

15 Sep 09

**REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2009 RESOLUTIONS BY
THE NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE (NRC)**

The NRC has reviewed the following resolutions and makes its recommendations herein.

NEC members are now invited to review these resolutions and to comment upon on them, as well as to indicate approval or non-approval prior to the Annual General Meeting.

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- Resolution 2009-13 - Amendment to the criteria for the CVSM**

Note: On pages 10 and 11 of the SOCC final report dated February 28, 2009, a number of conclusions and recommendations are stated. Some of the statements concern administrative processes that need not be the subject of formal resolutions. Others lend themselves to articulation in the form of resolutions, which have been developed as Resolutions 01/09 to 09/09 inclusive. They are identified in the table of contents above by “(SOCC)”.

RESOLUTION 2009-01 – GOVERNANCE OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC)

Originator

Strategic Organizational and Constitutional Committee (SOCC)

Reference(s):

SOCC Final Report dated 28 February 2009, para. 5.0 (Conclusions), item 2

Status

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: governance at the NEC level needs to be reviewed by the NEC itself; and

WHEREAS: the NEC must provide feedback to the committee and the membership of any changes they may wish to pursue in order to bring about improvements in the NEC operation;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the NEC itself hold formal discussions, the aim of which shall be to recommend governance changes to the NEC itself.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The NRC supports this resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009-02 – DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Originator

Strategic Organizational and Constitutional Committee (SOCC)

Reference(s):

SOCC Final Report dated 28 February 2009, paras. 2.3 and 6.0 (General), item 2

Status

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: Association booklets have existed ever since the Association was formed and the time has come to move to a different model; and

WHEREAS: in the past, these publications benefited from the support offered by DND including the costs for printing, distributing and mailing, either in whole or in part; and

WHEREAS: this advantage is no longer available; and

WHEREAS: printing and mailing costs are very burdensome to an organization such as ours; and

WHEREAS: the modern office which benefits from computerization, now offers new capabilities to manage and control information unavailable in the past; and

WHEREAS: no overall index of official publications has been issued by the national office to which executive and other members could refer, thus contributing to a suppression of corporate knowledge especially at the Wing level; and

WHEREAS: the SOCC recommends that all the booklet material be modernized into one policy and procedures manual which could be easily amended and made available on the Association's website for use and reference by all members;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Association booklets be superseded by a Policy and Procedures Manual.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The NRC supports this resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009-03 – ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORMAL POLICY CONCERNING THE PRIVACY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Originator

Strategic Organizational and Constitutional Committee (SOCC)

Reference(s):

SOCC Final Report dated 28 February 2009, paras. 2.3 and 6.0 (General), item 6

Status

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: Booklet 107 "Contact Information – National, Group and Wing Executives" contains personal information; and

WHEREAS: regulatory requirements in the provinces as well as nationally make it difficult to offer the kind of wide distribution of personal information which the Association has been carrying out with Booklet 107;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Association establish and implement a formal policy concerning the privacy of personal information.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The NRC supports this resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009-04 – ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL ADVOCACY FORUMS ACROSS CANADA

Originator

Strategic Organizational and Constitutional Committee (SOCC)

Reference(s):

SOCC Final Report dated 28 February 2009, paras 3.3 and 6.0 (General), item 7

Status

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: the current wing model excels in serving the community and provides a social atmosphere for members; and

WHEREAS: that model may not satisfy for needs of potential members who may wish to concentrate on a more advocacy centred role; and

WHEREAS: most of those potential members are likely to live in either larger Canadian urban areas, or retirement communities for former air force members; and

WHEREAS: many people with active lives tend to focus on shorter task-based and or project-based activities where continuous, long-term commitment is not necessarily expected or offered by wings;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the NEC shall discuss the establishment of local advocacy forums across Canada with a view to proceeding with implementation.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The NRC supports this resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009-05 – DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Originator

Strategic Organizational and Constitutional Committee (SOCC)

Reference(s):

SOCC Final Report dated 28 February 2009, paras 4.0 and 6.0 (General), item 8

Status

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: communications, both internal and external, are paramount to the success of any organization; and

WHEREAS: internal communication must serve to keep our members well informed and to keep all levels of the organization functioning well together; and

WHEREAS: external communications serve to keep those outside our association informed as to what we do and raises our profile among members of the public and the Canadian Forces; and

WHEREAS: there have been some great improvements recently due to the efforts of the current Executive Director; and

WHEREAS: organizations that champion a constant improvement in internal communications are quite often the most successful, especially since we as a national organization can no longer meet face to face regularly; and

