

The Royal Canadian Legion
Saskatchewan Command
48th Biennial Provincial Convention Report
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan October 17-19, 2015

Saturday, October 17

REGISTRATION AND BRANCH HOSPITALITY

Friday evening and Saturday morning found convention participants checking into their respective hotels in Prince Albert and finding their way to Branch No. 2 for registration and hospitality. The registration committee and Branch Executive and members were organized, extremely hospitable and friendly, and made sure everyone felt right at home!

Comrades Donna Gosselin, Cherilyn Cooke, Kimberly Downing, Kim Douglas and Stephanie Anhorn, from the Provincial Command office in Regina, made sure the registration process ran smoothly so that all delegates were ready for the parade and opening ceremonies Saturday afternoon. In addition, the Branch sold Sunday night banquet tickets while Comrade Douglas sold challenge coins for \$10.00 - an idea cultivated this year especially for the Convention. Since all office staff attended Convention this year, the Regina office was closed from Thursday, October 15 to Tuesday, October 20.

Registration on Friday was from 7-9 p.m. and on Saturday from 10-1. A big thank you to the branch registration committee headed up by Clara Wiberg who ensured every delegate and observer received their convention kits, name tags, ballot books (where applicable), and swag bag full of miscellaneous goodies from the community. The command staff looked after the registration of all officers and guests attending the convention.

On Friday evening, delegates and guests were treated to supper and entertainment at the Branch.

PARADE AND CENOTAPH SERVICE

Parade Marshal Sam Hurford lined everyone up for the parade on a beautiful Saturday afternoon where Legion uniforms were almost too hot. The parade began a little before 2:30, led by the Parade Marshal. The streets had been blocked so that the parade could march safely to the cenotaph. The parade arrived at the cenotaph, located outside city hall, and was greeted by a number of local and out-of-town observers. Cadets guarded the cenotaph in respect while the parade was assembled around the cenotaph for the 15 minute cenotaph service.

The Provincial Command Chaplain, Bishop Charles Arthurson officiated and began the cenotaph service with "O Canada." He followed with prayers, followed by "Last Post", silence, "Lament", "Rouse (Reveille)", and "The Act of Remembrance." Wreaths were then laid by: Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield on behalf of the Queen; Diane Peterson-Razos, Regional Director, Prairie Region, on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada; Mark Barham, Treasurer, Dominion Command on behalf of Dominion Command; the Honourable Victoria Jurgens, Province of Saskatchewan, representing the Premier of Saskatchewan, Brad Wall on behalf of the

Saskatchewan Government; M.C. (Dick) Wells, Provincial President, The Royal Canadian Legion, on behalf of Saskatchewan Command.

After the benediction and Order of Arms, the parade marshal led the parade to Wesley United Church for the official opening ceremonies. En route to the church, the reviewing stand was saluted, with eyes right. The salute was taken by the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield; Mark Barham, Dominion Command representative; and M.C. (Dick) Wells, The Royal Canadian Legion, Saskatchewan Command President.

OFFICIAL OPENING

Once dismissed by the parade marshal, all filed into Wesley United Church. The participants were greeted by piano music by Mrs. Phyllis McTaggart, who played superbly. We thank her for offering her time to be available to us on that day.

At 3:15 p.m., Comrade Ray Marjoram, as Master of Ceremonies and Provincial Chairman, called the ceremonies to order. The Officers and Guests were piped into the church, followed by Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, her Aide de Camp, Captain Cathy Sarich and the Marching on of the Colours by Prince Albert branch No. 2.

The Vice Regal Salute was played and the opening ceremonies began. Bishop Charles Arthurson gave the invocation followed by “Last Post”, silence, “Lament”, “Rouse (Reveille)” and “The Act of Remembrance.” He then asked all to join him in reciting “In Flanders Fields,” the poem by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae that celebrates 100 years this year. A fitting addition to the afternoon.

