

# *South Interior Power Pioneers*

## News Update

September 2023

### **Christmas is coming!**

Are you kidding? – we are barely done with summer! Yes! The date has been set and negotiations are underway for our Annual Christmas Party. Meanwhile the Schubert Centre has bumped up the cost of our lunches. Read all about it in the Vice President's report.

### **September Luncheon**

On the second Tuesday of September thirty-five boisterous *Pioneers* gathered for lunch at the Schubert Centre. Each table had a basket of dinner buns to start. Then Salisbury steak smothered in gravy was served with a dollop of mashed potato and steamed vegetables. For dessert, carrot cake was available at the self-serve coffee table.



### **50/50 Draw Winners**

Wow! Luck of the draw!  
Debbie and Mark Raymer each won \$27.00.



### **Door prizes galore!**

Gadzooks! Apparently Stew and Donna cleaned out the Power Pioneers storage locker to set up a table of door prizes. Names were drawn until the last item was taken. One of the prizes and the first to go was the coveted *Voices from Bridge River* publication.





### **President's Report** – by Fred Wernicke

I'm still working on a Power Pioneers tour of the newly minted Vernon Search and Rescue facility. We need to establish a date in late September or October. If you have a preferred date please let me know. Also be aware that due to construction in the neighbourhood a convoluted detour is necessary to access their premises depending on which direction you are approaching.



### **Vice President's Report** – by Stew Wallach

Arrangements for our annual Christmas Gala are well under way. Mark your calendar for Thursday 7th of December. Happy hour will begin at 11:00AM as usual at the Schubert Centre. A cash bar will be open throughout the event. We expect to have a three-protein buffet featuring turkey, beef and salmon with a selection of salads and condiments and a dessert/coffee table much the same as last year.

Fred will be contacting the choir for a repeat performance. Door prizes will again include our vintage wine that is already bottled and aging.

The cost of this extravaganza is up slightly to \$35 for members (\$70 for non-members) thanks to the 50% provincial subsidy. As usual this will be a ticketed event with details and deadlines to be announced soon.

### **Breaking News**

With little warning the Schubert Centre raised the cost of our lunch effective September from \$17.85 p/p to \$21.00 p/p (including GST). Considering the spiraling inflation this was expected sooner or later. A quick survey of local eateries confirms meal prices have increased across the board and the Schubert Centre offering remains very competitive.

Never the less the executive committee has agreed to hold the line on the current \$20 p/p sale price for the remainder of the year. In the meantime, subject to final review of our options, we expect to raise the sale price of the luncheon to \$22 p/p starting in January.

### **In other news...**

Our volunteering at the HC Hydro Safety Rodeo has been rewarded with a \$5000 donation made on our behalf to the Miracle Millions Campaign for the BC Children's Hospital.

*Specifically the funds within our Campaign go towards the BC Hydro Power Pioneers Ed Turner Memorial Endowment for Medical Genetics Research at BCCH. We will be adding those funds towards our Miracle Millions Campaign and new this year it will be added to the Small is Mighty Campaign that we run with Power Pioneers and employees during the month of May.*

*This year the Small is Mighty Campaign kicked off at the Hockey tournament and ended with the safety rodeo with a total so far of \$56,000! The \$5000 will be added which will put our grand total over \$60,000.*

*Congratulations and thank you for all your work towards the Safety Rodeo in Vernon and contribution to our BCCH Campaigns.*

*- Lorilee Koltai, Provincial Executive Director*



### **Membership Report** – by Donna Wallach

#### **Roll Call** – as at 31 Aug 2023

- 151 Regular members
- 2 Gold/Life Time members
- 2 Branch Honorary members
- 2 Donor members
- 157 Total members

<b>Deaths</b>	
Verna Von Dohren	7 July 2023
Judy Hoffman	3 August 2023
Gordon Ellinson	20 August 2023





## **Caring Crafts** – by Donna Wallach

Pictured here is the last set of baby bonnets I delivered to the Vernon Jubilee Hospital up to the end of the reporting year June 30, 2023.



