

General Meeting
Alberta-NWT Command, Lacombe Legion Branch No. 79
Of the Royal Canadian Legion
September 7, 2023



-Draft Until Approved-

The regular general meeting was called to order by President, Andy Gauthier, at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Officers in Attendance Andy Gauthier, President, Janet Hall, Second Vice-President; Kathy Hobbs, Past President; Calvin Swarbrick, Treasurer; Cherry Baird, Secretary.

Executive Members in Attendance: Lea Redekopp, Judy Lemieux, Lillian Gillis, Barbara Burnett, Shirley White, Hannah Cucheran (appointed)

Absent: Rick Grinham, Arnie MacAskill, Susan Churchill (First Vice-President)

Call for additions to the agenda:

None

Call for errors or omissions to the minutes of the previous meeting:

None

Motion:

Moved by Cherry Baird that the minutes of the June 1, 2023 General Meeting be approved as printed.

Seconded by:

Brian Brant

All in Favour

CARRIED

Old Business/Business Arising from the Minutes

Estimates on replacement of the hot water tank

Chris Contenti is away - no report.

Correspondence

- Thank you card from Donald & Dawn Atkinson and donation of \$50.00 in memory of Ruth Hoppus

New Business

None

Treasurer Report - Calvin Swarbrick

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES										
August 2023										
ACCOUNTS	OPENING BALANCE	DEPOSITS	CHEQUES	CLOSING BALANCE	O/S CHEQUES	SIMPLY BALANCE	SAVINGS	GIC	CEBA Loan	TOTAL FUNDS
General	\$12,209.41	\$7,387.18	\$8,136.41	\$11,460.18	\$ 1,169.93	\$10,290.25	\$35,842.84		\$0.00	\$46,133.09
Sunset	\$12,072.33	\$21,930.30	\$21,233.48	\$12,769.15	\$ 364.08	\$12,405.07	\$108,997.15	\$247,002.29		\$368,404.51
Bingo	\$4,461.71	\$0.00	\$936.89	\$3,524.82	\$ 501.08	\$3,023.74				\$3,023.74
Pull Ticket	\$6,479.89	\$2,000.00	\$3,051.73	\$5,428.16	\$ -	\$5,428.16				\$5,428.16
Casino	\$4,262.35	\$1,060.00	\$2,212.09	\$3,110.26	\$ 91.88	\$3,018.38				\$3,018.38
Totals	\$39,485.69			\$36,292.57		\$34,165.60	\$144,839.99	\$247,002.29		\$426,007.88
Poppy Trust Fund	\$68,190.99	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$68,170.99	\$ 12,564.00	\$55,606.99			\$0.00	\$55,606.99

We had GIC come due in July 2023. As per previous motions, this was increased and reinvested. Chase the Ace was won 4 weeks ago. It has started agin. The tractor from Sunset was sold for \$3,000.00 on Kijiji. The summer has been busy working at the campground.

Motion:

Moved by Calvin Swarbrick that his report be accepted.
Seconded by:
All in Favour

Sandy Douglas
CARRIED

Committee Reports

Bingo - Judy Lemieux

Bingo will resume on September 11. We are still in need of checkers.

Bylaws - Lea Redekopp

No report

Campground - Susan Churchill Absent

The following report was submitted by Susan Churchill and read.

The caretaker, Linda Mercer left the campground early in the evening of July 19, 2023. Susan Churchill went to the campground the morning of July 20th. The gate and residence were left unsecure. Linda Mercer was immediately dismissed.

Sincere thanks to the many volunteers from the Legion and the campground who came and helped after the caretaker left. There was no way we could have kept the campground open without all the help. A special thank you to Kathy Hobbs for all the hours she put in to straighten out the bookings.

Linda Mercer had friends remove her belongings from the residence on August 20, 2023. The few items left (some Christmas decorations) are in the shed. There is also an old car that was left. The RCMP advised that we can dispose of the vehicle as it has been abandoned.

We did go forward with a no trespass order against Linda Mercer, so she is no longer allowed on Legion Sunset Campground property.

Susan Churchill will be filing a police report on the money missing from the time she left:

- Open camping \$216.00
- Group Camping \$1337.50
- Monthly camping \$17,448.16
- The amount of bills owing is:
- County Cast A Way Garbage \$323.30
- Janitorial Supplies \$113.30
- Gas \$45.00
- Power \$750.00
- Bullseye Septic \$371.00

Total: \$20,604.84

Susan Churchill reported that Linda was telling everyone that the internet or point of sale was not working and getting people to e-transfer money to her account.

Most of the money came from monthlies as she had close to 40 booked into the campground at any given time.

The police officer that Susan spoke to believes that this is likely a civil matter, but is looking into it further. He also suggested that we contact a lawyer. The committee will also be looking at changes to the caretaker's contract.

A few things Kathy Hobbs and Susan Churchill found out in taking over the office is :
We need Office 365 on the campground laptop, as most of the office work at the campground needs word or excel spreadsheet. This has been approved at the committee level and the executive level.

Motion:

Moved by Cherry Baird that we purchase for a yearly subscription of Microsoft Office 365 in the amount of \$110.00 per year from the Sunset Account.

Seconded by:

Hannah Cucheran

All in Favour

CARRIED

Too much time is taken up with opening the gate by campground staff. Andy Gauthier got a quote from Phase 3 in the amount of \$5493.00 plus \$274.65 gst for a total of \$5767.65. This was approved by the Executive under emergency funding, so the work could start last week.

The question was asked whether we are required to track exit from the campground to know a count of those in the campground in the event of an emergency. This question can be investigated by the Campground Committee.