Once the Colours were deposited, Provincial President Comrade Dick Wells welcomed delegates and guests to the 48th Biennial Provincial Convention. Comrade Ray Marjoram then introduced all of the distinguished guests on the stage:

Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan and Honorary Patron – Saskatchewan Command, The Royal Canadian Legion
Bishop Charles Arthurson – Chaplain, Branch No. 2 and Honorary Chaplain, Sask. Command
Hon. Victoria Jurgens – MLA Prince Albert Northcote, representing Premier Brad Wall
Ken Box, Provincial 1st Vice President, Sask. Command
Diane Peterson Razos, Regional Director Prairie Region, Veterans Affairs Canada
Alf Christensen, Provincial President, Army, Navy and Airforce Veterans
Alfred Tait, Provincial President, Korean Veterans Association
Ronn Anderson, Provincial 1st Vice President Manitoba NW Ontario Command
Inspector Roberta McKale, Operations Officer North District RCMP
Dick Wells, Provincial President, RCL Sask. Command
Inspector Jason Stonechild, representing the Prince Albert Police Service
Hon. Don Cody, representing the Mayor, City of Prince Albert
Judy Wells, wife of Provincial President, Dick Wells
Mark Barham, Treasurer, Dominion Command, The Royal Canadian Legion
Lieutenant Colonel Tony Engelberts, Commanding Officer, North Sask. Regiment
Captain Cathy Sarich, Aide de Camp to the Lt. Governor

and recognized on the floor:

Mrs. Pat Varga, Past Dominion President, Dominion Command RCL
Mr. Peter Piper, Past Dominion Vice President, Dominion Command RCL

Comrade Dick Wells then introduced Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan to present her remarks. Remarks continued with Chairman Comrade Marjoram introducing the Honourable Victoria Jurgens, and Don Cody representing the Mayor.

President, Comrade Wells then officially opened the Saskatchewan Provincial Convention which was followed by the resolution of loyalty moved and seconded, and the presentation of flowers to Her Honour and Judy Wells. A photo op followed so that the children presenting the flowers would have a fond memory of their duty on that day.

<p>Resolution No. 1 – moved by Comrade Dick Wells, Provincial President, and seconded by Comrade Ken Box, Provincial 1st Vice President, and CARRIED.</p>
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Comrade Marjoram then made the following announcements: Open house that evening at PA branch No. 2 (133 8th St E.); and Convention business begins at 8:30 am Sunday morning, Travelodge Hotel, with the whips and deputies meeting at 8:00 am. sharp.

Bishop Arthurson then delivered the benediction, after which Comrade Marjoram declared the meeting recessed until 8:30 am Sunday morning.

The audience stood for “God Save the Queen,” and remained standing until all platform guests left the stage. The audience then followed.

Hospitality was extended to everyone at the Branch later that evening.

Sunday, October 18

8:27 A.M. -- BUSINESS SESSIONS OPEN

CALL TO ORDER

Provincial Chairman, Comrade Ray Marjoram, reconvened the business of the Convention at 8:27 a.m. at the Travelodge Hotel. He called the meeting to order. Shortly before that, a meeting was held with the Provincial Chairman, Whips, and Deputy Whips to outline their duties for the convention.

INVOCATION

Honorary Chaplain Bishop Charles Arthurson led the morning prayer.

PROCEDURES REPORT

Provincial Chairman, Comrade Ray Marjoram, brought forth the Procedures Report. He asked that cell phones be turned off. He encouraged all delegates to get involved in the debate and resolutions as Convention is the place decisions for the next two years are made. He also informed

delegates that for the first time at Convention, reports would not be read in full, but instead, the most important points highlighted. Convention books were previously mailed to all officers and Branches and as well available at the registration desk.

The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Comrade Al Hodgson brought forth the Local Arrangements Committee Report. He welcomed everyone to Prince Albert and hoped that all would enjoy the next few days. He, along with his co-chair, Comrade Carol Pedersen, and the entire committee would be available for anyone that needed anything.

