



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DE L'AVIATION ROYALE CANADIENNE
Advocacy, Heritage, Youth, Community – Promotion, Héritage, Jeunesse, Communauté

NEC GENERAL MEETING
VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE

In Attendance:

Steve MacDonnell
Dean Black
LGen André Deschamps
Terry Chester
John Murphy
John Scott
Don Hogan
Jorma Hamalainen
John Hooper
Dave Vokey
Guy Vallieres
Evelyn Goucher-Campbell

AGENDA - 26 FEB 17

1. Call meeting to order/Opening at 1:16 pm. The Chairman proceeded with the opening ceremony, in accordance with traditions.
2. Terry Chester moved to accept the agenda, Guy Vallieres seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. Approval of minutes of previous General Meeting(s). John Scott moved to accept the GM meeting minutes. Don Hogan seconded the motion. The motion carried. The national president has asked that letters be prepared on the subject of specific decisions and resolutions reached at the general meeting. These letters will be shared, in an effort to help leaders and delegates throughout the association communicate the decisions to the members.

4. Correspondence. Letter to LGen Hood announcing Association award winners. The Air Force staff proceeded with notifications, which were also published in the magazine. Winners have been advised, and the contact information is coming back to the office. The national president also mentioned two pieces of correspondence on which we continue to work: a letter to the former president of the 430 (Warsaw) Wing, and a letter concerning the Birchall Award.

REPORTS

5. Chairman/President's Report. The President updated the members on the outline of items to be included in a strategic plan and a membership plan under new business. Some ongoing activities around 2016 awards are currently still being worked through. The NEC was also briefed on some of the activities and general impressions of the CDI/CDAI annual conference with our Honorary national President to comment further in his report. Dean was thanked for attending the CDAI AGM on our behalf which preceded the conference. The upcoming Air Force Day on the Hill was outlined and recent Past National Presidents would also be offered an opportunity to attend if they could at their own expense.

6. Honorary National President's Report/ Advocacy Committee. There was an absence of government officials, at the CDAI Seminar. This might be explained by the fact we are pre-budget, and pre-defence policy review (DPR), meaning there may be very little information on which to comment, or little room to do so, mindful of the evolving nature of these processes. The CDS covered very well the current landscape of activities, including harassment issues, and the issue involving the VCDS (VAdm Norman). He mentioned nothing about procurement, consistent with the state of various projects and related affairs. The Main Estimates were released last week, and the math shows defence spending will fall to 2007 levels or below. The DPR (defence policy review) will probably be released end-May, just prior to the summer parliamentary break. In terms of advocacy, one file involves the Super Hornet. The other file involves the Cormorant mid-life, long-term sustainment issues. Terry asked if there was any information concerning the lawsuit filed concerning the Fixed-Wing SAR procurement. LGen Deschamps had no additional information to share.

7. Vice Chairman/Vice president's Report. Guy approached the Legion (Director of Administration) on two subjects: a) the resolution process; and, b) the convention (event management) process. Guy indicated he would like to share both documents with the NEC members. The national president indicated the Legion resolution process is very similar to what the RCAF Association does, save for a couple of additional levels of consideration within their governance (organizational) structure. The lesson drawn concerns discipline, timeliness and process/procedures to be followed. There would seem to be nothing so different with our approach that would warrant any changes. On the second matter, Guy added in terms of conventions the Legion prepares for conventions six to ten years in advance, and very much like the RCAF Association (of the past) the Legion relies on "Local Convention Support Teams". Terry asked is that not what Don MacLeod has been looking into? The national president confirmed Don has not yet been given the go ahead, but that decision might be made when we provide him with terms of reference that will be informed by the work being done by Guy. Secretarial Note: the project as described by Don MacLeod mentioned nothing about Wing Support; it only mentioned the feasibility of holding an Annual General Meeting in a location with access to affordable accommodation. The Executive Director has emphasized such meetings can no longer be held annually simply because the funds do not exist. Additionally, the Executive Director has

emphasized the myriad of considerations that must go into site selection, each time, demand that we provide some sort of guidance to Don MacLeod to ensure he explores what the NEC needs him to explore. Without direction and guidance the likelihood is great that the resulting report will fall critically short in many areas.

8. Treasurer's Report/Financial Update. The national president pointed out work being done by John Scott on the Treasurer role. Dean reviewed the budget, touching on revenue budget line items exceeding 50% take-up and expenditures exceeding 50%. The Chairman suggested it might be a good idea to provide certain directors with a direct interest in such matters the time to consider the details of the Treasurer ToR in sub-committee. Terry added after viewing the ToRs submitted that there are governance versus operations management considerations that merit more reflection, which again emphasizes the more strategic nature of the functions we are seeking on the NEC. John Scott shared his agreement with the process, but emphasized the importance of acknowledging the requirement to take an early step and approval his ToR ever mindful of the approaching deadlines for crafting the next budget.

9. Executive Director's Update. Dean Black described use of the SurveyMonkey tool for submission of Wing and Group reports. He also shared the national president's request to explore the use of a Dashboard tool for NEC members (Financial, Fundraising, and Membership), and Digitization of the magazine. Dean emphasized that a dues increase was sought in 2005 and implemented in 2006 and 2007, with another increase in 2012. We are now planning for the 2018 budget, and the passage of another six years, with the requirement to give serious consideration to the possible need to raise dues again. This is especially important for an association with declining membership. Reversion to a digital magazine could, however, help reduce costs, meaning a lower-tier membership fee could be possible. And, this would be seen as positive news, in comparison to news about the need for a dues increase. Jorma supported the idea, mindful of what current generations seem to be looking for. Wing reports digitization. John Hooper, Don Hogan, and John Scott indicated how important it would be to consider certain issues vis-à-vis use of SurveyMonkey for Wing reports. Therefore, a beta testing will be made available before we go too far along this path.