WHEREAS: committee and NEC work is carried out through electronic means including the website, e-mail and teleconferencing, there is a need to adapt to those media and to embrace them; and

WHEREAS: concerning external communications, the efforts of an improved website, magazine and other initiatives such as the Aviation Affairs Committee and “Air Force Day on the Hill” are indeed commendable there is still a need to resolve the lack of awareness of our existence within the general public;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the NEC develop and implement a comprehensive communications plan.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The NRC supports this resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009-06 – DEVELOPMENT OF A TRAINING AND ORIENTATION INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR ELECTED OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Originator

Strategic Organizational and Constitutional Committee (SOCC)

Reference(s):

SOCC Final Report dated 28 February 2009, para. 6.0 (General), item 9

Status

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: there is no comprehensive training package for Wing, Group and NEC office holders available in any form; and

WHEREAS: such a package should be developed and made available in digital format such as CDs and/or DVDs;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the association develop a training and orientation information package available to elected officers and directors.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The NRC supports this resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009-07 – ADOPTION OF A BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING MODEL

Originator

Strategic Organizational and Constitutional Committee (SOCC)

Reference(s):

SOCC Final Report dated 28 February 2009, paras 3.4 and 6.0 (Constitution and Bylaws), item 1

Status

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: The Constitution and Bylaws, article 2.12.1 specifies that an Association General Meeting shall take place annually, at such time and place as the NEC may from time to time determine, for the purpose of electing the NEC and conducting such other business as may be legally placed before it; and

WHEREAS: much debate within the association has centred on the issue of the Association's Annual General Meeting occurring every two years rather than every year; and

WHEREAS: the biennial model is successfully carried out by other organizations including the Royal Canadian Legion; and

WHEREAS: from a cost perspective there is a compelling rationale to adopt biennial annual general meetings as the need to limit expenditures at the national level still exists; and

WHEREAS: experience has shown that Wings are generally unable to step up and host a National AGM coupled with the difficulty and costs of sending delegates;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Association adopt a biennial general meeting model.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The NRC supports this resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009-08 – VOTING RIGHTS OF PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS AT ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETINGS

Originator

Strategic Organizational and Constitutional Committee (SOCC)

Reference(s):

SOCC Final Report dated 28 February 2009, paras 3.1.3 and 6.0 (Constitution and Bylaws), item 2

Status

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: all past national presidents have the right to a vote at Association Meetings in accordance with article 2.12.5.1(4) of the Association's Constitution and Bylaws whereby past presidents have accredited delegate status; and

WHEREAS: the SOCC report states that most organizations do not allow such a practice which is seen by some as quite undemocratic; and

WHEREAS: former national presidents may be recognized through the Association's Honours and Awards system;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the statute providing past national presidents with a vote be rescinded forthwith.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The SOCC recommends that "the privilege of an automatic vote for past national presidents at all meetings of the association be discontinued". The NRC is of the view that since the Immediate Past National President is a member of the National Executive Council, in accordance with article 2.7.1.1 of the Association's Constitution and Bylaws, the holder of that office should continue to have voting rights at an Association General Meeting. On the other hand, the NRC sees no reason to continue granting past national presidents, with the exception of the Immediate Past National President, voting rights at Association General Meetings. The NRC therefore suggests amending the resolving clause to read: "**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** the statute providing past national presidents, excepting the Immediate Past National President, with a vote be rescinded forthwith."

RESOLUTION 2009-09 – NUMBER OF VOTES FOR WINGS AT GROUP AND ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**Originator**

Strategic Organizational and Constitutional Committee (SOCC)

Reference(s):

SOCC Final Report dated 28 February 2009, para. 6.0 (Constitution and Bylaws), item 9

Status

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, article 2.12.4, each Wing shall be entitled to send accredited delegates to an Association Meeting as follows: (1) for the first 100 Regular Wing members or part thereof, one accredited delegate. (2) for each additional 100 Wing members or part thereof one additional accredited delegate; and

WHEREAS: in accordance with article 2.12.6 of the Constitution and Bylaws, Regular Members at Large may attend any Regular or Special Meeting of the Association and such members may elect one voting delegate for every twenty-five such Members at Large, or fraction thereof, in attendance at the meeting; and

WHEREAS: as specified in article 2.14.5 of the Association's Constitution and Bylaws, each Wing within a Group shall be entitled to send accredited delegates to Group Meetings as follows: (1) if less than fifty Regular Members, one accredited delegate, and (2) if more than fifty Regular Members, one additional accredited delegate for each additional fifty Regular Members or portion thereof; and

