went over quite well.
- ✓ **Functions:** We held our annual memorial service and parade on Sunday July second the reason for this was before July first was declared a holiday for Canada day our veterans always held the service the closest Sunday to the first of July as it was not a holiday on July first and we have followed the tradition the service was well attended with quite a number of wreaths laid everybody was invited back to the legion for a social.
- ✓ **Activity:** We held a cold plate fundraiser during upper island cove days.
- ✓ **Event:** We hosted a book signing for Mr Lundrigan.
- ✓ **Event:** We host a weekly bingo and card game for seniors as well as other events throughout the year.
- ✓ **Finance:** We applied for a ceep Grant for the fall.
- ✓ **Up coming Events:** We have a shower and four parties booked for later on this fall.
- ✓ **Finance:** Financially we are doing very well our biggest problem is membership we have thirty two members with only seven or eight attending meetings and helping with events.

➤ **Branch 23:**

- ✓ **Finance:** Branch 23 is continuing to be very solid financially. The VLTs continue to be a solid revenue stream for the Branch with new games added by the Atlantic Lottery Corporation.
- ✓ **Finance:** Another Chase the Ace has concluded with a winner in July. The Branch will apply for a new license for Chase the Ace, which will be expected to start this October. 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.

- ✓ Events: Branch 23 continues to support NTV Jackpot Bingo every Sunday with distribution of bingo cards locally and as far north as Old Perlican. Jackpot Bingo has proven to be a good source of income for the Branch. The Branch continues to host 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 and Texas Hold'em tournament every month. With all these activities, the Branch is a very busy place on weeknights.
- ✓ Events: The Bar and Banquet facilities are doing well. The banquet facilities hosted numerous events this year and several more are scheduled. We are advertising this facility aggressively on social media platforms.
- ✓ Functions: The Branch successfully hosted the Battle of the Atlantic in May and Memorial Day festivities on July 1. A parking lot Jam Session was held in July and was very successful with a great turnout to listen to live entertainment. Legion Week activities just concluded with numerous events held with the Town of Carbonear proclamation to declare Legion Week in Carbonear. The Branch continues to be very willing to host events to promote RCL in the District.
- ✓ Membership: Membership is as follows – Total of 174 members which consists of 15 Life members, 56 Ordinary members, 88 Associate members and 15 Affiliate members. The Branch has added 6 new members to the roster.
- ✓ General Meeting: The Branch is preparing for the General Meeting in October where an election will be held for an Executive Officer to fill the vacant position due to a resignation for personal reasons.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>eMail</b>
President	Mike Butt	mike_butt56@hotmail.com	President
Immediate Past President	Berkley Lawrence	blawrence@legionnl.ca	Immediate Past President
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Jim Ash	lottery2@icloud.com	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Gary Laing	garyanddeblaing@gmail.com	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Sargent at Arms	Lloyd Laing	llaing16@outlook.com	Sargent at Arms
Secretary	Gary Davis	gary.davis10@gmail.com	Secretary
Treasurer	Sarah Lawrence	berkleysarahlawrence@bellaliant.net	Treasurer
Service Officer	Bryan Pike	bryanpike@me.com	Service Officer
Chaplin	Hal Evely	hal_evely@yahoo.ca	Chaplin
Executive Officer	Bill Laing	bill_1958@hotmail.com	Executive Officer
Executive Officer	Charmaine Laing	bill_1958@hotmail.com	Executive Officer
Executive Officer	Ken Tucker	kennethtucker681@gmail.com	Executive Officer
Executive Officer	Paula Evely	paulaevely50@outlook.com	Executive Officer
Executive Officer	Wendy Cheater	w.mc.3@hotmail.com	Executive Officer