10. Veterans' Liaison. Guy Vallieres anticipates the next stakeholders' meeting in April. He reminded members of the VA Ombudsman's commendation deadline (31 March). The national president emphasized this Ombudsman's commendation is different to and in addition to the MVA commendation.

11. MALs. Jorma suggested our strategic paper needs to get up to the top of the chain of command, before the Commander moves on, and that it should address both MALs and the other membership issues that LGen Deschamps and Terry Chester have been touching on.

12. Membership. Terry explained he has been out of the loop for about a month (his tan has now faded completely), but he continues to prepare his Terms of Reference, and he requested Jorma keep him in mind as we make progress with our communications regarding membership with the Commander.

13. Communications. Nothing to add. John Scott submitted his resignation from the portfolio.

14. Aviation Heritage. Don mentioned his work with the aviation museums across the country. Nine responded out of 22 museums, providing additional details about three of the nine replies

(New Brunswick Aviation Museum, (Kevin Anderson), Golden Hawks 50th Anniversary, looking for sponsorship, Aviation Hall of Fame, (June), Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada, Air Force Museum Society of Alberta. On the subject of National Aviation Day, Don indicated an e-mail had been sent featuring what Transport Canada had been doing. As regards Vimy Flight, the chairman mentioned activities involving the Vimy Flight, their work planned for April 2017 in France.

15. Air Cadets. John Hooper has been in contact with Don Berril. The national president indicated he would like to call Don as well. John Scott indicated that Don will be in the job (leading the ACL) for two years, which represents a change.

16. Ceremonial. Nothing more to report at this time.

17. RCAFA Trust Fund. John Murphy explained he was grateful for the opportunity to sit in on the meeting. John is looking forward to continuing working with the Trust Fund, and doing the fine work the Trustees are involved in.

18. 2018 GM. A proposal has been made to hold the next general meeting (2018) in Calgary.

19. Group Updates. Dave Vokey. AGM 26-28 May, dire need for leaders to step forward. Payment issues have been looked into. The national president indicated there are succession planning issues as well, throughout the association. Guy indicated their AGM is 22 April. John Hooper 19-21 May in Orillia. Evelyn indicates Group dates not yet set. Local challenges (602 Wing) will be addressed later next week. Saskatoon has an air force museum being constructed. There will be an air show, supported by Dundurn. Pin night was not well attended, but those that did attend very much enjoyed the meal and company. Reg Daws indicated their AGM will be in Nanaimo (808) 16-17 May. He indicated no one stepped forward to fill the role of President, so he held on to the job. Since their 2016 AGM he lost his Treasurer and his Secretary. In response to the succession planning issues expressed by Dave Vokey and Reg Daws and others, the Chairman indicated it may be time for a restructuring that responds to these governance challenges. Alberta Group will meet in Cold Lake, 28-29 April.

OLD BUSINESS

20. Status of current association constitution and by-laws. Guy reported that translation of the constitution and by-laws continues.

NEW BUSINESS

21. Strategic Plan – Focus Discussion. “AIRPower” A – Advocacy; I – Involvement; R – Resources. Could be the formulation underscoring our strategic response to the Commander’s AIRPower Vectors. We need to promote a change agenda. Digitization of the magazine may fit well with these plans. The theme of “continuing your service” could be applied to younger generation (air cadets) to older generations (retiring from the air force).

22. Patron’s Gift. Dean Black explained the Patron’s fund. He shared how RCAF Association member Colonel Marc Bigaouette, and Lieutenant-Colonel Tressa Home, both working with the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff (London) attended the Patron’s lunch, after which an application for funds was submitted. We were initially disqualified, but Dean Black argued the matter. A

change in qualification was secured, and the RCAF Association Trust Fund was accepted as the charity to which the Patron's Fund could be directed. A report will be required on how the funds are used for the benefit of veterans. The Chairman suggested that Guy Vallieres can help determine what might be considered the best "veteran's" use for the funds. John Scott moved to take a portion of the Patron's Gift and request of the Trustees that they give kind consideration to donating it to the Birchall Awards event (28 February). Guy Vallieres as VP Veterans Liaison seconded the motion, since it would help provide a positive response to the Patron's Fund organization about our use of the Patron's Gift. The motion carried. John Murphy will broach the subject with his Trustees, and if and when it comes to pass, Dean will follow John's direction to have Wendy direct the funds (donation) accordingly. We await the deliberations of the trustees on this matter.

23. Meltwater (Media software) – unsolicited proposal. John Scott moved that the offer from MeltWater be declined, owing to our communications needs already being met through other means. Guy seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

24. AIAC - Corporate Membership. Terry Chester indicated as part of his membership duties he would be reaching out to the Aerospace Industry companies to see if they would like to join the RCAF Association as company members. Dean Black mentioned he took out a quarter-page advertisement in the AIAC Annual Report, encouraging members to join the RCAF Association.

25. Wing membership returns and remittances (Reporting).

26. Warsaw Wing update (Banner ownership). A motion was not presented, in favour of letting the issue play itself out, perhaps to see how the two members might respond.

27. Next NEC General Meeting 23 April.

28. VP Ceremonial hinted that the Commander is interested in holding 17 September 2017 Battle of Britain on parliament hill (because of Canada's 150th celebration).

29. Guy Vallieres asked Jorma Hamalainen if Jorma could advise of any details concerning the use of the Armouries come up, since Guy Vallieres has an active interest in participating as the Quebec Group lead.

End of Business and Closing. Guy Vallieres moved to adjourn. The Chairman conducted the closing ceremony in accordance with traditions. God Save the Queen.