WHEREAS: there is a need to drop the ratio of members to vote at the National and Group levels to allow smaller Wings to retain more than a single vote should their membership drop to or below fifty members; and

WHEREAS: the majority of Wings are now below fifty members; and

WHEREAS: there is an anomaly in some Groups where an overwhelming number of members populate a single Wing within that Group and all other Wings reflect the smaller memberships which are more common across the Association; and

WHEREAS: that situation can allow one Wing to dominate the dynamics of Group and potentially skew results in favour of that one Wing to the detriment of the Wings in one region – the Group;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Wings be accorded one vote for every multiple of 25 members or portion thereof to a maximum of four votes at group and association meetings.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The NRC supports this resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009-10 – RECOGNITION OF TOTAL SERVICE

Originator

Gilles McDermott, Member 784 (Diamond Jubilee) Wing

Status

Raised by Alberta Group on 25 April 2009

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: a gap in continuous service exists, the reinstated regular members have limited choice of either starting anew or buying back the missing years; and

WHEREAS: this can amount to a substantial sum, and may deter some past members from returning who wish to have their previous service recognized;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: at the preference of the returning member, upon submission of satisfactory proof of previous service calculated on a whole year basis, their previous years be recognized and added to their current service.

For membership information research provided by Wing, Group or National, a flat fee of \$50.00 shall be payable to the applicable organization.

Note: Booklet 105 Section 7.06 will require amendments if this resolution is approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: this resolution should not be supported yet, in its current form because it seems to try and deal with two separate issues. The argument requires some work before it deserves further consideration. The first "Whereas" statement is incomplete, since the reinstated member has a third option – accept reinstatement but elect not to buy back the "missing years". However, it is acknowledged that the issue which is being addressed seems to be "continuous service". The second "Whereas" statement is problematic because it attempts to link two separate issues: the cost of buying back "missing years"; and, secondly, recognition of previous service. The logic problem in this statement relates to the fact that no one is ever denied recognition for the years they have served. ("Served" means years for which the member paid his or her dues) The association database records the exact number of years each and every member has submitted annual dues. And, the term "years served" relates to only one thing – payment of association dues. This resolution is not about how to obtain recognition for years previously served; this resolution is about how much will it cost a reinstated member to buy back the years they have missed. It is because these two themes have been linked that one can misunderstand its intent. If the author believes Article 7.06 to Booklet 105 calls for too high of a cost, then that needs to be made explicit in the resolution. As the resolution is now written, if a member is gone for ten years, but wants to come back and be recognized as having served during those ten years, the fee would be \$50. As Booklet 105 is now written, the fee would be \$440. Some members have bought back the years they missed, so as to get credit for them. With these loyal members in mind, it would therefore seem unfair to change this rule now. Finally, there is one more important consideration to make: it is not uncommon for there to be a lag of as much as one year before a member in default is removed from the active database. This is because not all Wings submit their annual returns in a prompt manner. Some Wing returns continue to come in well into December. What this means is that some defunct members could be retained on the Active list for 18 months before we can make the proper adjustments. If this resolution were to go ahead, a fee of \$50 would hardly cover the costs associated with having continued to send a magazine to a defunct member.

Some draft whereas statements are provided:

WHEREAS: it is not uncommon for inactive members to seek reinstatement as Regular members in the Air Force Association of Canada; and

WHEREAS: the association membership database records accurately the period during which they were members in good standing; and

WHEREAS: many of these returning members are interested in securing "continuous-service-credit" for the years they were absent; and

WHEREAS: the financial cost to these members to obtain “continuous-service-credit” for the years they were away can be prohibitive, as detailed in Booklet 105, Article 7.06;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: for returning members a flat fee of \$50 be applied for which the returning member would obtain credit for the period they were absent, thereby securing continuous (no break in) service.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The recommendation of the Executive Director is supported and the NEC is invited to consider the revised wording suggested above.

RESOLUTION 2009-11 -- COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

Originator

Gilles McDermott, Member 784 (Diamond Jubilee) Wing

Status

Raised by 784 Wing on 15 January 2008

Raised by Alberta Group on 25 April 2009

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: the Cold War Service Medal be awarded to a member or former member of the Canadian Forces for their participation in Operational Units in the defence of Canadian domestic and foreign interests against the former Soviet Union and its allies’ intrusions and threats; and

WHEREAS: the Cold War spanning time from the erection to the fall of the Berlin Wall; and

WHEREAS: a part of our history and a large segment of our past serving military members, known as the “unsung heroes”, have given their dedicated service, and some made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our country and foreign interests during that crucial time known as the Cold War with little or no recognition; and

