

**Minutes of the
Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)
National Association Meeting
7:00 p.m. - June 26, 2014
At the Norwood Legion
Edmonton, AB**

- 1. Call to Order.** The President called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
- 2. Period of Silence to Fallen Comrades.** Dave Biener led the period of silence for fallen comrades as part of the Branch meeting.
- 3. Confirmation of quorum.** There were five members in attendance. This represented over 10% of the current paid membership in the Edmonton area.
- 4. President's Report.**

Since taking over the responsibility of managing the association, the executive has been busy with the necessary arrangements for establishing the headquarters of the association in the Edmonton area. This involved arranging the local banking, changing the stationery, running the membership campaign, preparing the 2014/15 budget and planning for the 2015 reunion.

Association Future Following the 2014 membership campaign there are currently 238 paid members. This represents a continuing decline in the annual membership. In 2013 it was 387. To make the membership aware of the declining membership I wrote a letter which has recently been published in the spring 2014 newsletter entitled "Association Dead or Alive". The point of the letter was to raise awareness of the continuing reduction in paid memberships. While the declining funds are worrying, of greater concern is the possibility that the reduction in our numbers is an indication of lack of support or interest in maintaining the association. On the positive side a number of Branches now exist in Kingston/Ottawa, Maritimes (Oromocto), Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria and interior BC. These branches are currently independent of the Association and not all of their members are paid up members of the Association. The Association bylaws written in 1965 state that the purpose of the Association is "perpetuate and foster the esprit-de-corps and comradeship and service, in accordance with the high traditions of the Regiment". The expansion of the association across Canada into regional Branches is a positive step. We should build upon this to involve greater involvement from all members of the Association. I believe that there is a message in the declining membership. We need to re-examine our initial purpose and consider how we can ensure that we uphold

Registration (filled), 2. Transportation, 3. Golf Tournament, 4. Fundraising, 5. Reunion Package, 6. Spousal Program (filled), 7. Memorial Service, History Presentations, Communication/Public Relations (filled), and Early Bird Draw, 50/50 Draw (filled), and Parade. We need volunteers to come forward and join the team. Those who would like to volunteer for these positions can contact Ian Barnes, Mike Hogan or Rick Dennis.

8. New Business.

a. **Future of the Association.** The President addressed the declining membership issue as noted in his remarks and requested approval to contact the various Branch leaders to solicit their insight into what changes they would like to see in the areas of structure, organization and activities of the Association which would possibly reverse the declining membership and revitalize the association to meet the needs of our bylaws and current and potential members. **It was moved by Stu Ballard and seconded by Bob Peterson that the President examines ways to ensure the future of the association by contacting the heads of the various Branches across Canada. Carried.**

b. **2014/15 Budget.** The President presented the proposed budget for the coming year. **Its approval was moved by Bob Peterson and seconded by Stu Ballard. Carried.**

Opening Balance	\$ 50,330.59
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Income

Membership	\$ 6,000.00
Donations	\$ 3,000.00

Sub Total	\$ 9,000.00
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Expenses

Administration	\$ 3,000.00
Reunion	\$ 9,000.00
Cadets	\$ 600.00
Newsletter	\$1,500.00
Museum	\$1,000.00
Strathconian	\$1,380.00
Mounted Troop	\$ 70.00

Sub Total	\$16,550.00
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Closing Balance	42,780.59
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9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.