➤ **Branch 32:**

- ✓ The summer has been another successful one at our branch with all weekends booked with events!
- ✓ Bartenders: Our bartenders work well together and run the day-to-day operation of the branch in an efficient and friendly manner. The finance team has held a number of meetings with them over the summer. Overall, everything is going well here but we need a third part-time bartender (& perhaps a fourth). We have advertised for bartenders with the closing date this weekend (30 Sep 2023), and interviews will take place shortly thereafter.
- ✓ Function: The Honours and Awards Dinner and Dance held on 10 June 2023 was quite successful. The catered meal was quite delicious.
- ✓ Finance: The application for funding through the New Horizon's Grant has been completed and submitted. We will not know the outcome of the application until Feb 2024. This has an impact on our Heat pumps/mini splits project for the branch. Special Thanks to Catherine for her time and effort in completing the necessary paperwork for the application
- ✓ Marina: Most of the invoices for the marina have been paid. A special effort was made this year with getting Launch fees and that has worked well. Our seasonal revenue is slightly lower than last year by about \$400. Marina Capital Improvement Fees initiated this year resulted in significant income to be used specifically for dock repairs and maintenance. Visitor revenues also increased. The Marina Committee consisting of Frank Hawe, Catherine Armiger, Ross Petten, Dean Akerman, Scott Crosbie, Silas Badcock, Dan Quinlan, and others have done an exceptional job, including submitting applications for major funding to renovate/repair the existing infrastructure. Frank manages the boat placement and moving around of the boats, while Catherine handles the rates and customer service. They have done a superb job for the branch and pleasure boats/guests to the marina. Thanks everyone!
- ✓ Summer Student: We were fortunate to get a government grant and hired a high school student for 8 weeks over the summer. He did a good job painting, mowing the lawn, and general things that needed to be done around the branch. A big "Thanks" to all our members that helped with the monitoring the young man. It was much appreciated.
- ✓ Thanks: Special Thanks to Comrade Gary Badcock for his work on our branch website, keeping it updated and current as possible. His work on Veterans biographies is outstanding. Comrade Patti Babcock has done an excellent job on our Facebook page, keeping all informed of events and happenings at the branch. Thanks to Comrade Gus French for the advertising sign at the roadside by the branch. The sign is updated weekly and is a good means of informing the public of Legion events. *Special Thank you to Comrade Brian Fitzpatrick for taking on our four yearly branch breakfasts and doing a fantastic job with them. To all who helped, Thanks ALL. Friday Coffee Hour: Comrades Gary and Nicole have done a great job with this, and it has become a highly successful event at the branch. Legion Week (Sept 17 -23, 2023). This initial*

*Canada-wide event was tried at our branch and for the first try met with some success. The highlight being monetary donations of \$250 cheques to the Kids Eat Smart breakfast programs at our four local school and plaques presentations (Designed by Comrade Gary Badcock) to Robins Coffee (Bay Roberts) and Newfoundland Eggs Roaches Line) for their support with our branch breakfasts. This summer would not have been as successful as it was without the combined help of our Legion team. I want to thank all who participated in the Breakfasts, all who helped with the Summer Student; those who worked on any maintenance issues and to everyone who helped in any way. Your commitment to our branch is appreciated*

➤ **Branch 39:**

- ✓ **Membership:** Membership as of 31 Aug 2023: 31 members.
- ✓ **District Meeting:** Regrets that we were unable to host this District Meeting as planned. The SUF building where we hold our meetings is undergoing renovations and we are without washroom facilities. We hope to be back on track for our first general meeting of the fall in October.
- ✓ **Finance:** There are no changes to the Branch's status since the last report. We do not have enough active members to do any serious fundraising but we are still in a viable financial position. We have made some very good investments and can continue for some years using the proceeds.
- ✓ **Scholarships and Bursaries:** In June, we presented three \$1000 scholarships and four bursaries to students at Crescent Collegiate to further their post-secondary education.
- ✓ **Activities:** The branch is preparing for the upcoming poppy campaign. We will be attending school remembrance services in the five schools in our jurisdiction and also having members at all seven cenotaphs in our area on Nov 11. The Literary and Art contest will have participants from four elementary and one high school. Last year we had nearly 300 total entries and are expecting a similar number this year.

➤ **Branch 65:**

- ✓ **Membership:** Branch 65 has 48 paid members as of August 30, 2023.
- ✓ **District Meeting:** The Branch hosted District 2 General Meeting March 4, 2023. Comrade Power cooked up a batch of Chile that was served for lunch.
- ✓ **Function:** The installation of officers was held on March 15, 2023.
- ✓ **Restoration:** Our Howitzer Restoration is still ongoing. Funds have been secured, parts have been obtained and we are waiting to have the gun moved to the contractor to complete the restoration.
- ✓ **Function:** A good contingent of members and cadets attended the Battle of The Atlantic ceremonies hosted by Branch 23 and enjoyed a lunch at the branch after.
- ✓ **Thank you:** At the annual awards for cadets, Comrade Mercer was honored and thanked for his 45 years of service to the cadet movement in Brigus.
- ✓ Our Bar Committee has been very busy.
- ✓ **Events:** The Branch hosted: Tina Randell's "Oh Me Nerves" concert in July, The Great Screech In with JLaC in August, Cornhole Wednesday Nights.

