

**District 6 Annual General Meeting  
October 19, 2006  
Grace and Speed Museum, Gravenhurst**

**MINUTES**

**DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED**

At 10:30 President Bob Harris called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone including special guests, Brian Kenny, Provincial 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, and his wife, Nancy Kenny. There were 59 persons present. Bob was pleased to announce that Muskoka had been successful in having the motion to become District 46 passed at the Fall RTO Senate. In addition, Marg Couture was presented with a bouquet of flowers in celebration of her victory in being elected to the RTO Provincial Executive.

***TREASURER'S REPORT***

Leo Couture accepted a potted plant recognizing his rapid recovery from recent surgery. L. Couture circulated his report which is attached to and forms part of the file copy of these minutes.

**191006-1 Sue Gurr, Laurie Fountain moved that the treasurer's report be approved as circulated. Cd.**

***MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 2005***

Secretary Shirley Harris circulated copies of the minutes which had been written by Don Dorst, previous secretary.

**191006-2 Rod Mundy, Don Dorst that the minutes of the 2005 AGM be approved. Cd.**

***BUSINESS ARISING***

District Restructuring: Marg Couture thanked L. Fountain for the power point presentation regarding Muskoka restructuring and everyone involved who supported the process through lobbying or providing signatures. When the motion was put forward at Senate, it passed without discussion. The new District 46 will become a reality on January 1, 2007.

Project Service to Others: Mary Storey reported on our successful submission yielding the maximum amount of money available, a total of \$4000.00, for this project. The money was spent to provide furniture and supplies to create a classroom at the Grace and Speed museum. Attendees at the AGM were invited to tour the facility following a ribbon cutting ceremony and official opening of the classroom facility at 1:00 p.m.

## ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

President Bob introduced the District Executive and Unit Presidents and thanked them for their service to the organization. He reported on his visits to each of the units. He was pleased on another successful submission for the Project Service to Others grant but disappointed with the response for money from the Special Circumstances grant, requesting \$5000.00 for District expenditures and receiving \$1000.00 designated for restructuring. A new funding formula passed at the Fall Senate plus the creation of separate districts should address this problem in the future. He concluded by stating his optimism that District 46 and District 6 would continue bonds of cooperation and friendship in the future.

## ***IN MEMORIAM***

- 6-1 Carol Fonger, Betty Simms, Lynda Stewart, Susie Martin, Evelyn Howell
- 6-2 Joy Wright, Margaret Walker
- 6-3 Doris Lidstone, Emma Fisher, Dorothy McAuley, E.W. Dzierzk, Katie Manson, Gerry Bildson, William Gough, Stan Bradshaw, Elizabeth Puntis

## ***COMMITTEE REPORTS***

### **Health and Benefits: Garfield Robertson**

Committee emphasis has been a focus on wellness. As of January 1, 2007, the method of claims for travel for out of province or for out of country has been changed. If problems arise, call the world access number, listed on the back of your health card, within 48 hours or as soon as possible.

Everyone should get a signed receipt to prove when you leave the country.

Senate changes included the following rate changes effective February 1, 2007:

- a) Semi-private – no change in fee
- b) Extended health – increase 9 % Example: \$129.70 /couple/month
- c) Dental – increase 3% Example: \$94.71 /couple/month
- d) Laser eye surgery is now included in coverage
- e) Vision Care Eye Exam benefit has been broadened to include eye exams every two calendar years, to a maximum of \$50.00. The definition of eye exam now includes testing such as HRT (Heidelberg Retina Tomography).

He reminded us of the 60 day transfer rule for becoming a member of the RTO Health plan without a medical examination.

### **Membership: Audrey Macfie**

As of June 2006, the membership was as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Full Membership</u>	<u>Associate</u>	<u>Total</u>
E.P.S.	184	12	196
W.P.S.	136	17	153
Muskoka	411	35	446
		Grand Total	795

### **Pension and Retirement Concerns: Don Dorst**

The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan is a defined benefits plan, which means that what we were promised at the time of taking our pension will never change for us. Issues addressed within the report included comments on the viability of the plan, our appreciation to our active colleagues, pension income splitting, teaching after retirement, fact sheets and newsletters and periodicals. Don's full report is attached to and will form part of the file copy of these minutes.

**Political Action: Marg Couture**

Issues included market value assessment, mortgage fraud and identity theft, local health initiatives, child care, and municipal elections on November 13, 2006. RTO has recently joined the Coalition After Property Tax Reform, a non-partisan interest group which now has over one million members to lobby the government.

**Webmaster: Laurie Fountain**

Laurie is willing to assist both District 6 and District 46 when developing new websites.

**191006-3 Mary Storey, Pearl Nielsen that the committee reports be accepted as reported. Cd.**

***NEW BUSINESS***

The term of office for the current District 6 Executive is extended until the end of this calendar year, 2006.

**191006-4 Joan Walton, John Stopper that the 2006 District 6 AGM authorize both District 6 and District 46, to each propose a draft constitution including an executive, to meet their respective District needs, as of January 1, 2007. Cd.**

**191006-5 Don Cowan, Carole Dobbs that an interim draft constitution be prepared to meet the operational needs of the restructured District 6 as of January 1, 2007, and that a committee of Marg Couture, Don Cowan and Don Dorst be approved to prepare such a draft, and further that a draft be presented to the District 6 Executive committee for interim approval. Cd.**

***GUEST SPEAKER: Brian Kenny, Provincial 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President***

Don Dorst introduced Brian and congratulated him on his recent election to the position of first vice-president of RTO/ERO.

Brian congratulated the District on the high caliber of local leadership that he has witnessed on his visits to the District and working with various members. Particular recognition was given to provincial committee representatives, Leo Couture, Marg Couture and Don Dorst. He acknowledged Marg's election to Provincial Executive, our achieving status as a new District and the assistance rendered B.C. in their bid to create a new District. Brian also gave a brief review of Senate activities touching on pension, governance and liability issues, a new system of reallocation of funding to replace the Special Circumstances grant, political action issues, John Tory's speech, retirement planning workshops, and the membership survey. It is his view that we have the biggest and best retired teachers' organization and health care plan in Canada. But, it is only because the members work hard that the organization continues to get better. RTO/ERO continues to have a non-remitting desire to improve. His talk was not only informative but highly animated and interspersed with humour.

Joan Walton presented Brian with a gift as a token of our appreciation.

**191006-6 Mel Key, Walter Poulstrup that the meeting be adjourned at 12:05 p.m.**

Bob Harris reminisced about the success of the "old" District 6 and proposed a toast in its honour. He concluded by presenting the District 6 gavel to District 6 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Joan Walton. Lunch followed.

Shirley Harris, Secretary