

**MINUTES OF THE FORTY SEVENTH MEETING
OF THE
CONCORDIA PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION
HELD ON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2010 – 10:00 A.M.
ROOM H-763 SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS**

47.1 Call to Order and President's Remarks

President Graham Martin announced the names of new members and announced the names of retirees who had died recently. The assembly held a minute of silence. Graham announced the departure of Michael di Grappa from Concordia. Michael had been a very good friend of the Association since the departure of Marcel Danis and will be missed. Concordia lost an outstanding individual to McGill. A vote of appreciation for all that Michael has done for the Association was proposed by Mary Baldwin, seconded by Howard Fink and unanimously carried.

47.2 Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved on a motion by Geoff Adams, seconded by Howard Fink and unanimously carried.

47.3 Minutes of the Meeting of April 29, 2010

The minutes of the April 29, 2010 meeting were distributed. Jim Whitelaw proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Howard Fink and unanimously carried.

47.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

Business arising from the Minutes appears under Reports or elsewhere in the Agenda.

47.5 Reports

47.5.1 Financial Report

Colin reviewed the Annual Statement of Income and Expenses for the period June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010 as distributed. The statement indicated an opening balance of \$6,700.26. Income was \$8,088.14; expenses totalled \$8,260.10 resulting in a closing balance of \$6,528.30. Graham explained that the legal fees were for an opinion on the security of our health benefits. The legal opinion was that the University could not unilaterally change or reduce our health benefits.

47.5.2 Program Committee

Geoff Adams informed the Members about past and future events. He mentioned 2 events proposed by John Woodrow and Doreen Hutton. One was a take on the play "The Odd

Couple” in Morrisburg and the other was the Wood Fair, which takes place annually in Glengarry. The Committee itself came up with 4 events. 3 of which could be described as successes. The first was the Ghost Walk: Geoff explained that he got hung up on traffic going to the event, by the time he arrived, the attendees had dispersed as the restaurant was already closed. Geoff took responsibility for the collapse of the event but apparently the 6 people who showed up had an enjoyable evening with fireworks, nice restaurants and dining places. The second event to which 26 people showed up was at the Segal Centre to see Arthur Miller’s “A view from the Bridge”. It was a great success. The 3rd event took place on October 20th at the Pointe à Callières exhibit of Easter Island. 18 people attended and enjoyed the exhibit. The mezzanine restaurant served an excellent lunch. The 4th event scheduled for November 16th is a performance of Jacques Brel songs interpreted by Danielle Darois at the Lion d’Or on Ontario St near Papineau. 20 people are expected to attend. Most of those attending will go on the P’tit Extra for supper.

Possible venues for the winter include:

- A play at the Centaur: Stones in his Pockets (a comedy)
- Walk through Griffintown and or St Henri.
- Concert at the Oscar Peterson Hall

Graham informed the members that the annual lunch would take place on December 8th in H-763 of the Hall Building. He urged members to book that date now.

Martin Franklin mentioned that there were many interesting programs at the McGill Institute for Learning in Retirement. He has found the lectures there stimulating. He also recommended the various musical events which take place at Pollock Hall.

47.5.3 Scholarship Committee

Mary Baldwin reported that the Scholarship Fund value at June 1 2010 stood at approximately \$800,000. She was please to announce that we are able to continue this year at the same level as last year i.e.:

- 4 scholarships of \$5,000. at the graduate level
- 4 scholarships of \$2,500. at the undergraduate level
- 4 bursaries of \$2,500.

The awards for this year are being processed at the present time.

Mary mentioned that the Endowment Fund had suffered from market conditions, as did all funds. She mentioned that there was a box on the annual campaign solicitation allowing donors to specify to which fund they wished to contribute. Mary encouraged members to contribute to the Scholarship Fund. She mentioned that the Committee is working on the wording of the original document and some minor modifications may be made to conform to University policy.

47.5.4 Technical Committee

Roger Kenner informed the members of three projects he had been working on:

- Entering the minutes from all meetings since the founding of the Association
- Entering all available Newsletters published since the founding of the Association.
- Changing the look of the web site making it easier to navigate and changing the pictures on the front page each month. He hopes to place pictures of members on the front page (with their permission of course).

The Member's page is now colour coded. Names of Members with Email addresses are coloured blue. Members wishing to communicate with other members should send the Email to Roger who will forward it.

One other thing, which is invisible, is that the web site is located on an entirely new server, making for greater efficiency.

47.5.5 Relations with Other Associations

Howard Fink reported on the activities of CURAC. The federation continues to grow and attract new member retirement associations. A minor setback occurred when the Federation of Quebec Universities left CURAC. They are now being contacted individually and UQAM has rejoined, Bishops is joining and there is a possibility that Université Laval will join. In addition, Marianapolis has asked to join the Federation. CURAC is monitoring closely any trend towards University cost-cutting affecting employee benefits. Retired personnel are the easiest targets for cost cutting.

47.6 Pension and Benefits Committee

Howard reported that the Fund had recovered from the hit it took in 2008. It has recovered 96% of its value before the crash. As our plan is a defined benefit plan rather than a defined contribution plan, fund losses do not result in a decrease in pension benefits.

There is much happening in the Health Insurance arena. The University is not happy with the current carrier and the current contract. They wish to make substantial changes to the benefits package and will be revealing their offer to retirees in the coming weeks. However Howard pointed out that our legal counsel opined that only retirees may agree to changes in benefits.

The Association may have to request more legal assistance in this matter.

47.7 Other Business

Miriam Posner appealed to the retired community to contribute to Centraide. This year there will be weekly prizes drawn including a 46" LCD TV and an I pod. She mentioned that contributions could be made by payroll deduction.

47.8 - Next Meeting

Tentatively set for 10:00 a.m. April 28th, 2011.

47.9 Adjournment

On a motion by Roger Kenner, second by Audrey Williams, the meeting was adjourned.