

Minutes of the 158th Meeting of the
National Executive Council
held in the MacNab Room of the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel
Hamilton, Ontario, Friday 12 October 2012

Present

Terry Chester, Chairman
Lloyd Campbell
Greg Spradbrow
Brian Darling
Ralph Murphy
Guy Vallieres
Dave Donovan
Duncan Campbell
Robert Roe
Ron Bannister

Absent

Alex Richards

Secretary

Dean Black

Observers

Richard Goette
Evelyn Goucher-Campbell

Serial	Item and Discussion	Action and Remarks
I	<u>Opening Remarks.</u> The Chairman opened the meeting by inviting all of the members to participate in a less formal, but respectful, open meeting, so as to not be encumbered by process but to solicit all viewpoints. He also asked everyone to be respectful of their fellow members' views.	
II	<u>Approval of the Agenda.</u> Mr. Donovan asked to have a discussion regarding the "Ontario Group Position Paper" included in the agenda. Mr. Darling asked to add an item titled "Attendance at Official Functions". The Chairman accepted both requests.	
III	<u>Discussion of Strategic Issues.</u> 1. As regards the Letter of Continuance process the question will be put to the delegates, seeking permission to pursue the letter.	

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	<p>2. As regards the Capitation/Visitation Grant, a motion was proposed to amend the wording of Article 1001-6.03 “Miscellaneous Fund Raising”. The motion was approved and the revision will come into effect when our new constitution is approved. The essence of the change will be to make it clear and transparent that Groups may accept Wing contributions to their funding needs.</p> <p>Regarding the actual payment of Wing Visitation allowances, the chairman had asked Group Presidents to come to the meeting with proposals that would permit an auditable, accountable transparent process. None were forthcoming. He asked that GPs provide an estimate on how much they would need for the coming year. At least one GP explained that this information was already in their annual report. The ED reported that it would be apparent when we discussed the budget that there were no funds available at present to pay the Visitation allowance, and that the NEC would need to determine from where to pull funds if we wished to do so. It was decided to defer this matter until mid-term when we would have a better appreciation of the financial situation this year.</p> <p>3. As regards Non-payment at events, it was agreed that individuals who have elected not to pay for events they attend, are to be brought to the attention of their Group President.</p> <p>4. As regards Resolutions from the NRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2012/1 - Be it resolved that the Air Force Association of Canada adopt the name Royal Canadian Air Force Association. This resolution was approved for presentation to the delegates. b. 2012/2 - Be it resolved that the National Office Treasury will, without conditions, credit \$175 per Wing in each Group to their respective Group Treasury. Each Wing shall submit the first \$175 of its membership dues collected to their respective Group Treasurer and deduct that amount from the funds submitted to the National Office, with effect from the membership year 2013. This resolution was withdrawn, owing to an acknowledgement that it is a budget-line item, and such items are the subject of a separate motion during each annual meeting. It was also agreed that 	

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	<p>the wording of the resolution (“Each Wing shall submit the first \$175 of its membership dues...”) is confusing; membership dues are precisely that – membership dues. These dues belong to the members, not the Wings. This resolution should be reconsidered and if it is the intent to collect and distribute Wing dues, for the benefit of the Groups, then the wording should be changed. Meanwhile, Air Force Association membership dues are paid by members for membership in the association, and members themselves decide how these funds are to be spent by informing their Wing representatives how to vote on the budget each year at the annual meeting. To refer to these dues as Wing dues is simply not correct;</p> <p>c. 2012/3 - Be it resolved that upon the death of a regular member of the Air Force Association of Canada, the magazine “Airforce” continue to be sent to the surviving spouse/partner until the subscription reaches its deadline at the end of the membership year in which the now deceased member was enrolled, except that the requesting widow will be required to pay an enrolment fee to confirm her/his desire to continue receiving the magazine beyond the Last Posting entry issue, which is provided free of charge, and to offset the cost of creating/recording the new membership. This resolution was withdrawn since the NEC believes existing procedures already adequately address this important need rendering the resolution unnecessary.</p> <p>d. 2012/4 - Be it resolved that: as part of its aims and objectives to inform new generations of Canadians about the sacrifices and service of those who have gone before them, that the Air Force Association of Canada request of the Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Royal Canadian Legion an opportunity to discuss and explore extending permission to surviving family members to wear specially marked miniature medal sets only on those occasions during the year when it is appropriate to do so and in a manner that respects the intent of the criminal code. The NEC does not support this</p>	