The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Co-Chair, Comrade Carol Pedersen then proceeded with the Credentials Committee Report:

Delegates	84
Command Officers	11
Zone Commanders	15
Prov. Past Presidents	5
Deputy District Commanders	1
Deputy Zone Commanders	8

TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH 124

Non accredited	13
Guests	17
Staff	5

TOTAL IN ATTENDANCE 159

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Provincial President, Comrade M.C. (Dick) Wells, introduced the following Command officers and guests in attendance:

Special Guests:

Mark Barham	Treasurer, Dominion Command
Ronn Anderson	1 st Vice President, Manitoba North Western Ontario Command
Diane Peterson-Razos	Regional Director, Veterans Affairs Canada
Lou-Anne Lambert	Service Manager, IPSC (Integrated Support Services Centre, 15 Wing Moose Jaw)
Alf Christenson	Provincial President, ANAVETS
Dallas Devine	Client Service Team Manager, Saskatchewan District, VAC
Alfred Tate	Prov. President, Korean Veterans Assoc.
L.Col Tony Engelberts	Commanding Officer, North Sask. Regiment

Sharon Adams Staff Writer, Legion Magazine Ottawa
Mark Fenety President, Fenety Marketing Services

Head Table Guests:

M.C. (Dick) Wells	Provincial President
Brent Wignes	Provincial Past President
Ken Box	Provincial 1 st Vice President
Evert Whelen	Provincial Vice President
Lorne Varga	Provincial Vice President
Ray Marjoram	Provincial Chairman
Cherilyn Cooke	Provincial Executive Director
Stephanie Anhorn	Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

On the Floor:

Roberta Taylor	District No. 1 Commander
Keith Andrews	District No. 2 Commander
Al Hemingway	District No. 3 Commander
Allan Hodgson	District No. 4 Commander
Patricia Paul	Prov. TVS Representative
Pat Varga	Past Dominion President
Peter Piper	Past Dominion Vice-President
Kimberly Downing	Provincial Service Officer
Kim Douglas	Command Accountant
Donna Gosselin	Past Prov. Executive Director

Past Presidents in Attendance:

Frank Simpson	Also Chief Scrutineer for this convention
Pat Varga	Also Elections Chairperson for this convention
Harold Hague	
Peter Piper	
John Henderson	

PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Provincial President, Comrade Dick Wells brought forth his report. He thanked the organizing committee for the excellent organization of this Convention. He then added an addendum to his report. He had attended meetings in Regina and had also attended the funeral of a veteran, Comrade Mac Wilson. In closing, Comrade Wells thanked his wife, Judy, for her love and support over the last two years, and while he had spent countless hours doing Legion business at the computer and on the phone. He also thanked Donna and Cherilyn for their support.

The report was moved and seconded. The motion was then **CARRIED**.

LAST POST

Comrade Marjoram took a moment to remember officers of the Command who have passed on since the last Convention: Mac Wilson, Past District Commander, Sask. Command; Albert Maloney, Leonard Irwin and John Miller, all Past Zone Commanders, Sask. Command. He also mentioned that Comrade Ralph Gardner, Past Department Commander, the American Legion,

Montana had recently passed on. Ralph, along with many other officers of Montana State had attended our conventions for many, many years in the past.

PROVINCIAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Comrade Marjoram presented his Resolutions Committee Report. He then proceeded with the resolutions contained in his report.

Resolution 2 (p. 31) - moved, seconded, and **CARRIED** by standing vote.

Resolution 3 (p. 31) - moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

Resolution 4 (p. 32) - moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

The report was then moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Comrade Cherilyn brought forth her report and also updated the convention with the status of our Military Service Recognition Books indicating that more submissions are needed for the 2016 book and that the books are a great fund raiser for the command to ensure that the General Account remains viable. The funding prevents the necessity of future per capita tax increases. Comrade Cooke thanked all branches and members, and particularly Council, for their patience and understanding as she recovers from her accident. Comrade Cooke also expressed her gratitude to Donna for having to come out of retirement to help the Command during Comrade Cooke's recovery.

The report was moved, seconded and **CARRIED**.

DOMINION COMMAND REPRESENTATIVE ADDRESS

Comrade Mark Barham, Dominion Command representative brought forth his address. Before delivering his address and showing a video, he thanked all at Convention for the invitation to be present and for their hospitality thus far. He then brought greetings from Comrade Tom Eagles, Dominion President and from Comrade Chris Strong, President of Alberta-NWT Command, who was unable to attend the convention. The Dominion President's Video Message to All 2015 Provincial Conventions was then shown along with a report on the RCEL. Following the video presentation, Comrade Mark gave an address with the focus being on trimming expenses wherever possible at the National level and indicating that over half of their income is derived from memberships, and membership recruitment is extremely important moving into the future. Every year, we lose 10,000 to 12,000 members. His report is attached. Comrade Wells then thanked Comrade Barham for his presentation and presented him with a gift from the Command.

