

**BCRPVPA GENERAL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018**  
**MINUTES**

9:30 a.m. Social

**9:45 Call to Order – Eileen** - Welcome and Attendance

Attendance of 24 members with personal introductions

Executive member regret: Leanna

Thank you to Laurie for describing the 3 types of cheese to savour this morning and to Lanny for the food, including delicious crispy blueberries muffins and fresh fruit! Yummy, yummy!

Adoption of the Agenda

Moved - Jeff

Seconded – Allan

Carried

Adoption of the Minutes from October 24, 2017

Moved - Christine

Seconded – Barb

Carried

**Reports**

**1. Treasurer – Lanny**

- a. See handout of the 2 Statements of Operations & Financial Position as of October 31, 2017
- b. Q & A:
  - i. *Discussion about the account balance:* The BCP used to give the BCRPVPA \$2,000 annually. At our request, we no longer receive this. Now, we send newsletters electronically to our members and have been able to save the costs of printing and posting. We have also held 3 book sales at Short Course at UBC in July and have made funds from this. However, we do have greater technology costs for communication e.g., website design and maintenance, filming equipment. We still mail and print newsletters for our members without easy email access, at their request.
  - ii. *How many scholarship recipients?* One of our goals is to increase the number of scholarship recipients and the amount we are able to provide. Previously we gave \$500 scholarships. We now give 4 scholarships of \$1000 each and it is our hope to give 5 scholarships next year. If the BCP increases the amount of their awards, then we would like to be able to follow their lead on this.
  - iii. *Who oversees our books?* Carol, the chief accountant from BCPVPA checks it annually and provides our statements for meetings.

Moved: Lanny

Second: Ted

Carried

2. Benefits, Affinity and Pensions – Gerry/**Gerald** reported on the following:
  - a. 1.6% consumer index is anticipated for this year; therefore, we will likely be receiving this amount from our TPP. Wait for the information to come - expected by the end of January.
  - b. MSP has been reduced by 50% as a result of the government announcement in January 2018.
  - c. Affinity Plan – New benefits are coming to our members @ no cost. For example, today's speaker, Ryan from *Travel Agency Tribes* has come to us to talk about a new travel partnership.
  - d. Exploring the possibility of partnering for a cellular plan for our members.
  
3. Communications and Technology – **Graham**
  - a. A huge thank you to Graham for purchasing the Sony recording device over the Christmas break. The purpose was to record our meetings and presentations, then post it onto our website for members to view. For example, we posted Ursula's presentation on Road Scholars and Gerry's on Bill C-27. These have received many 'viewing hits' and on this basis we decided to go ahead and purchase our own equipment.
  - b. We are an 'avid' group of travellers. Members, please consider posting travel photos or submitting articles onto Yammer (which has replaced ListServe).
  - c. See attached report \*
  
4. Membership & Sunshine - (Leanna) - presented by **Eileen**
  - a. No one has approached Leanna for 'sunshine' service.
  - b. Great news! We currently have 717 active members as of January 12, 2018
  - c. Eileen shared a 'Thinking of You' card from one of our members, Joe Varro, who won a Chapters' gift card and he, at the age of 92, is now enjoying the book bought with the card.
  
5. Scholarships – Allan/Christine/Ted/**Jeff** reported on the committee's behalf
  - a. 4 - \$1,000 scholarship recipients.
  - b. The committee received 20+ applications and all were worthy candidates. After multiple readings by the committee, six really stood out. Following much discussion, further readings and reviewing the established criteria, four scholarship recipients were finally chosen.
  - c. One who did not win sent a lovely note of thank you to our association and offered congratulations to those who were successful.
  - d. Q & A
    - i. Should we as an association increase the number of scholarship recipients? We will give *at least* 4 scholarships of \$1000 each year.
    - ii. Which BC regions do the applicants come from? This year has a great spread of applicants throughout the BC regions, though fewer from the lower mainland. The committee agreed to start keeping track of the whereabouts of the applicants. **ACTION: Jeff**

6. Programs & Speakers - **Eileen** on behalf of the executive
  - a. It would be great if we could have someone in charge of programs & speakers for next year. Please consider offering your name for this position on our executive.
  - b. Please let executive members know if you have suggestions for a speaker/topic.
  - c. Dennis Ducklow has been confirmed for the May 3 AGM. Photography - most likely the topic will be taking travel photos with your phone or tablet.
  
7. Vice-President / Chapter Council – **Ted**
  - a. On behalf of our association, President & Vice President attend three Chapter Council Meetings yearly. Both appreciate the warm welcome received by BCPVPA members and staff.
  - b. The main focus and concern this year at the school level is a lack of teachers in the system.
  - c. Eileen asked us as members to be considerate and supportive of our working colleagues while, at the same time, be respectful of what and how we share the current education challenges professionally and personally with people in all settings. It is important that we show support for public education.
  