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	<p>resolution.</p> <p>5. As regards the budget, Mr. Black briefed the members of the NEC on all of the budget-line items. He explained insufficient funds are available for the AGM 2013 in Saskatoon. He also explained that insufficient funds were available to pay out the Wing Visitation Allowance for 2011-2012 (past Fiscal year). Mr. Black emphasized that if the Groups required funding they must indicate from where the funds are to come (from which other budget line items, or programs, products and services would the NEC members wish to draw funding). He also suggested if the members of the NEC do not want to draw funds from other programs, products and services then they should give serious consideration to the option of raising membership dues to help fund their Group requirements and the AGM 2013. Mr. Bannister proposed amending the Wing Visitation Allowance budget-line item value, to reflect the intent of resolution 2012/2. Mr. Roe seconded the motion. The motion was defeated. Based on discussions that ensued, the NEC agreed to pursue a new idea proposed by the Executive Director that could generate a new revenue stream (Multiview), and to ask the Wings to determine from their members the extent to which they were willing to support a \$5 membership dues increase, and for NEC members to prepare for the possibility NEC members would be asked to fund their own travel and accommodations to the AGM in Saskatoon. Meanwhile, Mr. Black is to explore the salary envelope budget-line adjustment option, in time for the mid-term meeting to determine whether the diminishing business operations suggest of changes that would allow the funding of the other important activities, programs, products and services, mindful of the possibility any postponed decision in this regard would still require consideration of severance, for example, that may render moot any efforts to identify revenues from elsewhere that could be applied to the other priorities. Together all of these options would seek to fund in priority the Wing Visitation Allowance and then the AGM 2013, but a decision regarding these priorities could reflect otherwise. Mr. Vallieres proposed this motion and Mr. Bannister seconded it. The motion carried.</p> <p>6. As regards a gift to our patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in this the 60th anniversary of her</p>	

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	ascendancy to the throne, it was proposed that the donation to the museum be made in her name. The motion was accepted.	
IV	Nil.	
V	<p><u>Discussion of Other Issues.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of Social Media. Discussion ensued, emphasizing the need to establish some procedures and protocols where social media is concerned; 2. Distribution of Executive Duties. The Chairman touched on the need to deal with the new Not-for-Profit Corporations Act and changes to the electoral process. He emphasized that our succession planning process does not adequately consider individual skills, knowledge, experiences in accordance with the current dynamic operating environment in which we are working. In the future, establishment of terms of reference and people with specific skillsets are going to be needed to better respond to the challenges our association is facing. 3. Corporate Memberships. Mr. Campbell briefed the members on the potential for corporate memberships, based on his experiences at the Saskatoon airshow. 4. 90th Anniversary. It was decided to speak with the Special Advisor to the Commander RCAF (Dave Peart) to find out what the Commander may be thinking, vis-à-vis the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the creation of the RCAF. 	
VI	<p><u>New Business.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ontario Group Position Paper. Mr. Donovan mentioned aspects of the position paper, and allowed as that some of the more contentious aspects of the paper had been overtaken by events and he would be discussing these matters with the paper's originators. There were no motions or further business arising from this discussion. 2. As regards "Attendance at Official Functions" and the need for Co-ordination of Invitations – Mr. Darling volunteered, but the Chairman suggested we may employ the Public Affairs/Relations Volunteer in this capacity. 	
VII	<u>Old Business.</u> Mr. Vallieres proposed approval of the minutes of the 157 th meeting of the NEC; Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The motion carried.	
VIII	<u>Reports.</u> The Executive Director briefed on the status of	

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	<p>deferred revenue investments, staffing issues and the RCAF Association Trust Fund. With respect to the fund and the staff, Mr. Black indicated that we had overstepped our staff capacity, in terms of the volunteer nature of the Secretary and Treasurer position. He explained that it is no longer possible to take on significant projects (museum donations) that require more and more (personal) overtime over multiple weekends throughout the year, writing receipts, answering correspondence and simply dealing with the need to manage these large projects. To that end, Mr. Black informed the members of the NEC that the past four years have been very stressful, and that he and the Treasurer will not be pursuing a similar project for the foreseeable future. . Our current capacity is tailored only to the handling, recording and management of unsolicited donations; the capacity to respond to fund-raising drives and large projects no longer exists, and unfortunately cannot be accepted unless the members, and the board of directors/board of trustees introduce changes that would provide greater funding for additional staff capacity.</p>	
IX	<u>Roundtable and Discussions.</u>	
X	<u>Adjournment.</u> The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.	

Original signed by

Dean C. Black, CD
Secretary

Approved/Not Approved

Original signed by

Terry Chester, CD
Chairman