

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting Number 69**  
Held at C&E Museum, Kingston Ont., Sunday 18 April 2004

**Executive**

Cec Penney, President  
Reg Warkentin, V/President  
Ron Knapton, P/President

Ted Dorion, Secretary  
Bob Lent, Membership  
Terry Murphy, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 1415 hours. There were 94 members present.

**1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING COMMENTS**

The president welcomed members and guests to the meeting, stating that the Dedication Ceremony that was just held was very moving and he thanked all the members who participated and also those attending. He introduced BGen R.P. Fraser OMM CD, Colonel Commandant of the C&E Branch who spoke very briefly about how pleased he was to be able to attend the Dedication Ceremony and to meet so many members of the Club. He also introduced the C&E Branch CWO, CWO J.A. Berthiaume CD.

**2. DECEASED MEMBERS, WIVES & OLD COMRADES**

The secretary directed attention to a copy of Annex A (Attached) deceased members, wives and old comrades to date. The President called for a minute of silence in remembrance of our fallen comrades. "Lest We Forget."

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The President stated that previous minutes were mailed and then asked for any errors or omissions. None were offered. The President requested the minutes be adopted. It was moved by Ron Knapton and second by Mac McLellan. Carried.

**4. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary had nothing to report.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer distributed a copy of the Treasurers Report (Annex B). He explained the report and then moved that this report be adopted as presented. Seconded by Gerry Coady. Discussion nil. Carried.

**6. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS ATTENDING FOR THE FIRST TIME**

The President asked if there were any member attending the meeting for the first time. Jim Gillette from Ottawa was introduced. It was encouraging to note that there were several members attending from out of town.

**7. SICK/HOSPITAL REPORT** It was reported that John Currie was a patient in the Kingston General Hospital, Kidd Wing, Rm 743.

**8. ENTERTAINMENT REPORT**

Tom George Entertainment Rep reported that the Christmas Bingo was very well attended and everyone had a great time. A profit was realized and he thanked all the volunteers for their support.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Formal Dinner/Balls** The executive investigated the possibility of a Sigs Club Fall Ball and the findings were that this would not be a good time to attempt a ball as the Museum would be holding one as well as the C&E Branch holding two mess Dinners during this time frame. The Sigs Club will be sponsoring a Club Table at the Museum Ball and it was suggested that if we could get enough response we could arrange to have Club members sit together at non-sponsored tables. Bill Fallows stated that we should not let the fact that because there are several functions going on during this time frame influence the Sig Club function. The president stated that there was plenty of time to revisit this issue and get a consensus at the Sept 04 meeting.

**B. Granting of Life Memberships.** There was a motion at the last meeting that the Executive investigates the granting of Life Memberships to those members who have paid consecutively for 10 years. This was proposed because at present those members that are not Life members are not treated the same as Life members when they pass away i.e. \$30.00 donated to the Museum in their name and all that accompanies that donation. Upon closer scrutiny it was discovered that we would have to find considerable funds (\$100.00 x 100) to put into the Trust fund and this was not possible. This item will be discussed further under New Business.

**C. Notification of Members for Meetings.** A Telephone fan out system was suggested at the last meeting and initiated for this meeting with an excellent result and will be continued.

**D. Next Branch Reunion.** It was suggested at the last meeting that the Sigs Club consider hosting a reunion in the next couple of years. The executive discussed this item and it was the consensus that the Club being a civilian organization would have considerable trouble securing Military support if the club were to try to be the sole sponsors of a reunion. The club would be more than willing to provide the bulk of the volunteers. Gerry Coady addressed the meeting stating that the 2003 Celebrations was very demanding and suggested that another reunion before the five year time period may prove to be difficult and possibly unsuccessful.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Election of New Officers.** The President noted that the Vice President and secretary were stepping down after two very successful and dedicated years in office. Tom George has volunteered to serve as Vice and Terry Murphy has volunteered to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. The president asked for any further nominations from the floor. No further nominations were offered and no discussion ensued. The President welcomed the new Vice and Secretary. At this time the president thanked the outgoing Vice, Reg Warkentin and Secretary, Ted Dorion and spoke briefly about their dedication, hard work and support especially during the 2003 Celebrations, a rousing round of applause supported his comments. It was noted that Tom George was Entertainment Member and the president asked for a new volunteer but there were no takers at this time.

**B. Life Membership.** At the present time the club has 756 members including 46 family members. The President asked for a sponsor to make the following motion: **Any regular member who has paid their annual dues for ten consecutive years be identified and upon their death they be treated as if they were Life Members.** Motion by Jack Burman, Seconded by Herb Norris. Discussion Nil. Motion Carried.

**C. Postage Expenses.** The Executive is looking at ways of cutting down the postage expenses which last year amounted to \$2,753.00 for the four mailings per year. Some areas under consideration and trial for the minutes and newsletter are the use of email (233 members), hand delivery system for Kingston area (174 members) / Sigs Club mailbox at the Museum for members to pick up their personally addressed minutes and newsletter. After a reasonable period of time any rejected emails or mail remaining at the Museum would be mailed in the post. If these methods could be perfected we could realize a saving or approximately \$1,200.00 per year. In order for the email system to be effective we must have up-to-date email addresses.

**D. Maj Bruce Carruthers Grave Site – Cataraqui.** The Sigs Club was approached to lay a wreath in conjunction with the Joint Signal Regiment at the gravesite of Maj W.B.M. Carruthers, father of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, on 24 Oct each year. The Executive agreed and the Colonel of the Regt was approached and he agreed. Bill Fallows as member of the Regt Senate has agreed to coordinate this effort. It is requested that as many Sig Club members as possible attend this yearly ceremony. Members will be kept posted.

## 12. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

**A. Volunteer Assistance.** Peter Sutton requested volunteers to assist him in providing assistance with a Sig Club member at Providence Manor in Kingston and Herm Jackson readily volunteered.

**B. UNEF II Reunion.** Reg Warkentin notified the Club that there would be a UNEF II get together in Ottawa at the Army Ottawa Officers Mess (all ranks) on 24 Apr 04 at 1900 hrs at a cost of \$12.00. Anyone who served in Egypt was welcome.

C. **Cancer Survey.** Mac McLellan addressed the meeting concerning a topic of grave concern namely the fact that many ex-military personnel who served in Underground Communications Centres (Bridge Sites) are coming down with cancer. He requested that the Sig Club mail out a survey to define the number of people who had served underground and the percentages of those who have cancer or who have died from cancer. Considerable discussion ensued on the subject as whether the Sig Club had the mandate or should be involved in such a survey. Some members stated that the Canadian Legion or DVA would better address the matter. Mac placed a motion on the floor that was further discussed, a vote was held and the motion was defeated.

### 13. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be a General meeting and will be held at **C&E Museum Sunday 26 September 2004 at 1400 hours.** Kit Shop will be open and refreshments available, hope to see you there.

### 14. **PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS**

The President thanked the Members for attending the AGM and again for their participation in the Dedication Ceremony and reiterated that a C&E Branch Badge would be added to the Memorial at a later date. **Notice: All members who have changed their email addresses in the past year and/or who want to receive Club emails are asked to notify the Secretary ASAP at email [the-sigs-club@sympatico.ca](mailto:the-sigs-club@sympatico.ca)**

### 15. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 1553 hrs the president asked for a motion of adjournment. Moved by Ron Knapton, second by Bill Fallows that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

Minutes Prepared by: Terry Murphy (Secretary/Treasurer)

Cec Penney (President)