COFFEE BREAK – 9:20 am.

(For the benefit of all the delegates that were in attendance, following Comrade Ian Pryznyk's unfortunate health incident on the floor, the ambulance was called, Comrade Ian was taken to hospital, and it has been reported that he recovered quickly and is back to good health.)

RECONVENED – 9:45 am

ROLL CALL

Comrade Marjoram called for the following:

Second World War Veterans	5
Korean Veterans	1
Peacekeepers	9
Merchant navy	0
N.A.T.O.	10
Peacetime	20
Afghanistan	1
Militia	2
RCMP	2
Associates	84
Affiliates	1
First-Time attendees	22
Reserve	8
Gulf War	4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	n/a (incl. in peacekeepers for this year)

Oldest veteran in attendance: Comrade Harold Hague, Prov. Past President from Regina – 94.5 years old. On his heels were Comrades Ed Laird 92.5 and Comrade John Henderson 91 years old.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADDRESS

Comrade Marjoram announced that although the federal election prohibits an address by Veterans Affairs Canada on behalf of the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Diane Peterson-Razos and Dallas Devine would be available throughout the day to answer questions from members and where necessary, contact them following Convention to follow up. It was great to have both of them there. Comrade Marjoram asked them to stand and be recognized.

At this time, Comrade Alf Christensen, Provincial President ANAVETS, brought greetings from the Army, Navy and Airforce Veterans in Saskatchewan and thanked the convention for the invitation. He wished all a successful convention.

NOMINATIONS OPEN

Elections Chair, Comrade Pat Varga then opened nominations for all positions within the Command. She brought forth to the delegates the procedures for the elections and proceeded with the asking of nominations from the floor:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| President | - | Ken Box |
| 1st Vice President | - | Evert Whelen |
| | - | Lorne Varga |
| Vice President (2) | - | Allan Hodgson |
| | - | Keith Andrews |

- Wayne Shepherd
 - Sharren Dukart
- Chairman**
- Ray Marjoram

Comrade Pat Varga then declared nominations closed until 1:00 pm. Sunday afternoon.

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Comrade Marjoram brought forth the Constitution and Laws Committee Report. He added that many of the complaints that are received are personal and felt they could be resolved at the branch level as opposed to bringing them to Provincial Command level. Members need to refer to the By-Laws for proper interpretations in situations, and by talking it out could solve a lot of the conflicts at that level. Every Branch in the command should have a set of Branch By-Laws. If your Branch does not have a set, Command has a sample generic set that Branches can adapt to their own situation. New Branch By-Laws or changes to existing By-Laws must have the approval of the Provincial Constitution and Laws Committee.

The report was moved, seconded and **CARRIED**.

INTEGRATED SUPPORT SERVICES CENTRE – 15 WING MOOSE JAW ADDRESS

Comrade Wells introduced Lou-Anne Lambert, Service Manager, who had been in the Armed Forces for 30 years. Comrade Lambert explained that her job is to advocate for the ill and injured of all serving members as well as for families of the fallen. Their headquarters are in Ottawa with 33 centres in Canada. She gave a very informative power point presentation on what the Centre does, and how the Legion can help. She then asked for questions from the floor.

RCEL REPORT

Comrade Mark Barham, Treasurer, Dominion Command, presented the RCEL Report which was also part of the Dominion President's video and then explained the purpose of the fund.

Following the presentations, the call went to the floor to bring forth their donations to the fund which were collected and tabulated. It was later reported that the total amount donated was \$9,215.00.

GREETINGS:

Comrade Ronn Anderson, Provincial 1st Vice President, Manitoba North Western Ontario Command, brought greetings from his Command. He thanked the convention for his invitation and expressed the hope that deliberations go well over the next few days.

PROVINCIAL WAYS AND MEANS AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

President Comrade Wells presented this report, which included the proposed Command budget for the next two years.

The report was moved and seconded. The motion was then **CARRIED**.

GREETINGS:

L. Col. Tony Engelberts then brought greetings. He said that part of the reason he wanted to attend is because his young soldiers ask what the Legion does, and so what he learns at this Convention, he will take back to them. He encouraged all delegates not to hesitate to contact their local reserve unit for questions about parade protocol. He also said he is open to partnering with the Legion to plan parades and ceremonies, for events in future.