I filed our annual branch report to Barbara Conrad (Provincial Convenor for the Caring Craft Program), covering July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. We have donated 171 baby bonnets through the Hospital Auxiliary program to give every baby born a baby bonnet. A few years ago there were approximately 500 born each year and the Program Convenors now estimate that number has increased to 600.

This year's donation was made possible thanks to the flying fingers of Vivian Kendrick, Margaret Abramzik and myself. Margaret (sister of Lynn Rutter) is one of our *donor members*. Our other *donor member* Barbara was unable to help this last year, but will be back this upcoming year, so having more volunteers in the caring craft program I look forward to a very successful donating year.

A huge *Thank You* to our knitters, as they keep our branch's Caring Craft Program going!

As goes the usual plea.... If anyone cares to join the knitting group... please contact Donna Wallach.

Email [wallach@telus.net](mailto:wallach@telus.net) or call 250-542-2097



## **Treasurer's Report** – by Forbes Niemi

Almost all transactions for the reporting period occurred in June. By the end of July all bank transactions had cleared and for once there were no outstanding items to reconcile with the August bank statement.

An extraordinary item of note is \$2040.00 in charitable donations attributed to the Volunteer Hours Program. Disbursements were according to membership suggestions.

Caetani Cultural Center	\$220.00
Mackie Lakehouse	\$220.00
Armstrong Museum	\$400.00
Vernon Search & Rescue	\$400.00
Upper Room Mission	\$400.00
Alley Cats Alliance	\$400.00

As the Vice President reported, the Schubert Centre has increased the cost of our luncheon meal to \$21 p/p. As a result the luncheon is now operating at a deficit, which, for the time being, will be funded by accumulated general revenue.

This is not sustainable in the long term. Besides the actual cost of the meal there are other expenses properly attributed to the luncheon such a guest meals, prizes and incentives that accumulate over the year and would rob the funding of other programs, initiatives and operating costs. I would argue that reducing these well-established expenditures or opting for a less expensive meal would only contribute to waning interest and declining attendance. Therefore it is imperative the price for the luncheon must be increased from time-to-time to keep up with escalating costs. The \$2 increase being considered is very reasonable in these inflationary times.

### **Reporting Period of June-July-August 2023**

<b>Opening Bank Balance</b>		\$6393.46
<b>Income received</b>		
Membership Dues	\$30.00	
Luncheon Sales (26)	\$520.00	
50/50 net proceeds	\$24.00	
<b>Total Income</b>		\$574.00
<b>Expenses</b>		
Charitable Donations	-\$2040.00	
Luncheon Costs (28)	-\$499.80	
Postage & Supplies	-\$121.13	
Golf Tournament adjust*	\$146.78	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		-\$2514.15
<b>Closing Bank Balance</b>		\$4453.31

\*residual cash-on-hand refunded to treasury.



### **Literacy Program** – by Debbie Raymer

Don't forget to contribute new or gently used books appropriate for school-age readers at the next luncheon or bring them to the Christmas Party. Otherwise a cash donation in our collection jar is always welcome and I will gladly do the shopping for you!



### **Care Cards** – by Flo Ryan

**Sympathy cards sent to:-**

- Del & Sharon Gerry (son-in-law died).
- Debbie Raymer (sister died).
- Late Judy Hoffman's family.

**Get Well card sent to:-**

- Rita Wernicke.

Editor's note: At the September luncheon Sharon Gerry gave a passionate Thank You for the sympathy card and the overall compassion of the Power Pioneers in their time of grief.

If you know of someone deserving a Get Well, Condolence or Congratulations Card please contact Flo Ryan at 250-542-6919 or email [fvryan@shaw.ca](mailto:fvryan@shaw.ca)

#### **Editor & Ghost Writer**

Suggestions, comments or contributions are welcome.

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