WHEREAS: the Government of Canada has issued a bar to the Special Service Medal for those who have served in NATO, but this medal only recognizes people who have served outside the country or at CFS Carp;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: a new medal be issued that would recognize all, including members who served in Canada and the USA in the service of NORAD, either directly or indirectly. This award would most assuredly go a long way in recognizing these well-deserving individuals, as well as help the rest of the country better understand and appreciate the service and sacrifice these members endured during that era.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S RECOMMENDATION: support is recommended.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The NRC supports this resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009-12 -- AMENDMENT TO BOOKLET 108 – DRESS, CEREMONIAL AND PROTOCOL

Originator

890 (South Okanagan) RCAF Wing, Penticton, BC

Status

Raised by 890 Wing on

Raised by Pacific Group on

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: the RCAF Benevolent Fund no longer exists;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the portion of section 5.6(4)6 in the “Dress Ceremonial and Protocol” Booklet 108, that refers to the RCAF Benevolent Fund, be deleted;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: section 5.6(4)6, in the “Dress Ceremonial and Protocol” Booklet 108, be amended to read “work with various veterans’ organizations in the attainment of their objectives”.

RATIONALE: since the Executive and the Board of the RCAF Benevolent Fund decided to cease operations and transfer the remaining funds to the Royal Canadian National Poppy Fund, there is no need to refer to the RCAF Benevolent Fund in the installation of new members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S RECOMMENDATION: administrative; support is recommended.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: The NRC supports this resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009-13 – AMENDMENT TO THE CRITERIA FOR THE CANADIAN VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL (CVSM)

Originator:

Jean Thomas, Member 600 (Regina) Wing – First Draft Group revision 01

Status:

Raised by the Wing on 18 March 2009

Raised by the Prairies Group on 15 April 2009

Raised by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) on 15 September 2009

Raised by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

Reviewed by the Executive Director on

Returned to the Originator on

Reviewed by the National Executive Council (NEC) on

WHEREAS: The act of becoming a volunteer means to willingly take on the responsibility of active service, knowing that one's own death is included in that service, at no matter what date. It also means that, should hostilities cease, then that volunteer is discharged without having to surrender his life. This does not make him any less of an honourable volunteer. Furthermore, many young men were forced to wait until they became 18 years of age, then enlisted as a volunteer, were trained under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, shipped overseas, and failed to return from their first mission. Was their death any less honourable because they had not been on active service for 540 days? Are they any less dead? To deny any volunteer, living or dead, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal due to the fact that he could not, because he had perished on duty, complete 540 days of volunteer service, is an act of the lowest form of injustice.

We cite a case which clearly exemplify the many injustices.

AIRCRAFTMAN FIRST CLASS LOUIS BLONDEAU, R270976. Impatient to follow his older brothers, one of whom was a POW, he volunteered at age 16, joining the Royal Canadian Air Force on October 13, 1943. Stationed in Burma, he perished in a Japanese strafing attack on March 14, 1945, after serving only 517 days, and now he lies in a cemetery in Bangladesh.

Since the Canadian Government did not consider them to be volunteers, should they then be considered to be dead? This is small comfort to a surviving family. In efforts to prevent abuses of the volunteer conditions, the government itself has committed an abuse against many, many legitimate volunteers who had the temerity to yield their lives prematurely, in the service of their country.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Air Force Association of Canada petition the Government of Canada through the Department of Veterans' Affairs to amend the regulations governing the award of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal to delete the restriction of eighteen months (540 days) retroactively to date from the date of the commencement of hostilities in September, 1939.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: it needs some work: there is some offensive language/terminology the resolution can do without. Before we condemn as unjust the number of qualifying days it would be wise to confirm why a number was mandated in the first place. Just as with the 410 Wing (Newell) resolution from 2008 regarding a medal for BCATP personnel, we need to come to a better understanding of the CVSM, its intent, and the criteria, before such a resolution is proposed to the delegates in Trenton.

NRC RECOMMENDATION: According to the Veterans Affairs Canada website, the CVSM is "granted to persons of any rank in the Naval, Military or Air Forces of Canada who voluntarily served on Active Service and have honourably completed eighteen months (540 days) total voluntary service from September 3, 1939 to March 1, 1947." This resolution, as well as the 2008 resolution (01/08) which was carried, is not likely to receive any consideration whatsoever by the competent authorities, since the Honours Policy Committee of the Chancellery of Honours at Rideau Hall has "consistently rejected proposals to change the eligibility requirements for award of the CVSM and will not be revisiting the matter".

In light of the foregoing, the NRC does not support this resolution.