PROVINCIAL PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Comrade Brent Wignes brought forth his report.
The report was then moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

PROVINCIAL 1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Comrade Ken Box brought forth the 1st Vice President's Report.
The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

PROVINCIAL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Comrade Evert Whelen presented his Provincial Vice President's Report.
The report was then moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

PROVINCIAL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Comrade Lorne Varga presented his Provincial Vice President's Report.
The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Comrade Ray Marjoram presented his Provincial Chairman's Report.
The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

VETERAN'S SERVICE AND SENIORS COMMITTEE REPORT

Comrade Keith Andrews presented the Veterans' Service and Seniors Committee Report along with the resolutions therein. Comrade Andrews read a letter forwarded to the Command, by Erin O'Toole, Minister of Veterans Affairs, sending regrets that he could not be present and relayed on his best wishes for a successful convention. Comrade Andrews also announced VAC's recent decision to proceed with a test study to pair service dogs with eligible veterans, and also, to provide service to veterans who already have service dogs.

No non concurred resolutions were brought forward

The report was moved, seconded and **CARRIED**

Resolution 5 (p. 74) was moved, seconded, and CARRIED .

LEAVE THE STREETS BEHIND PROGRAM REPORT

Comrade Pat Varga presented her report. She added that \$34,300.00 has been donated so far to the program. She went on to thank Fenety Marketing for allowing Saskatchewan Command to use its toll-free number for the Leave the Streets Behind program. She also encouraged delegates to distribute the Leave the Streets Behind brochures within their communities. Comrade Varga finished by recounting the story of how Kimberly Downing, Provincial Service Officer, helped a veteran and his dog in need.

The report was then moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

LUNCH – 11:30 am

RECONVENED – 1:03 pm

NOMINATIONS RE-OPENED FOR PRESIDENT AND 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

There were no new nominations.

For President: Comrade Ken Box accepted his nomination and was elected by acclamation.

For 1st Vice President: Comrades Lorne Varga and Evert Whelen both accepted their nomination and gave a short 2 minute address to the delegates. Comrade Pat Varga called for the vote. Upon return of the scrutineers, Comrade Lorne Varga was declared elected. 119 ballots were cast, none spoiled.

Comrade Pat Varga then went on to say that two years ago, Comrade Past President Brent Wignes became a full fledged member of their elite Past President's Club. Now this year, Comrade Dick Wells was considered for this elite group at their lunch and was accepted and presented with his Provincial Past President's Club membership card! Congratulations Comrade Dick!

The volunteer scrutineers were then dismissed until 8:30 am. Monday morning.

PROVINCIAL SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT

Comrade Kimberly Downing presented the Provincial Service Officer's Report. Comrade Cherylyn Cooke answered questions on behalf of the new Service Officer, as she had only been in her position for a couple of months. A Question was raised from the floor: With VAC cutbacks, how will be assured that our veterans in Saskatchewan will be supported? Comrade Cooke answered that we have 172 Branches which should have a service officer. That means 172 Branch Service Officers that can comb the province for veterans in need to be referred to the Command Service Officer. We certainly do have a challenging future and VAC cutbacks have had a huge impact on the level of support available, but we have a better working relationship with VAC than we ever had and it will continue. Diane and Dallas have been sympathetic to the problems we face and have done their utmost to help in every instance. Different organizations can also work together as Lou-Anne Lambert, Service Manager, IPSC, explained where and what services are available and that the Legion works closely with them as well.

The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

DISCOVER THE POWER IN ME

Committee Chair, Comrade Pat Varga approached the podium to present this report. She informed the Convention that veterans in Canada attempt or commit suicide daily with 59 deaths attributed to the Canadian Military since the start of the Afghanistan mission compared to 159 killed in action. She went on to state that more than \$61,000.00 has been donated to the program thus far and there have been six seminars in Saskatchewan with a total of 77 participants. Moose Jaw branch will host the next one in December 2015, Regina the same month, and Nutana Branch in Saskatoon will host in early 2016. The cost is about \$456 per participant.