Motion:

Moved by Cherry Baird that we have Phase 3 Electric complete security installation on the gates at Sunset Campground in the amount of \$5767.65 from the Sunset Account

Seconded by:

Brian Brant

All in Favour

CARRIED

Booking through the campground phone and email is outdated and Linda was able to double and triple book sites. Going forward, next season, we will look into using the online booking site Campreservation.ca.

Jamie Hobbs has agreed to update our map as it has not been done for a few years. We will take this opportunity to update the number system for sites. Sites will be numbered from 1 to 150 not 1 to 40 for each circle.

The campground committee agreed to get a garbage dumpster and a metal recycling company to clean up the campground.

Motion:

Moved by Cherry Baird that we get a garbage dumpster at a cost not to exceed \$900.00, from the Sunset Account.

Seconded by:

Barbara Burnett

All in Favour

CARRIED

Andy Gauthier has contacted BullDog Metals about having them come to the campsite and gathering the metals.

The campground needs to get the survey for the dock done. We had a temporary field permit for this year. The survey would allow us to put the dock in the same place as it has always been. The cost would be between \$2500.00 to \$3500.00 and covers the cost of all paperwork for this.

Motion:

Moved by Cherry Baird that we pay up to \$3,500.00, from the Sunset Account, to have a survey done for dock placement at Sunset Campground.

Seconded by:

Hannah Cucheran

All in Favour

CARRIED

Susan reported that she would like to have a thank you BBQ for the campers as they put up with a lot of things happening at the campground and most of them offered to help in any way they could. This would happen September 23rd. All Legion members that volunteered would also be invited.

Motion:

Moved by Cherry Baird that we spend up to \$1,000.00 for a thank you BBQ at the Sunset Campground, from the Sunset Account.

Seconded by:

Brian Brant

All in Favour

CARRIED

The caretaker residence was in need of a deep cleaning and Linda smoked in the residence. It was decided that a restoration company would be too expensive. The bid came in at a little under \$8000.00. Therefore, the campground committee decided to go with private cleaners. There was a motion from the committee that we spend up to \$500.00 to have cleaners in, but the campground slowed down after the August long weekend so Doug and Susan Churchill cleaned the residence. The cost was under \$100.00 for cleaning supplies.

We will be doing interviews next week and hopefully have new caretakers hired.

Casino-Janet Hall

No report

Coffee Time - Shirley White

Shirley reported that Coffee Time is going well.

Hall and Building - Andy Gauthier

We are having problems with our toilets in the washrooms. The toilets also seem to be using more water than necessary. They may need to be replaced. We are looking into grants to help fund this work.

Honours and Awards - Kathy Hobbs

No report

Lounge and Bar-Andy Gauthier

Our two bartenders are working great. Everything is going well. The Tingo game was won tonight and will restart next week.

Membership - Kathy Hobbs

The stickers for membership cards are in for the 2024 year and we will have early bird draws. Early bird draws for a free membership will take place on September 30, October 31, and November 30th, 2023..

Poppy Trust Fund/Campaign -Kathy Hobbs

Comrade Hobbs re-submitted the Bursary applications as both were on the same application form and the DC wants them on separate forms. We are awaiting their approval.

\$984.30 was approved for the batteries for the chair Veteran John Mellon uses.

The lift chair in the amount of \$400.00 and the mileage in the amount of \$50.00 travelling to Edmonton to get the chair were not approved. The lift chair because it was used and the mileage because the veteran the chair was for did not accompany the service officer.

The bath chair for the Bentley Continuing Care Centre was approved in the amount of \$11,920.00.

The meal cost for the Honours and Awards supper attended by the veterans in the amount of \$425.00 was approved.

Poppy Campaign will start October 27th with the first poppy going to the Mayor and the County Reeve. The first organizational meeting will be September 24th at 1:00 at the Legion.

Comrade Hobbs had asked for 5 tap boxes but National could only give two. That is not enough to cover the tables in the three malls so she is advising them not to send any.

Pull Tickets – Hannah Cucheran

The float for the pull ticket account is \$300.00. We will need another \$300.00 for the second pull ticket box now that both of our bartenders have their own boxes.

Motion:

Moved by Hannah Cucheran that we set up another pull ticket float in the amount of \$300.00 from the General Account.

Seconded by:
All in Favour

Sharon Pollard
CARRIED

Service Officer – Rick Grinham- absent

No report

Sick and Visiting-Barbara Burnett

In lieu of having a Veterans Widows and Wives Tea, Barbara Burnett and committee organized a ladies luncheon. The ladies came to visit and paid for their own lunch. It went over very well. Only three that were invited didn't come. In attendance: Judy Lemieux, Ellen Gauthier, Robin Smith, Effie Bullis, Sandra Bunn, Lea Redekopp, Charlotte Victor, Helene Boissinot, Lynn Millar, Linda Kennedy and Diane Thiesen.

A rose was presented to each lady so they know that we remember them. No expense to the Legion for this event.

It was discussed and confirmed that we rent the hall free of charge for funerals of the wives of Veterans

Social- Lillian Gillis

No report

Sports- Arnie MacAskill (absent-submitted)

The financial report from the Lee Smith Memorial Golf Tournament was given at the last executive meeting. \$1,021.09 profit was made. The tournament was enjoyed by all in attendance. Big thanks to Vesta Energy for their generous financial donation, as well as all the donations from the community.

Legion Sports will be starting again in October. The calendar will be shared after the Fall Rally.

Branch crib will start again soon. Tuesday or Wednesday will be the date. Arnie MacAskill will bring more information later in October.

Ways and Means - Lillian Gillis

No report

Motion:

Moved by Barbara Burnett that the meeting be adjourned at 7:37 pm

Seconded by:
All in Favour

Sharon Pollard
CARRIED

Cherry Baird, Secretary_____

Andy Gauthier President_____