

District 2 Meeting

March 19, 2022

Branch #9, Spaniard's Bay

Present:

District 2 Commander	Harold Brown	Chairman
Provincial Command	Philip Wood	2 nd Vice-President
Branch 9 Spaniard's Bay	Gordon Parsons	Past President
Branch 9 Spaniard's Bay	Don Hutchings	Sargent at Arms
Branch 9 Spaniard's Bay	Nathan Crane	Secretary
Branch 15 Harbour Grace	Tyson Purcell	1 st Vice President
Branch 22 Upper Island Cove	Bernice Coombs	President
Branch 22 Upper Island Cove	Dorothy Adams	Secretary
Branch 32 Bay Roberts	Philip Wood	President
Branch 32 Bay Roberts	Gary Badcock	Member
Branch 32 Bay Roberts	Nicole Badcock	Secretary
Branch 32 Bay Roberts	Ernie Mugford	Membership
Branch 32 Bay Roberts	John Hardy	Member
Branch 32 Bay Roberts	Karen Johnston-Fowler	Recording Secretary
Branch 39 Dildo	Marj Higdon	Secretary
Branch 39 Dildo	Gordon Reid	Treasurer
Branch 65 Brigus	Gerald Mercer	President
Branch 65 Brigus	Kevin Power	Treasurer

Apologies: Branch 23, Carbonear

1. Opening Ritual/Welcome

At 10:00 hrs, the meeting opened with the singing of "O Canada." Comrade Harold Brown advised that Branch 23, Carbonear, could not attend.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting – September 5, 2021

The Minutes were made available to everyone via email and hard copy available at the meeting. There were no omissions or errors.

MOTION: Comrade Gordon Parsons and Comrade Bernice Coombs moved that the Minutes be approved as written. CARRIED.

3. Business Arising
None.

Report from Provincial Command (Phil Wood)

Comrade Phil Wood brought greetings on behalf of NL Command. They are getting back on their feet. They had one meeting in October and had meetings via Zoom. The convention was cancelled in 2021 April 20-24.

4. Branch Reports followed by Question-and-Answer session:

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

Finance: It is still a struggle, trying to meet our weekly and monthly commitments, especially after being closed from December 22, 2021, to February 14, 2022, because of Covid.

Membership: Our branch had 4 new members join since November 2021.

Functions: We have 8 weddings and special events booked for Spring and Summer. Covid has things slowed own for this year. Hopefully, our Ways and Means will help out with some bookings.

Our Honors/Awards is booked for April and also our Annual Meeting.

Legion Events: Weekly bingo has started but the numbers are down because of Covid. We hold Poker on Tuesday and Friday nights and Darts on Wednesday and Thursday nights. We also have Open Mic every third Sunday in the month.

Fundraisers: Hoping to have dart tournament in April or May. We are getting ready to have a Spring Craft Fair. We are also talking about having a Flea Market this Spring.

Ladies Auxiliary: They are still very active within the branch.

I'm sure that we are not the only branch that's struggling but things may have a more positive outlook now that Covid is slowing down.

It was verbally reported that Claire Coombs won First Place in the Provincial Poster contest. She received \$100 plus a certificate. Also, John Paul turned 98 on March 16th. He has been a member for 77 years and is still active on the Executive.

b) Branch 15 – Harbour Grace (Paulette Morrissey)

The Branch is opened as required. It has 36 members. The new Executive has been in place since November 2021. Their last General Meeting was March 1, 2022. Financially they are holding their own. The only revenue is from Fundraising which is limited. All reports are up to date.

Branch 22 – Upper Island Cove (Dorothy Adams, Secretary)

We are closed on Sundays but are open from 4-12 six days a week. We have 22 members. The current Executive has been in place for 3 years. The last General Meeting was February 2019, and the last regular meeting was November 9, 2021.

c) Branch 23 – Carbonear (Not represented but report submitted)

Branch 23 is doing very well considering the amount of time we have been closed over the past 2 years.

Membership: currently we have 168 members with 124 members in good standing for 2022.

Financial: we are in good shape, thanks to the government and Legon support.

Events: We are open with regular hours Monday to Saturday from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight. Our two dart leagues have returned on Wednesday night for the mixed league and Friday night for the men's league. Also, our Tuesday night Texas Holdem is back on again. We have music entertainment every Saturday night from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight and we are getting around 50 people each night (63 is our

maximum but will increase on 14 March). We had our AGM on Sunday. We will hold our elections February 2023.

Upgrades: We have installed a new floor covering in our downstairs bar. We purchased new tables and some new chairs for our downstairs areas. We have replaced almost all of our florescent bulb lights with LED light strips. We had to repair our rain gutters around the back of the building as the ice was flowing over the top of the gutter.