Comrade Varga then introduced Joe Rustenberg, a veteran diagnosed in 2009 with PTSD and recently, with a brain injury. He was accompanied by his life partner, Melanie, who spoke about Joe's journey to health using a service dog. Melanie did most of the speaking, recounting Joe's experience at the Wounded Warriors Weekend where tools, daily affirmations, reasons to love oneself and let go of the negatives are given. She said that the weekend was supportive and that that support extends year-round. She also said that before the service dog, it would take Joe 8 hours to gear up to go to the grocery store. Now he goes out quite regularly. She also said that because the dog, whose name is Vixen, is with Joe, she can leave the house without worrying about Joe while she is away.

Joe, who has had three suicide attempts, said things are looking up for him. "Vixen has saved my life," he said.

The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

PAWS FOR VETERANS REPORT

Committee Chair, Comrade Pat Varga reported that she is working with the media and medical community to educate the Legion and the public and called on all Legion members to support this program as well. \$15,000 has been donated so far to the program. Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan has named a puppy (a Mastiff) who will be a future service dog. The name "*Ruff Rider*" had been chosen from among the 20,000 "hits" that came in as a result of the call from Government House. Training costs will be paid for by fundraising efforts of the Lloydminster Branch. The dog presented at the WWW event. Comrade Varga went on to say, we are needed, we are relevant and our veterans need us. We will guard the donations and they will be used in the best possible way.

The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

FENETY MARKETING SERVICES PRESENTATION

Mark Fenety of Fenety Marketing Services presented his report which is attached. Fenety Marketing has been working with the Legion for 10 years to produce The Military Service Recognition Book. From 2006 to 2015, net earnings were over one million dollars. Saskatchewan Command has the highest net earnings of any Command in the country. Mark urged members to continue to submit submission forms for the Military Service Recognition Books. He then drew names for 10-\$100 gift cards from Wal-Mart that were presented to the lucky winners on the

convention floor. Winners were: Bob Walker, Ray Jahnke, John Henderson, Jack Hockley, Ted Nagel, Grace Carleton, Arleen Engedahl, Reg Stewart, Leona Piper and Alex Forsyth.

PROGRAMMED INSURANCE BROKERS (PIB) PRESENTATION

Kelly Smith of Programmed Insurance Brokers came forward to address the convention. It was 14 years ago that PIB started the Legion insurance program. He reminds all Legion Branches about the following points:

1. Do regular maintenance and updates on your building, especially to the roof.
2. Check sump pumps three times a year.
3. Create snow barriers so snow doesn't slide off onto the street and people.
4. Clean your floors and sidewalks: The number of claims for slips and falls are abundant.
5. Check pipes for leaks.
6. Fill out an incident report every time an incident occurs at the branch.
7. Wrongful dismissals are covered under Directors and Officers insurance. Seventeen claims relating to wrongful dismissal have been made this year. If you are considering dismissing an employee, refer to the employment standards of the province SO YOU CAN DO IT PROPERLY.
8. Acquire Directors and Officers insurance, because if your branch doesn't have insurance, ALL EXECUTIVES of the branch can be sued.
9. Check out our new travel insurance program.

In response to a member's question, Kelly reminded members that whether a branch has a registered number or not, all legions are not-for-profit. Brochures were made available to the delegates.

The lucky winner of a beautiful art print donated by PIB was Jim McFarlane, from Battleford Br. No. 009, the same member who won it at the last Convention! Congratulations Jim! That's amazing!

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATION

Comrade Ken Box introduced Comrade Shauna Grassing from Nipawin branch no. 120. Comrade Grassing thanked Al Hodgson for encouraging her to apply to attend the pilgrimage and thanked Saskatchewan Command for offering her the opportunity. She then shared her experiences of the youth pilgrimage tour verbally and with a slide show. An interesting comment she made was that she had been surprised by the large number of unmarked graves. Comrade Shauna will now be available to youth and community groups over the next two years to relay on her experiences while on the pilgrimage.

PROVINCIAL SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Comrade Lorne Varga presented his Sports Committee Report. Branch registration fees have been raised. The Wild card system has been eliminated. Host branches are not to double-book other events during a provincial Legion event. Branch registration forms must be completed and forwarded to all levels of play. Eight-ball has been suspended at Dominion and Provincial levels for the next two years and curling have been suspended at the Dominion level, but will still be offered at provincial level for 2016.

