

## Bulletin to Branches 2010-03

March 31, 2010

### Attendance at AGM and regional meetings in B.C.



Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch executive attending luncheon following the AGM.

I was invited by John Finn, RSO, BC Coastal Islands Region, to attend the March 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting in Duncan. Most of the branch presidents and many of the executive from the region were in attendance. We had a very fruitful and frank exchange on topics ranging from open communication between branches and National Office to the PHSCP negotiations.

I was also invited by Diane McIntyre, President of the Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch to attend the branch's AGM on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Close to 100 members were present and again, very interesting questions concerning the PSHCP, marriage after 60 and other issues were put to me by the membership. On the same day, I lunched with the branch executive and we discussed the issues in more depth.

March 10<sup>th</sup> saw me in Surrey to speak at the Regional Meeting hosted by Ian Spence, RSO, Western BC & Yukon. Once again, the conversation was lively and an exchange on the issues of relevance to the Association and to the branches was on the menu. We discussed matters ranging from governance to the pension debate that had recently been in the media.

## **National Office hires a new Director of Corporate Services (DCS)**

Debbie Clement joined the FSNA team on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Debbie is a Certified General Accountant and will take the helm of the corporate services department, which includes the financial, human resources and information technology areas at National Office.



Previously to arriving at FSNA, Debbie was the Director of Finance and Administration of the Beechwood Cemetery and Foundation. Before moving to Ottawa, she headed the finance department of triOS College in Toronto.

I thank Stan Hrabarchuk and Bill Taylor, who with me, formed the selection committee. Out of 15 candidates, only four were invited for a second interview and Debbie was the successful candidate. She brings to this position a strong financial background, as well as organizational and human resources management skills. We are excited about her arrival and look forward to a very productive future with her as DCS.

## **New contact for members with PSHCP & PDSP questions**

Until a replacement for Charlotte Roy is found, please forward all member questions and issues regarding the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) and the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP) to Jennifer Stevens, Health Care Research and Advocacy Officer at [stevens@fsna.com](mailto:stevens@fsna.com) or call 613-745-2559 ext. 238. Jennifer, in cooperation with Bernard Dussault, Senior Research and Communications Officer, will ensure that all members and health benefits officers are served in either French or English in a timely manner.

As reported in the August 2009 Bulletin to Branches, Charlotte Roy semi-retired in September. She has since been focusing on her roles of Director within the PSHCP Administration Authority and member of the Technical Committee that supports the work of the PSHCP Partners Committee.

## **Congress '10 resolutions reminder**

The resolutions deadline for by-law resolutions was February 12<sup>th</sup> and for general resolutions was March 18<sup>th</sup>. All resolutions that have not been withdrawn by the branches that submitted them are posted on the Web site.

## Nominations for national president and vice-presidents

The Nominations Committee reports that as of March 31, 2010, the following candidates have accepted to stand for election at Congress 2010. They are listed in alphabetical order.

Position	Candidate	Branch of origin/ Most recent position
National president	Lizotte, Hélian	Montréal Branch/ National director (Quebec)
	Sanderson, Joe	Winnipeg & District Branch/ National director (Manitoba)
First national vice-president	Oberg, Gary	Southern Alberta Branch/ Second national vice-president
Second national vice-president	Chipperfield, Les	Summerside Branch/ National director (P.E.I.)
	Cox, Anita	Winnipeg & District Branch/ Former regional director for Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario
	Poersch, Richard	Peel Halton & Area/ National director (Ontario/Nunavut)
Third national vice-president	Dobson, George	Winnipeg & District Branch/ Branch president
	Smith, René	Miramichi/ Branch president
	Spencer, Julie	Central Okanagan/ National director (British Columbia/Yukon)

Further nominations for the national president and the three national vice-president positions should be submitted to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Dennis Jackson at the National Office address.

## Registration for Congress '10

All attendees were requested to register for Congress 2010 by **March 31**. This will ensure that they can receive the resolutions package by April 15, in accordance with our By-laws. In a few cases, NBOD, RSO or branch elections scheduled to take place in the coming weeks means that registrations must be postponed until the winning candidate is determined. To accommodate the outcome of some pending elections, on-line registration will remain open until the end of April.

To register, visit **www.fsna.com** and click in the right-hand column where it says “To register, click here”. Once on-line registration is closed in May, please contact Kitt L’Heureux or Melanie Hudson by e-mail at **klheureux@fsna.com** / **mHUDSON@fsna.com** or by telephone at 613-745-2559, to obtain assistance.

Payments for observers and spouse registration fees, travel arrangements and meal selections are due by April 15, 2010 and can be made by credit card or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to “HTG Accounting in Trust” and mailed to:  
Hudson Travel Group (FSNA Congress 2010),  
1680 Vimont Court, Suite 200  
Ottawa, ON K4A 3M3

## **NBOD minutes**

The minutes of the January 2010 NBOD meeting are enclosed.