Overall things are starting to get back to normal.

d) **Branch 32 – Bay Roberts** (Philip Wood, President reported)

Ross Petten stepped down as President. We held our Election of Officers and Phil is now the new President. We are trying to get back on our feet. Financially we did okay during the pandemic, but a lot needs to be done to get back to where we were. Phil introduced Branch 32 members in attendance: John Hardy, Ernie Mugford, Gary Badcock, Nicole Badcock and Karen Johnston.

Ernie Mugford reported that he has a membership problem. Members who are paying online to Dominion Command, but Dominion Command is saying that the branch owes them money. For some reason, the credit cards from 4 of the 6 members in question did not go through so they billed the branch. Ernie has tracked down 2 of those members who said they would come into the branch and pay, but they have not done that to date.

We have a weekly 50/50 draw at our branch. Anyone can avail of it. You can call the branch and give your credit card number.

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

The AGM was held last weekend. There were no changes. They had 2 student winners: a Senior in the essay category and a 1st Place poem.

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

They are building a new kitchen. Business is slow. It should be done in 1 month. They had their AGM Wednesday night. They had 4 new members sign in. They are open 7 days a week from 12 noon to 1:30

a.m. At their General Meeting held December 2021 they had 15-18 members. Their Executive has been in place for one year. Elections will be next year. Financially the branch is doing excellent, and all their reports are up to date.

They have a project display for the outdoors. Last year they got a 1941 Howitzer. A concrete pad was poured, and it is now in place. They located an original set of tires and rims for the Gun, and they are putting it back together. They are hoping to have them delivered soon. They need wheel lugs. They applied for a grant through Veterans Affairs. No reply has been received yet. They also got a 1955 ships propellor. They are trying to get an aircraft propellor, but money is tight. They are hoping that the application will be approved for funding.

They are planning a bunch of things related to the unveiling of the Hollister.

Comrade Gary Badcock of Branch 32 advised that he has been uploading biographies of our local veterans to the branch website. He found that there were a lot of biographies written by Alister Rice from The Rooms for Royal Newfoundland Regiment soldiers who died in service. Gary got permission to link to these biographies to Branch 32's site. Families can also write the biographies. Gary advised that he has found headstones in cemeteries but there was no record of them. They were unmarked. They are all now on the website and are now recognized.

He said to search "NGB" on the Rooms website and it is amazing the amount of information that is there.

Comrade Harold Brown encouraged other Branches to search for their veterans.

Harbour Grace branch reported that they are waiting on plans by the engineer for their new building. They installed a new sign on it. They got 3 new members. This is the 100th year of the Memorial Park. They are hoping for a good year.

Upper Island Cove branch reported that they support seniors' group. On St. Patrick's Day they had Irish Stew that was sponsored. It was an enjoyable time.

Comrade Harold Brown opened the floor to Questions and Answers. He wanted to try something different that would hopefully result in branches helping branches.

Question 1: What would you like to change if you could? What can this change do?

- New patio deck off the stag bar.
- Get new members in and make them feel welcome
- Get younger members in
- New members need to be given something to do. Put them on committees. They will get a sense of belonging'
- Branches need to be inviting a space is needed for those people who were in the military.
- Need activities for veterans to be interested in.
- In Kelligrews on Wednesday mornings, they serve eggs and toast free of charge. It is a great social event.
- Strong connection between Mayor of towns and their local legion. Suggest branches give mayors free membership.
- Co-ordinate coffee mornings that don't clash with other branches.

Ernie Mugford proposed a challenge to branches: See how many modern-day veterans we can get into our branches before the next District Meeting.

Question 2: Prefer reports or sessions?

All agreed that sessions were the way to go.

5. Other Business

a) Updates/Upcoming Events:

- Provincial Command Convention to be held in St. John's at Branch 56 from August 20-24th. Votes are 1 for every 50 members. If you won't be attending, please send your vote via proxy. Phil will be going for

the 1st Vice position and Comrade Harold will be going for the District Commander again.

- Battle of the Atlantic Ceremony – Branch 32 will host it. It will be held the first Sunday in May (May 1st) at 2 p.m. One wreath from the district will be laid. Comrade Gerald to put in a request to the Cadet Corps. to participate. Comrade Ernie advised that there would be no marching so any veteran can participate. Chairs can also be provided for them.
- Branch Elections/General Meetings – Comrade Harold wants to know when the branches are holding their meetings. He also wants to know the names and contact information and positions that they hold.
- Financial Statements –Comrade Harold would like a copy of them. He already has Carbonear's and Bay Roberts.' Some branches have not submitted one in several years. He requested 1-2 pages to be into him by next Saturday, March 26th for 3 years back or at least the current one.
- Special Request (District Commander) – Good news shared. Comrade Harold wants to know so that he can send a note to them?????
- Other – Comrade Harold advised that even though we all prefer to hold the sessions rather than listen to reports, the reports are still required for each meeting.

On Prime, Call of Duty by Liam Dale is a recommended watch.

Comrade Harold asked branches to pray for Ukraine.

6. Closing ritual with the singing of God Save the Queen.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.