- ✓ Up coming Events: The following events will be coming this fall: Lisa Baker's "Beauty and the Beast", Spirit of NL "Abba", Tina Randell "Holiday Nut Cracker".
- ✓ Moose burger: The Branch has been successful in obtaining a moose license. Starting September 29<sup>th</sup> we will be having a Moose Burger sale from 5-7. We hope to do this on a regular basis this fall.
- ✓ Thanks: Comrade Mercer and Coish helped out at the annual garden party for Charwood Manor Residents Aug 5, 2023.
- ✓ Function: Branch 65 will host the Poppy Campaign Kickoff on October 27, 2023.
- ✓ Function: Remembrance Day Ceremonies will be held at the Brigus War Memorial and a community lunch will follow at the Branch.
- ✓ Beaumont-Hamel: Comrade Mercer attended July 1<sup>st</sup> ceremonies at Beaumont Hamel this year.
- ✓ Function: Comrade Power, Coish and Bellew represented the Branch at St Patricks Church Service to honor our comrades who fought on July 1, 1916.
- ✓ Finance: To improve access to our main hall The Branch has obtained funds to purchase front doors with auto openers. These will be installed this fall if all goes as planned.
- ✓ Event: We will be holding Tibbs Eve celebrations again this year.
- ✓ Goodbye: We said goodbye to our Comrade James Spracklin on July 22, 2023.
- ✓ Event: Celebration of Life was held at the hall in July for Comrade Albert Sparkes and Comrade Cordell Boland.

➤ **Addition to Reports from each Branch:**

- Branch 9: Comrade Don Hutchings has nothing to add to the report.
- Branch 15: not represented.
- Branch 22: Comrade George Adams has nothing to add to the report.
- **Gallipoli**: District Commander Comrade Harold Brown shows pictures of the Hill 10 Military Cemetery in Gallipoli, Turkey. Those pictures were sent to him by Provincial 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Comrade Philip Wood. One of the pictures is the headstone of Josiah Squibb, a fallen Hero from Carbonear. Comrade Berkley Lawrence says that 2 stones away from it is Samuel Hiscock stone. That picture is not available yet but pictures of all the Newfoundlanders buried there are forthcoming soon. On Josiah Squibb's stone it states very clearly where he came from: Carbonear, Newfoundland.
- Branch 23: Comrade Berkley Lawrence shares that he received a package from the **Fallen Heros Association** in British Columbia. Inside the package was a plaque on aluminum sheet 18"x24" for Private Josiah Squibb with poppies in the background, all the history on it and how he died: he got shot by a sniper in the head and Hiscock got shot in the chest a couple of days later. He is the first man from Carbonear to die in the First World War so that is why Sarah asked to have the Pavilion named after him. Comrade Berkley phoned the Association because he wanted to buy a plaque for Samuel Hiscock. The lady told him to go to see the Walmart Manager on Monday morning because that plaque was sent to him; the Walmart store made the donation. We will put it in the corner where the

memorial book is at the Branch; it'll be gorgeous. District Commander Comrade Harold Brown added that our District website would love to have pictures of it to display it on your Branch's page so everyone could see it and appreciate its beauty.

- Branch 32: Comrade Harold Brown familiarize all with the **Last Post**'s function is to provide a grave stones marker to Veterans who do not have a grave marker. Going through the cemeteries in the area, one grave of a WWI Veteran was found. The only marking on it was a small cement cross with a small brass plaque stating his name, dates and WWI Royal Naval Reserve. Pictures of the small cross are shown: George Henry Tucker Royal Naval Reserve WWI died in 1932; he is buried in Port de Grave. Comrades Gary Badcock, Nicole Badcock and myself, as we work the cemeteries together, decided to contact the Last Post Fund about this Veteran and two years later the grave stone arrived at the cemetery (pictures of the stone before and after installation are shown). The installation took only one hour to complete. We are now working on a second one in Shearstown: James Dwyer who never had a headstone and still doesn't.



George Henry Tucker (Original Marker)



George Henry Tucker (Last Post Marker)





James Dwyer (Gospel Preachers in Shearstown)

- Branch 39: Comrade Gordon Reid cites that everything is in the report but adds that in a week or two all the renovations should be completed so we should be able to host the next meeting.
- Branch 65: Comrade Juanita Coish adds that yesterday's Moose burger sale was very successful along with a community auction that brought new people to our Branch.
- District 2 Website: District Commander Comrade Harold Brown thanks all for the comments and remarks that we sometimes we think that everybody knows what's happening because it happens in our Branch. Yet people around the District would love to have that information like the information that Comrade Berkley Lawrence shared earlier. That is where the District 2 Website is so vital for our Branches to use; to display information and also to learn from other Branches as well. Make sure you send pictures and information for all to see as events are happening in every Branch.

