

PRESIDENTS' REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – May 8, 2013

GERALD SOON

Year in Review

They say that when one retires, that the years seem to speed by. Well, I must be really retired! I can say that being the President of our Association for 2012 – 2013 has been a great pleasure. Our executive works so well together, and I thank everyone for their willingness to contribute to make our association better. It truly has been a pleasure to work with such a professional group of leaders. Thank you in particular to Rick Ashe and Joy Ruffeski. Your experiences as presidents helped me a great deal.

When planning for this year, the executive took into consideration the results of the previous survey, and aimed to have guest speakers that would meet the needs of our membership. Mary Hamilton from Davis LLP offered excellent advice for Will planning and related legal issues. Gerry Tiede's presented a clear informative session on the Teachers' Pension Plan. Tony Dufficy's session on Volountouring was very well received. As not everyone can attend our meetings, a summary of each of our speakers' presentations was included in our newsletters. For today's speaker, I plan on attaching a Youtube video to the electronic newsletter so that our members can have a taste of James Nevison's presentation on tasting wine. Folks will have to have their own glass of wine to follow along!

The executive plans on using Survey Monkey once again, to survey our membership so that their needs can be identified for next year's program.

Our membership in our association has grown to 617 members as of April 18, and we expect an influx after June. With our membership scattered growing, it is important to focus on the benefits of membership. To that end, I endeavoured to focus on our Affinity program. I checked with our previous partners to clarify which programs were still available to our members, and looked into expanding our partnerships. One of our partners, Carter Auto Group offers us the same Affinity program that is available to the BC Medical Association. I was pleased to utilize the program this month, and will be enjoying my new vehicle while saving a large amount of money! I found that contacting organizations, identifying myself as the president of the BCRPVPA resulted in companies being willing to speak and offer their services. As a result, next year, Affinity will be one of the responsibilities of the President. Thank you to Brian Chappell for offering to look after Affinity this year. The BCPVPA Affinity program effectively has shut down, and we have offered the active association to join in on ours.

Increased numbers of available participants may result in further affinity partners and benefits to our members.

Communication is important, and we need to maintain current information. To that end, every effort has been made to obtain correct email addresses and contact information.

Approximately 40 corrections of email address were made by contacting members that we identified as having outdated addresses.

The cost of producing and mailing our newsletter, *Chronicles and Capers*, continues to be one of our major expenses. In an effort to reduce costs, be less wasteful and to keep our travelling colleagues informed, we offered electronic copies of our newsletter. At times, both paper and electronic copies were sent out so members could see how easy it is to get their newsletter online anywhere in the world.

It was hoped that by reducing the number of print copies, and thus saving postage would allow us to increase the number of scholarships. The reality of a budget that has been reduced because we no longer receive grants from the BCPVPA has required us to be careful stewards monetarily. Our discussions at today's meeting will chart the course regarding enhancing our scholarship program in some way in the future.

We established a listserv this year thanks to Rick Ashe and Vivian Rygnestad, and have seen some discussions occurring, allowing members from all areas of the province to communicate directly with one another.

It has been a somewhat quieter year compared to others where there was such labour unrest in schools, and there have been changes at the BCPVPA. Kit Krieger, Executive Director, sought involvement from our members when visiting administrators from Australia were here. The steady support from Shelley Green, president of BCPVPA, and the staff continue to be greatly appreciated.

In summary, it has been a year where we have strengthened the BCRPVPA – in communication, and in what we have to offer our members. I look forward to another year of serving my fellow retirees.