

**MINUTES OF THE FORTY- NINTH MEETING
OF THE
CONCORDIA PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION
HELD ON
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2011 – 10:00 A.M.
ROOM H-763 SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS**

49.1 Call to Order and President's Remarks

President Bill Knitter thanked Graham for the excellence of his term as President of the Association to the applause of all members present. Bill spoke to the issue of CUPA observer status at the Board. Graham had interceded with interim President Lowy to no avail followed by Bill's plea, which also ended in failure. CUPA will retain observer status on the Board until July 2012.

Bill named with regret, those retirees who had died recently and welcomed new members to the Association

49.2 Approval of the Agenda

Three items were added to the Agenda: 1 – A brief announcement re Centraide from Miriam Posner, 2 – Membership Committee re Sandra Spina, and 3 – Social Events (Program). The Agenda was approved on a motion by Rosalind Knitter, seconded by John Fiset and unanimously carried

49.3 Minutes of the Meeting of April 26 2011

The minutes of the April 26, 2011 meeting were distributed. Gary Milton proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Shirley Robinson and unanimously carried.

49.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

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

49.5 Reports

49.5.1 Financial Report

Colin reviewed the Annual Statement of Income and Expenses for the period June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011 as distributed. The statement indicated an opening balance of \$6528.30 and a closing balance of \$5853.70. Legal fees were incurred for an opinion on the validity of the University's proposed changes to the Health Insurance benefits

49.5.2 Social Events Committee

Geoff Adams informed the Members about past and future events. The two excursions were a success. The visit to St Henri took place on a blazing summer day to an area rich in industrial history. It is the setting for “The Tin Flute” or “Bonheur d’Occasion”. All enjoyed the Pointe a Callière excursion. After lunch at the museum a guide took the visitors around exhibits from Persia, the Middle East and Rome.

On November 16th, graduating students of the theatre program at Dawson College are performing The Merchant of Venice. The Christmas lunch is scheduled for December 8th 2011. The Committee is always looking for members. Volunteers will be welcomed.

49.5.3 Centraide

Miriam Posner made a brief plea to participants urging them to consider the less fortunate and urging them to contribute to their welfare.

49.5.4 Scholarship Committee

Mary Baldwin explained that the amount available for scholarships and bursaries is established on June 1st each year. This year it was possible to maintain them at the current level. She cautioned that this might not be so in the coming year due to fluctuation of security values in the fund.

Students had expressed gratitude for the assistance received. Camille Bédard in Art History was overjoyed to be able to follow a field of study meeting her plans and ambitions. Mary encouraged members to contribute to the fund. They can choose to earmark their contributions to our Scholarship fund.

49.5.5 Technical Committee

Roger Kenner informed members that little had changed on the Web Site. He reminded us about the Web Site and the list of colour coded Email addresses. Minutes from the inception of the Association can be viewed as well as Newsletters dating back to 1992.

49.5.6 Membership

A membership Committee headed up by Sandra Spina with Rosalind Knitter, Lina Lipscombe and Audrey Williams will be working to increase membership in the Association.

49.5.7 Relations with Other Associations

Howard Fink reported on the activities of CURAC. He announced that the next annual meeting of CURAC would be held next April in Victoria and Howard is CUPA’s delegate. The last one was held in Regina. CURAC is concerned with the attack on

benefits of 11 universities and has struck a sub committee to deal with this problem. It hopes to work with CAUT (Canadian Association of University Teachers)

49.5.8 Pension and Benefits Committee

Howard reported that our Pension fund is experiencing the same problems as other funds; however, we are among the fortunate few with 95% of requirements to meet its obligations. The Pension Committee is seeking ways to reduce the volatility of the fund. There may be a push on to reduce indexing of pensions; every effort will be made to prevent any major changes in the plan.

As regards our Health Insurance Benefits, the administration is still striving to change the plan in 2 ways:

1 – reducing from 180 days to 90 days the coverage afforded to out of province members. It is extremely expensive to purchase private coverage to add to the 90 days.

2 – it is still pushing to increase retiree contributions to the same level as active employees. This in spite of the fact that our contribution to RAMQ plus our contribution to the Concordia plan, totals the same level as that paid by active members. Nothing has occurred since April and we are anxiously awaiting further discussion on this very important matter. A meeting is scheduled for the end of the month.

49.6 Next Meeting

Tentatively set for 10:00 a.m. April 26th, 2012.

49.7 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a unanimous motion.