➤ **Charwood Manor:**

- ✓ Comrade Sarah Lawrence wishes to thank Comrade Kevin Power from Branch 65 Brigus for helping out with filling out all the applications for us. We applied for a grant to build some extra cottages and Comrade Kevin Power did all the paperwork necessary and on time. We do not know yet if we will get the extra money but I want to say Thank you to Comrade Kevin Power for all his help. All applaud.

5. New Business:

a- Darts and Cribbage tournament:

- ⇒ Comrade Thomas Coombs would like this tournament to be held at Branch 32 for 2024. New lights were purchased for the dart boards but I need to know if the dart

boards need to be upgraded. Discussion between Comrades Berkley Lawrence, Thomas Coombs and Harold Brown as to what needs to be done to be ready for it. The tournament is traditionally held on the first Saturday in February with the second Saturday as a fall back date. There is no date for the Provincial tournament yet but it should be coming out soon.

b- District Webpage:

- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown offers business cards with the District 2 Website address on one side and Branch 32 Website on the other. He then relates that District 2 Website is not being used by the Branches. Each Branch is paying \$30.00 a year to use this particular site that Comrade Gary Badcock has put together for your benefit. On this website there is a page for each individual Branch including Charwood Manor so you can see the latest information but the information is old because the new information is not provided by the users. The information like the one that was shared here by Comrade Berkley Lawrence would be ideal for the Website. We are trying to make sure that the publicity gets out there because as you know, people don't phone these days; they go on the Internet to have a look and find the information they are looking for. We hope to attract younger generations of members to the Branches but if the information available is stagnant, like it has not changed from January to August, people will not look at it anymore and we'll lose the chance for new members. Information must be updated more than once a month.
- ⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock disclosed that he updates Branch 32's Website as soon as he receives new information. It can be daily or weekly. I updated the site this morning from yesterday.
- ⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock divulges that it's not only the District Website but the Command Website as well. On both of those sites, as I look after both of them, 90% of the information is from Branch 32 because none of District 2 Branches and none of the other Districts in the Province provide me with any information to post on the Website. It is not acceptable.
- ⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock addresses Comrade Berkley Lawrence about the information on the plaques and would gladly post it on the Website if the information was forwarded to him as this information is very important for all to see and read about.
- ⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock adds that sadly, he receives nothing from Command. District Commander Comrade Harold Brown advises all present that we have a gentleman who is technically savvy in building Websites, updating them when you like and at a cost of \$0.00. His services are free of charge and we are not taking advantage of it. One Branch should not have the bulk of information on the Website but unfortunately, that is what is happening right now. One person in each Branch should be responsible for the advertising. That person will communicate with Comrade Gary Badcock and provide all the updated information his/her Branch wish to show on the Website. The updates can be done once a day, once a week or whenever changes are made. Most Branch have

their own Facebook page as well so the idea is to use the technology that we have to make sure we reach people.

- ⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock specifies that he can add the link to your Facebook page on your Website page if you give him the information about it.
- ⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock suggests to send him pictures as they go over very well on the Website; a picture is worth 1,000 words and it will stay there for ever. Pictures are very much appreciated and there is no limit as to what can be put on the Website.
- ⇒ Comrade Margaret Rossé expresses her opinion concerning the Website: “I think it’s a wonderful contribution to the Royal Canadian Legion. I think that other Branches should participate.”
- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown advises all that to the best of his knowledge, we are the only District in Canada to have their own website. There are a lot of individual Branches but no District one that we know about. We are trying to lead the way and we certainly appreciate your help.

c- District Sports:

- ⇒ Only 1 sport chairperson is present at this meeting; Comrade Thomas Coombs from Branch 32.
- ⇒ From the Minutes of the last District Meeting in Brigus, it was suggested by Comrade Al Evely to have a District Sport Committee to lay out some of the programming for the District, not just for the tournament and such. Put together recommendations; put together rules and regulations as long as you do not supersede the rules and regulations from Dominion Command.
- ⇒ The District Sport Committee consists of 7 Sport chairpersons, one per Branch.
- ⇒ Suggestion: all the Sports Chairpersons meet at one time in a central location even if it’s for a cup of coffee but a representative from each Branch to make sure that all the things that we want, how we want our sports and things we want to operate; even if it’s only a friendly game between a couple of Branches. The rules and regulations, our suggestions and recommendations of how that would happen.
- ⇒ Comrade Al Evely express his experience with tournaments attended by pro dart players who are members of the Legion for the sole purpose of playing in tournaments. Discussion ensues.
- ⇒ This is the reason for the need of a District Sport Committee.
- ⇒ I must have a name from each Branch by the end of the meeting or at the latest by next Friday.
- ⇒ Comrade Berkley Lawrence urges all present to not forget that any member in good standing is eligible to play but what can be done as a Branch is not financially support that person if he/she goes to a higher level. Nothing in the book says that you have to financially support the winning player who goes to the Provincial tournament or the National tournament.

- ⇒ Comrade Terry Walsh asks: “As a District with 7 Branches, if we decide that we do not in favour of the public coming in and being the word <Good Standing> can we not put a motion to Dominion to make a change?”
- ⇒ Comrade Berkley Lawrence responds: “You can write a Resolution to Dominion Command, it has to go before a Dominion Convention to the Convention floor to be passed upon by the membership of the Legion in general.”
- ⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock asks: “What does a member in good standing mean?”
- ⇒ Comrade Berkley Lawrence answers: “He paid his dues for that year.”
- ⇒ Disagreeable comments ensue.

Comrade Jim Ash	move to get a Sport Committee to standardize the rules for the District for Sport Competition
Comrade Al Evelyn	second the motion
CARRIED	

d- Opening of the Poppy Campaign:

- ⇒ will take place on Thursday 26 October 2023 at 19:00hrs (7pm) at Branch 65 Brigus, all are welcomed to attend. The official opening is on Friday the 27 when the first Poppy is presented to the Lieutenant Governor at Government House.

e- Next District Meeting:

- ⇒ will take place at Branch 39 Dildo on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Comrade Gordon Reid will make sure that the room is not rented out for that day.

f- Last Post presentation:

- ⇒ with regards to the presentation from the Last Post for a reminder of how it functions, Leo O'Brien or Jim Lynch were not available at this time.

g- Open discussion:

- ⇒ Comrade Ruby Barnes wants clarification about the Poppy Campaign. Comrade Berkley Lawrence is an expert for the Poppy Campaign with Dominion Command; he assures her that the Poppy Campaign raises money to help Veterans and their family. The Poppy Trust Fund can be used for other things as specified in our Poppy manual for special expenditures like installing an automatic door opener for wheel chair accessibility: 50% of the cost for that door can come from the Poppy Fund. The Fund can be used to help Veterans, their spouses, their children, their grandchildren as long as it is all related to Military Service. We donate nationally to many organisations that support Veterans: Wounded Warriors, Veterans on the Fly, Vets Canada, there is lots and we support them through the Poppy Fund. Comrade Ruby Barnes discloses an event where a Veteran from this Branch was in hospital so she and Comrade Ernie Mugford wanted to bring him a fruit basket. They were told that the money for that purchase could not come from the Poppy Trust Fund. District Commander

Comrade Harold Brown questioned the reason for that response; it should have never happened because the reason for the purchase was straight forward. Comrade Ruby Barnes was told that the money could not come from the Poppy Trust Fund, it had to come from the General Fund. Comrade Berkley Lawrence clarifies that a fruit basket for a Veteran in hospital is considered an immediate support and comfort to a Veteran therefore the purchase can be taken from the Poppy Fund. Comrade Ruby Barnes adds that it wasn't passed at a meeting that it could come from the Poppy Fund. Comrade Berkley Lawrence declares that it did not have to be passed at a meeting as there are three people on the Executive committee of a Branch who have the authority to dispense money toward the welfare of a Veteran: the President, the Treasurer and the Service Officer. The only time a meeting is necessary is for special expenditures only. Comrade Ruby Barnes brings up another situation: a neighbour who is an elderly Veteran cannot plough his driveway in the winter. Comrade Berkley Lawrence advises that this should go through the Service Officer who should go through the channels; if he is a Veteran he might be entitled to a program to help him with snow clearing and grass cutting. Comrade Harold Brown will discuss this event with Comrade Ruby Barnes after the meeting. Comrade Ernie Mugford discloses that a few years ago a Veteran in Clarke's Beach, who has since passed away, was in hospital so Comrade Ernie approached the Service Officer about a fruit basket for this Veteran in hospital. Comrade Ernie Mugford purchased and delivered the fruit basket to this Veteran and when he brought the receipt he was informed that the money could not come from the Poppy Trust Fund but had to come from the General Fund. Since then, at the Provincial Convention last year in St. John's it was clearly specified that a fruit basket and things of that nature can come from the Poppy Trust Fund. Comrade Berkley Lawrence advises all that only the President, Treasurer and Service Officer knows the names of Veterans being helped; that information is strictly confidential.