8. President – **Eileen**
  - a. Mentorship Program is now in place. Second in-take training will occur February 1 & 2, 2018. BCPVPA President, Kevin Reimer is the program contact if members have questions about the program. If members are interested in mentoring B.C. administrative colleagues, please complete the Mentorship application form found on the BCPVPA &/or BCRPVPA website.
  - b. See attached President's Report \*\*
  - c. Education/Leadership Book Sale @ UBC Short Course is to be held in July for 1 or 2 days. Money earned from the book sale is for scholarships. Please bring books to BCPVPA office. The cost is \$5 for 1 book or 5 for \$20. We will be recruiting volunteers for the book sale in the months to come.

**Old Business** - NIL

**New Business** - NIL

General Meeting Adjournment

Moved - Eileen

Seconded – Ted

Carried

Break

**11:00 Program Presentation:**

Ryan McElroy from *Travel Agency Tribes* - Gerald introduce the speaker and topic.

- 1) URL: 'BCRPVPA.MyTravelBenefit.com' website
  - a) Our website goes LIVE as of Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - b) Tom MacLean VP of Sales Y Marketing; [Tom@TravelAgencyTribes.com](mailto:Tom@TravelAgencyTribes.com)
  - c) CEO from Ontario, [Ryan@TravelAgencyTribes.com](mailto:Ryan@TravelAgencyTribes.com)
- 2) World View Travels – Representatives are there to guide/assist for long or short tours. For example, Graham had them help plan his Vietnam trip on Food/Drinks. Some of the possible trips are 'Meet the Maker' culinary experience trip like 'Cook in Tuscany'
- 3) Q: Would Travel Tribes be receptive to help our members plan only a module of the trip?  
Yes, most definitely. Members can go onto the website & put in an inquiry. Travel Tribes has 17 experienced worldwide travel agents who could help us with short trip modules. We just need to let the agent know of our travel budget and the types of travel & location. The agent will help us with the research and the proposed trip.
- 4) 'My Travel Benefit' Program covers the following and easily retrievable from the website.
  - a) 'Travel Agency Tribes' & 'besttrip.tv'
  - b) Ultra luxury cruise market featuring Seven Seas Cruise, Avalon River Cruise, adventure trips, as well as module of trips, 'made to measure' vacation, etc.
  - c) Digital Travel Content Marketing Services: premium web site, regular monthly updates and special travel offers, magazine/e-newsletters, best agent consultation,
- 5) Travel Tribes is also working with the BC and Alberta Retired Teachers Associations to launch a similar travel service.
- 6) Members are encouraged to go to the new website (Jan 22 or later) and sign up to receive newsletters. Our goal is to have at least 200 members sign on.

**No-host lunch** at Rogue Restaurant followed presentation. 13 attended.

### **Dates to Note**

Next General Meeting will be Tuesday March 13, 2018  
AGM will be Thursday May 3, 2018 (Buffet lunch provided)

Next Executive Meeting will be Tuesday February 20, 2018

### **Attachments:**

Communications Report \*  
President's Report \*\*

### **\* BCRPVPA Tech/Communications Report: General Meeting Graham Mulligan**

Purchase of new equipment to record Presentations

- Sony HandyCam 229.99
- Tripod 139.99
- Memory Card 039.99

Total with tax/fees 459.62

Communications - here is where our members were when they opened the most recent email from us: Canada, USA, Mexico, UK and Thailand

Yammer - we encourage members and executive to use this mode to keep it growing. If it is active then it will be more relevant for us all.

Newsletter - The next newsletter will be assembled after the January General Meeting. I return Feb.6 and will get it out asap following my return. Articles from executive members are always appreciated and if you know of a member who is doing something different, or fun, or interesting...

## **\*\* President's Report to the Members: General Meeting**

### **Eileen Phillips**

- Scholarship form updated to change BC to Canadian post-secondary accredited site;
- Chapter's Gift Cards purchased by Lanny, supporting a member's fundraiser.
- Executive unanimous that the draw for cards should be for all members.
- Vivian has agreed to contact the winners after each meeting. (Fred Nienaber of Maple Ridge and Joseph Varro of Port Coquitlam for Oct 22 GM)
- Attended Mentorship meetings and also Ted and I attended the training session.
- Information on Bill C-27 sent to members.
- Attended AGM dinner of the BCRTA with Ted.
- Thank you note sent to the BCRTA.
- Survey - Executive strongly in favour of not gifting membership to non-members who applied to be mentors.
- Chapter Council and BCPVPA AGM attended with Ted. Nov 17 and 18.
- Emails re Green Shield, Travel Insurance, and Bill C-27 mostly.
- Checking Yammer requests! Names with emails would be appreciated.
- Passport to the World correspondence - supposed to be sending passes for a Draw to Cineplex showings.
- President's message sent for newsletter about Nov 12.
- Newsletter emailed December 5 and mailed out Dec 19 (to 43 members). Amorie a huge help with this.
- Gifts and cards for BCPVPA Staff delivered in December.
- Domain renewal of our website - sent to Carol. Done.
- Techtone invoices sent to Helen for payment.
- Mentorship round 2 - Feb 1 & 2 training sessions. Applications from members requested via a MailChimp email.
- Planning for next speaker and topic underway: Survey Monkey results consulted.
- Planning for Book Sale at Short Course held at UBC in July has started. Why not go through your education books for donations?
- Thanks for attending.