



## ROFFA SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tom Brown Arena – Main Hall

October 4, 2018

### 1. Presidents Welcome

- President Pierre Potvin opened the meeting at 10:06 and welcomed the gathered members. The President asked the members to stand for our National Anthem and to remain standing as we remembered our members who had passed away since our last meeting in April.

### 2. Presidents Report

- The President thanked our sponsors who were able to attend the meeting and asked the members to support our sponsors whenever possible. The President asked the members to support the 50/50 draw as well as the raffle for the sculptured fire truck.
- The President thanked the Ballard truck from providing lunch for the meeting and asked that members support the Salvation Army whenever possible.
- The President described (ORFFA) Ontario Retired Firefighters Association to our members and the possibility of ROFFA joining with this group.

### 3. Minutes of our last meeting

- The President asked for questions or comments about the posted minutes from our previous meeting. Hearing none, Motion to Accept the minutes was made by Dave Smith and seconded by Dave MacCormac – unanimously accepted.

### 4. Treasurers Report – Neil Warren

- The Treasurer reported that our finances at the current time are in great shape due to the Ballard Truck and Frontline Financial Credit Union providing lunch for the meeting at no charge and the great work that Peter Hunt has done raising funds by raffling off the sculptured Fire Truck.
- The Treasurer did point out that most of sponsors opted for a 3 year term of support for ROFFA, therefore the funds we have need to last for the next 3 years.
- Our balance in our current account at the time of the meeting was \$4,191.99 with another \$1,620.95 in the truck raffle account for a total balance of \$5,812.94.

### 5. Webmasters Report – Bob Larochelle

- Bob Larochelle was unable to attend our meeting so Peter Hunt read a brief report on the high level of activity that our website continues to generate and thanked Bob and his daughter Julie for their outstanding work on our behalf.





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- Peter advised the group that after 10 years of creating, funding and selling our ROFFA clothing that Bob is turning over that project to Linda and Ed Honey who have generously offered their time and expertise to enhance our clothing options.
- Linda briefly addressed the crowd and informed the group of the new payment options that she has already put into place and advised the group that they would be willing to explore expanding the clothing offering to suit the requests from our members.

### 6. Ottawa Carleton Pensioners Report – Ralph Smith

- Ralph advised the group that there is not momentum for OMERS to amalgamate COSF. Ralph said that this has happened in other city's but their pension plans all had surplus funds where COSF is considered to be not fully funded. Ralph did point out that the actuaries are currently examining the life expectancy models that were used to form the funding opinions because they may be overstated due to historical death ages. The results of their work could change the solvency opinion about the plan.
- **Omers update.** Erik Leicht told the group about some of changes that the plan administrators were contemplating for current plan members and new hires. Some changes are necessary to ensure the sustainability of the plan. When the plan was created there were around 30 workers for every retiree and now the ratio has dropped to 2 workers for every 1 retiree and this will not be sustainable into the future. Erik did reiterate that any changes made would not affect current retiree's.
- **OPFFA update:** OPFFA President Peter Kennedy was not able to attend the meeting but did provide Erik with some updated information about ongoing grievances with the employer regarding Retiree benefit improvements. Erik also advised that the OPFFA was successful in their bid to host the IAFF Convention in 2020 and that there will be several fund raising initiatives that will need to happen and asked for suggestions for fund raising for this event.

### 7. Ottawa Fire Fighters Community Foundation:

- Brian reported on the very successful Spaghetti Dinner that was held on October 2, 2018 as well as many of the initiatives that are ongoing at the Memorial Site. Brian spoke of some of the abuses that are going on at the site and advised that they are working with the City to improve site security through the placement of signage around the Memorial Site.

### 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Don Band – ROFFA and Friends Christmas Lunch- Don spoke to the group about how and why ROFFA has agreed to take over this event and asked the attended members for their support. Several attendees spoke about what a great event it was in the past and will continue to be.





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- John McCarthy – Ballard Truck – John was not able to attend the meeting but did leave a report with President Potvin. Pierre read highlights from the report to the members. The Ballard Truck can always use more volunteers to staff the vehicle especially in light of the high demand for their service as a result of the recent tornado's and the many victims and workers who are in need of their help.
- Terry Thompson – Visitation/Honour Guard Committee – Terry was busy with the Ballard Truck getting lunch ready for our members and was not able to provide a report. Terry continues to work to get volunteers for his work.

### 9. NEW BUSINESS:

- The President Thanked Denis St. Denis for his service to ROFFA
- Elections – Nominations from the floor were Perry McConnell, nominated by Dave Smith. Steve Brabazon, nominated by Neil Warren. Hearing no other nominations both members were elected to the ROFFA Board of Directors.
- Motion for ROFFA to join ORFFA: President moved a formal motion for ROFFA to take a membership in ORFFA. The cost of the membership not to exceed \$100.00. Moved by President Potvin, seconded by Peter Hunt. Members voted by a show of hand with all in favour with the exception of 1 vote of dissent. There were no abstainers. – Motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS – Speakers

**Evan McCosham** – Tony Graham Automotive Group – Evan spoke about the special offers for First Responders both active and retired and asked that our members ensure that they identify themselves as First Responders to ensure that they are offered these specials on new vehicles and service.

**Keith Tanner** – Tanner Insurance – Keith spoke about typical coverage for wind damage given the current incidents caused by the tornados. Keith gave an overview of what should be written in your policy to ensure that you have proper coverage for a wide range of events.

**Steve Kingan** – Frontline Financial Credit Union – Steve was introduced by Frontline CEO Debbie McCabe. Steve spoke about his transition from the banking world to the Credit Union and how excited he was personally with the new opportunities to serve and be part of the Credit Union family.

**Brian Bockstael** – Coughlin and Associates – Brian gave a very interesting presentation on how our coverage works and how fortunate that we are as a work group to even have benefits as this is very rare in today's world. Brian also provided some interesting information regarding changes from brand name drugs to generic drugs and how this is routinely done by OHIP and is becoming the standard for most drug benefit plans in order to reduce costs.





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### 11. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- **50/50 draw:** The winner of the draw was Linda Honey and the draw generated \$165.00 dollars for ROFFA.
- **Fire Truck Raffle:** The winner of the raffle was Andy Cameron.
- **Additional Prizes:** Tanner Insurance generously donated gift cards and Coughlin and Associates donated 2 tickets to see an Ottawa Senators game.
  - Stu Dunning and Mary Jane Rocque were winners of the Tanner insurance gift cards
  - Bob Butler won the hockey tickets donated by Coughlin and Associates.
- **ROFFA Travel:** Neil Warren advised that ROFFA has withdrawn support for the Australia Cruise in 2019 due to a lack of interest from our members. Neil advised the group about an upcoming Bus Trip to Boston and a very inexpensive cruise coming up in March 2019. These events will be posted on the ROFFA Website and advertised on the ROFFA Facebook page. ROFFA intends to look for more shorter tours like trips to Prince Edward County to do a wine tour and any other thing that would be of interest to our members. As always, Neil advised that Helen Chen and her team at Panda Vacations are always available to help with any travel needs of our members.
- **Good and Welfare from the floor:**
  - Dave Smith advised that ROFFA member Martin Michels is currently at home recovering from surgery and would welcome visitors and asked members to contact Terry Thompson about visiting.
  - Ed Honey reiterated that he and Linda would like to get suggestions for any and all items that people would be interested in purchasing with ROFFA identification on the item.

### 12. Next meeting. Thursday April 18, 2019

13. **Adjournment** – Moved by Wally Hall, seconded by Carl Castilloux – carried unanimously.

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