

HKVCA National Projects Report - Summary August, 2017

Projects that have regular board attention are mentioned here; many other projects are entirely addressed in regional reports – some of which have interest far outside the region. I don't want to steal the thunder so I will leave you in anticipation. Many projects with regular board attention have standalone reports; they are in your package of materials. Others are small enough to be grouped together here.

Communications plan – Nancy Doddridge

Our activities rely on communication to our membership. A communications policy and related procedures are needed to ensure that communication is consistent, coordinated, effectively managed, and responsive to the needs of our membership. In addition, it will manage the risk of overuse of our bulk email service to protect the privacy of our membership and to simplify the work required to use the software.

Nancy Doddridge had taken this on, and made some initial progress, starting with the creation of a draft bulk email policy. However, due to heavier-than-expected workload with her employer, and personal commitments, finalizing the policy and the creation of a communications plan had to be put on hold shortly after it began. We expect to resume this initiative by January 2018.

Provide an online option for membership renewals, and new members who wish to join – Jim Trick and Barry Mitchell

Paying bills online is the new standard. Fewer Canadians have chequing accounts, and some young adults have never addressed an envelope. We need to make it possible to manage memberships online.

Jim and Barry have been a diligent team, working through each step as it becomes identified. For example, until now, our bank account was not set up for online banking, and we needed to change that. It wasn't as easy as

you'd think, with signatories all over the country! Jim, meanwhile, has more information in his report. Likely, we will start with the ability to renew memberships. The ability to become a new member with an online membership will follow.

Assist where possible, in the obtaining of an apology from Mitsubishi for using POWs as slave labour – Carol Hadley

Some POW groups have received an apology from Mitsubishi Motors Company when documentation was available to prove those individuals were forced to work. About two years ago we were approached by the Simon Wiesenthal Center with an offer to do the same for our HK veterans; however, no evidence could be found. Since then, John Arnone, of Mitsubishi Motors, has stepped forward to say that he has a commitment to assist in verification on their end. They will search for evidence also. If found, they will issue an apology. Mr. Arnone has been unsuccessful so far, but Veterans Affairs Canada, has suggested that the National Archives of the United Kingdom might help. So now we need to ask you, our members, asking if anyone can think of a name to include in the search. If anyone has other ideas about how to gather these names, please share! For each possible veteran, we need the first and last name, service number, rank regiment, and country. If you can give us the name, we can provide the rest of the information, and Mr. Arnone can keep looking.

Assist the Order of St. George – Mike Babin

You will remember that the Order of St. George elected to honour our living veterans with the title Field Knight at the last convention in Ottawa. After the Ottawa convention presentations, 15 veterans had not received the Order as they were not able to attend the convention and receive it in person. The Order agreed to find a way to present to those Veterans, but unfortunately, it has taken a very long time for that to be done. Part of the problem was that the Order requires the award to be made in person, and the person who does the presentations has not been available for one reason or another (it is a very small organization).

We can report that of those 15, six were invested. Another 4 are being arranged as I write, and may be done by the time we meet. That leaves 5 more (4 in the West, 1 in the East). For those veterans who passed away since the Ottawa convention, the Order agreed to present it posthumously to their families.

Membership Database Improvements – Mitzi Ross

At the last AGM, we listed 10 requirements we wanted to address: 2 are related to the work underway to support online membership renewals and therefore are a work in progress, 5 are completed, and 3 are partially or fully addressed, but need validation to be sure. It's common for IT projects to have changing requirements, and this is no different. In addition, Jim has plans to update the membership policy and procedures document in consultation with the regional reps, as part of our annual review.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Angel, President