- ⇒ Comrade Dorothy Adams questions about comfort to the child of a Veteran. Comrade Berkley Lawrence responds that comfort is for a Veteran but you can support the child of a Veteran through bursary from the Poppy Trust Fund but not for any extra medical expenses unless you have a meeting and discuss the issue. Primarily, the Fund is for Veterans.
- ⇒ Comrade Gordon Reid questions the timing change of the 20% from the Branch's Poppy Trust Fund that goes to Provincial every year; it used to be 30 September but now it is 31 December. Comrade Berkley Lawrence addresses this topic: "It was passed at Dominion Command at the request of 6 Provincial Commands because the reporting period got changed and that is when they have the balance at Provincial Command. We are the only province in Canada that charges 20%; some don't charge anything at all and others charge between 5% and 10%. They have bigger Commands; smaller Commands cost more because Provincial Commands have no Poppy Trust Funds. District Commander Comrade Harold Brown discloses that last year \$60,000.00 went directly to Veterans in our

Province from that Fund. It is used for homeless Veterans and feeding Veterans as best we can.

- ⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock discusses the Bursary; it can come out of the Poppy rust Fund for Veterans families: sons, daughters, grandchildren but it is not being used very much by Branches. Comrade Berkley Lawrence comments that this item is based on needs and the needs assessment must be done first. A scholarship cannot come from the Poppy Fund because it is based on performance of the child in high school. Comrade Gary Badcock adds that unless the Branches know about it, publicise it and look for information about it, then their money will not go anywhere. Comrade Berkley Lawrence continues with: “Service Officer in your Branch should be aware of that. Now I know that there has not been any Service Officer training for the last couple of years but if they don’t know they must ask the questions. When the Service Officer Training comes up and your Service Officer cannot go then someone from the Branch should go to represent the Service Officer and any expenses incurred by the Service Officer to attend the training can come out of the Poppy Trust Fund and not your General Account.
- ⇒ Comrade Berkley Lawrence discusses the lack of interest from the population during the Legion week. Many important and interesting activities were scheduled but the population attended none of them in Carbonear. The same lack of interest from the population was observed in Bay Roberts as Comrade Brian Fitzpatrick discloses his disappointment. This was the first inaugural Legion Week across Canada, British Columbia Command and Alberta Command have been holding the Legion Week for years so Dominion Command figured that it would be a great thing to have all across Canada. The lack of interest was shocking and very terrible.
- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown offers that Legion Week must be publicized more and advertise more about the Legion. The young people do not want to join the Legion and some of them ask: “What will the Legion do for me?”
- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown discloses that this past week we donated \$250.00 to each of the 4 schools in Bay Roberts and North River. Those donations look after giving food to 2 children in each school for an entire year. The money came from the donations received from participants at our coffee morning every Friday after the expenses to run the program are covered.
- ⇒ Comrade Gary Badcock advises all of Branch 32 bylaws that indicate: a Veteran who is active in the Branch, will have their dues paid for by the Branch once this Veteran reaches the age of 65 years as long as this Veteran is still active in the Branch.
- ⇒ Comrade Kevin Power expresses that all the events at Branch 65 are successful.
- ⇒ Comrade Brian Fitzpatrick reminds all about the Telethon tomorrow.
- ⇒ Comrade Gerald Mercer of Branch 65 discloses his deep emotions at his witnessing the trenches at Beaumont-Hamel as well as the graveyards.

- ⇒ Comrade Al Evely of Branch 23 expresses his disappointment at the lack of recognition for Branch 23's supplying water to cancer patients in lieu of giving a cheque at the Telethon. Comrade Brian Fitzpatrick clarifies that only one cheque is presented as a District, not as individual Branches.
- ⇒ District Commander Comrade Harold Brown discloses a true story about a young man who totally changed after experiencing Beaumont-Hamel. It makes a difference seeing it in person as opposed to reading about it or seeing pictures of it. If there is one thing we have done right as an organization it is that because it does change you for whatever reason. It certainly made a difference to that young man.

## 6. Closing

At 11:30 Commander Comrade Harold Brown closed the meeting with the Legion Ritual. Thank you to all who attended.