

**District 30 RTO/ERO Spring General Meeting
May 25, 2011**

The meeting started at 9:30 a.m. with O'Canada and an introduction by President John Christie. Approximately 80 members were in attendance.

1. Secretary David Staples made a motion, seconded by Jane McCaig, that the minutes from the Fall 2010 General Meeting be accepted as printed in the Apple Press. Carried.
2. Treasurer Dave Randall reported Since the Apple Press release, the District has received \$3,200 for the Service to Others grant. Other expenses included newsletter publication, Hell With the Bell, donations, and the STO Grant being given today. As of this date, the balance is \$14,310.24; future expenses include Senate observers and today's meeting. The balance would end up approximately \$13,000. Dave made a motion, seconded by Don Colby, that his report be accepted as presented. Carried.
3. Committee Reports:
 - a) Health – in Bob Moorcroft's absence, President John reported that it is essential to carry proof of health coverage, as some countries are now asking for proof prior to entering the country.
 - b) Newsletter/Web Site - Don Colby reported that the provincial RTO is pushing the local districts to change the web site to Droopal, He is looking for someone to learn the system and implement it locally. The newsletter is being produced on upgraded software; he continues to ask members to send contributions for future publications.
 - c) Recruitment/Hell With the Bell - the Sept. 6th locations are set for all areas.
 - d) Political Action – Jane McCaig reported that with the upcoming provincial election, there will be some news releases soon.
 - e) Social – Morris Tait thanked Mary Byrd and Betty Morris for the great job they do in decorating the tables etc. We are looking for a volunteer to take over this committee.
 - f) Travel – no report
 - g) Archives – Connie Poole is looking into doing a 2nd edition of "Schools in Northumberland". She is also looking for a volunteer to take over this committee.
 - h) Retirement/Pensions – Morris reported that there will 45,000 teachers retiring between 2011 and 2020; he will be attending a Retirement Workshop in October.
 - i) Membership/Goodwill – Anne Tryon asked members to let her know of anyone needing "goodwill"; she would also like to have someone volunteer to help her.
4. RTO/ERO Second VP, Leo Normandeau: He brought greetings from President Joanne Murphy and the rest of the executive. He's pleased that District 30 has two executive members on provincial committees – Don Colby and Morris Tait. There will be a no-deficit budget next year. Finally, he talked briefly about the establishment of the RTO Charitable Foundation headed by Gordon Cressey. To thank Norman for coming to our luncheon, our Executive made a donation to the new foundation.
5. Project Service to Others: John presented a cheque for \$3,200 to the Ontario Peer Helpers Association, represented by Lorraine Swanson. This is a non-profit

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group of retired and active teachers who host provincial workshops and leadership camps for both elementary and high school students.

6. Spring Senate Report

These are the highlights of the eightieth meeting of RTO/ERO Senate held at the Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel. It was attended by two Senators (President John Christie and VP Charlotte Majic) and two observers (Past President Jane McCaig and 2nd Vice Philip Palmer). Throughout the entire session, open debate was both encouraged and lively.

Reports were received from committee chairs including – Health, Political Action, Communications, Retirement Workshops, Recruitment, Travel, Pension and Retirement Issues.

Concerning health plans, it was stressed that while travelling abroad you should carry proof of eligibility for our of country health coverage. This is particularly important when visiting Cuba as you may be asked for proof of coverage before you enter the country. If in doubt about the area of the world to where you are travelling, call to inquire about local regulations.

Here is the list of values of what RTO/ERO stands for:

- a) All seniors (retired teachers, educators and support staff) are valuable and contributing members of society, are worthy of respect and deserve to age successfully and with dignity.**
- b) RTO/ERO is committed to the welfare of those who are retired from education in Ontario.**
- c) RTO/ERO values and will vigorously advocate for universal health care, quality, public-funded education, defined benefit pension plans and age friendly communities.**
- d) RTO/ERO believes that building and cultivating relationships – interpersonal and institutional, as well as the practice of win/win issue oriented strategies contribute to societal cohesiveness, participatory democracy and creative decision-making.**
- e) RTO/ERO values the rule of law and universal human rights.**

Our pension fund had a return of 14. 3% for 2010 but we still experienced a shortfall of 17. 2%. The reason for the shortfall was partially due to new provincial workshops being offered to address the changing needs of RTO/ERO.

Each District has different needs due to size and location. Districts vary in size from District 32 (Prescott-Russell) with 124 members to District 16 (Toronto) with 4 302 members.

Much discussion was devoted to balancing the budget. One way of decreasing the deficit would be to reduce the grants that each district receives, from 30% to 27% of the annual membership fees, by 2015. The current grant structure dates back to a time when we were paying less membership fees per \$1 000 of pension received. A resolution was passed that *the amended Parameters to Address the Allocation of Funds to Districts be the basis for budget-setting for 2012 and subsequent years.*

Another area of debate related to phasing out the size and density factor grants from 2012 to 2017. Currently, small districts are provided with additional funds so that everyone receives a minimum grant of \$10 590. A resolution was passed that *the Parameters to Address the Allocation of Funds to Districts be amended so that the size and density factor grants to Districts are grand parented until 2015.*

Senate Report continued

As well, a resolution was passed that *the RTO/ERO Charitable Donation for 2011 be made to The Royal Canadian Regiment Education Fund for Children of Fallen Soldiers*. A progress report on the Charitable Foundation was made by Gordon Cressy (Director of Advancement and Fundraising). The first project is to fund a Chair in Geriatrics at the University of Toronto. The chair will devote their time to applied research pertaining to seniors.

The Honourable Sophia Aggelonitis (Minister of Revenue and Minister Responsible for Seniors) spoke to the Senate. She related a personal account of how a special teacher in grade ten had a huge impact on her life path. Services of her Ministry focus on providing seniors independence, dignity respect and care.

This report was presented by Philip E. Palmer, Observer at Spring Senate, May 2011.

Entertainment was provided by local theatre groups – West Bend, 4th Line Theatre, Victoria Opera Company, Northumberland Players, Brighton Barn and Capitol Theatre. Each group gave a short presentation and had brochures available for interested members. As well, each theatre company graciously donated free tickets for lucky draws after the meal.

Morris thanked the groups for their presentations and generous gifts.

The day ended with a delicious buffet meal served by the staff of the Cobourg Lion's Centre.

These minutes were prepared by David Staples, Secretary of District 30 RTO/ERO.