## **Advocacy initiatives**

Please find attached the summary of advocacy initiatives undertaken in February.

## **Pre-retirement presentations**

This is a reminder that a PowerPoint file, which comes with speakers’ notes and handouts, is available to branches that get invited to make presentations at retirement seminars organized for federal employees and members of the Canadian Forces and the RCMP. National Office can send the files in English and French by email and/or copied to a CD and delivered by mail. Also available are membership recruitment packages that include an FSNA application form, a brochure on our affinity programs, a MEDOC application and a recent issue of ON GUARD.

Although the presentation script is not a “hard sell”; it provides an overview of the Association, what it is, what it does, why it is important to future pensioners, and how one can become a member.

This presentation on FSNA is updated on a regular basis. Since only a limited number of branches use this material, it is available on request rather than automatically distributed to all branches. For copies, contact Melanie Hudson at **mHUDSON@fsna.com** or 613-745-2559, ext. 243.

## **Web-based Membership System upgrade**

This is to confirm that the WMS system was upgraded from WMS 2 to WMS 3 on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 2010. Thank you to all users for their patience while bugs were being fixed for a few days following the rollout. Please don’t hesitate to forward any issues, questions, or comments to Kevin Armstrong at **karmstrong@fsna.com**.

## National office closed

The Association's national office will be closed for business on Good Friday, April 2 and on Easter Monday, April 5.

## ON GUARD summer 2010 deadlines

**Action** The deadlines for the summer 2010 branch report information to arrive at the National Office are: Friday 30 April Membership changes (for non WMS branches)  
Friday 7 May Branch Reports

The expected delivery period to members is 7 – 18 June 2010.

Reports can be sent by e-mail to Françoise Gauthier ([gauthier@fsna.com](mailto:gauthier@fsna.com)). Please include the **branch code** (i.e. NB64) as well as the **branch name** (i.e. Moncton) in the message **subject** window.

If you have not received an acknowledgement reply within two working days, call her or send her another e-mail, as this could indicate there was a transmission problem.



Sylvia Geacero, MBA, MA  
Executive Director

Attachments:

[Minutes of the January 2010 NBOD meeting](#) (click here to access)  
Summary of advocacy initiatives undertaken in February

**Tracking FSNA's Advocacy across Canada  
February 2010**

ED = Executive Director  
LTC = Long Term Care  
NBOD = National Board of Directors  
ND = National Director

PAO = Provincial Advocacy Officer  
PDSP = Pensioner's Dental Service Plan  
PS = Public Service  
PSHCP = Public Service Health Care Plan

RSO = Regional Services Officer  
SDB = Supplementary Death Benefit  
SR = Standing Resolution

<b>Date</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>FSNA Advocate</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Feb 3	Assessments for home care and long term care	Meeting	Minister of Health and Community Services for Newfoundland and Labrador, Acting Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Minister and Communications Director	ND and PAO for NL	Commitment to conduct a full review of the issue
Feb 3	Pensions, benefits, pharmaceutical strategy and home care	Meeting	Minister of State (Seniors), Director, Retirement & Ageing Division, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada	President, ED, Senior Research & Communications Officer and the Health Care Research & Advocacy Officer	Agreed to meet at least twice a year.
Feb 8	Pensions	Roundtable public discussion	MP Vancouver Centre	Past President FSNA Board of Directors	
Feb 10	Seniors' Housing	Meeting	ADM of Ontario Seniors' Secretariat; ADM Housing Division, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Manager of Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Special Initiatives	PAO for ON	Commitment that more affordable seniors' housing will be made available for low income seniors by 2012.
Feb 11	PSHCP	Meeting	PSHCP Partners' Committee (representatives of the public service unions, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat and FSNA)	ED	

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Feb 11	Introduction to FSNA and ask for a meeting	Letter	Minister Responsible for Seniors, ON	ND for ON	Received response with respect a future meeting.
Feb 12	Seniors Housing	Meeting	Associate Director, NS Centre on Aging and Valerie White, CEO, NS Department of Seniors	PAO NS	
Feb 16	Senior pharmacare dues and fraud prevention	Meeting - Group of IX	Minister of Health for NS and the Investor Education & Communications Coordinator from the NS Securities Commission	PAO NS	
Feb 17	Long term care policies	Public consultation	Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board, Newfoundland and Labrador	PAO NL	
Feb 18	Health care for members and seniors.	Meeting	Minister of Health for SK and MP, Saskatoon/Biggar	PAO SK	
Feb 24	Elder Abuse	Co-Chaired Meeting of PEI World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Committee	PEI Seniors Secretariat	PAO PE	Developed plans for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2010.
Feb 27	Federal public sector superannuation plans	Meeting	Heads of Bargaining Units (e.g. PSAC, PIPSC, CAPE, etc.)	Senior Research and Communications Officer	Development and implementation of an ongoing communication strategy regarding the threats to reductions in pension benefits