As there are non concurred resolutions coming back to the floor, this report will be moved, seconded and carried once they are dealt with.

PROVINCIAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Comrade Ken Box presented his Membership Committee Report. Comment from the floor: Names of deceased members are showing up on status lists long after they've been reported to Dominion Command. Answer from Comrade Mark Barham, Treasurer, Dominion Command: Changes regarding the way memberships are processed are in the works for 2016 and he offered to take the names of the deceased and investigate as to why this is happening. It was also noted on the floor that Branch information on the Dominion Command website is out of date. Comrade Mark will investigate and try to report back during this convention.

The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BANQUET AND ENTERTAINMENT HOSTED BY PA BRANCH NO. 002 – 6:30 PM
LAC Chair, Comrade Al Hodgson encouraged all to get their raffle tickets ASAP as the draws would be made at the banquet.

Chairman, Comrade Marjoram announced the location of District caucuses, which will be held immediately following adjournment of this meeting for the day.

ADJOURNMENT – 3:20 pm (reconvene Monday, 8:30 AM)

Monday, October 19th

8:29 A.M. -- BUSINESS SESSIONS RE-OPEN

CALL TO ORDER

Provincial Chairman, Comrade Ray Marjoram, reconvened the business of the Convention at 8:29 a.m. at the Travelodge Hotel. He called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Honorary Chaplain, Bishop Charles Arthurson followed with the morning invocation.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE (LAC) FINAL REPORT

Committee Chair, Comrade Al Hodgson gave the final report of the Local Arrangements Committee. He thanked all for their attendance and for their support, and especially thanked Provincial Command Comrades Donna Gosselin and Cherilyn Cooke for their support and always

being available to help and answer questions for the committee. He indicated that for any Branch contemplating hosting a Provincial Convention, that they did very well financially.

Comrade Marjoram reminded the delegates that non concurred resolutions accepted by District caucuses must be in his hands no later than 9:00 am. this morning.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Comrade Pat Varga approached the podium and reopened the nominations for Two Vice Presidents and Provincial Chairman.

Vice President (2)

Comrade Evert Whelen automatically drops down from the 1st Vice President's list to Vice President. Comrade Al Hemingway was nominated and added to the list. After the third and final call, nominations were then closed. All were offered the opportunity to speak to the delegates. Comrade Whelen declined his nomination and thanked the delegates, council and staff for their years of support. The other candidates accepted their nominations, thanked their nominators and addressed the delegates.

Al Hemingway
Sharren Dukart
Wayne Shepherd
Keith Andrews
Allan Hodgson

The Sgt. At Arms was instructed to tile the doors. The vote was taken and the successful candidates were Keith Andrews and Allan Hodgson. Total ballots cast were 110 with 2 spoiled.

Provincial Chairman

Comrade Jim Woodward was nominated and added to the list.

After the third and final call, the nominations were closed. Comrades Ray Marjoram and Jim Woodward thanked their nominators, accepted the nomination and spoke to the delegates.

Upon return of the scrutineers, Comrade Ray Marjoram was declared elected. Ballots cast 113, spoiled, none.

Elections Chair, Comrade Pat Varga thanked Comrade Frank Simpson and the 8 volunteer scrutineers before making the motion to have the ballots destroyed which was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

Comrade Wells presented Comrades Pat Varga and Frank Simpson with gifts for their hard work at this convention. The scrutineers were then given gifts as well for their participation.

Mark Barham update re: Membership problems at Dominion Command:

Following questioning during the Provincial Membership Report, Mark Barham, Treasurer, Dominion Command, returned to the podium with answers and additional information.

Comrade Barham said that he had contacted Danny Martin, who is now Head of the Membership Department at Dominion Command. He said that members can call him with queries at 1-888-556-6222 ext. 249. He also informed members that as of this morning, membership processing is 100% complete.

Comment from the floor: Comrade Pat Varga called for major changes at Dominion Command pertaining to the processing of memberships and that if not, the issue would certainly come up at the Dominion Convention 2016.

LAST POST FUND PRESENTATION

John Helms and Larry Wong, from the Last Post Fund, Saskatchewan Branch, a non-profit organization, reported that the Last Post Fund is for veterans and their families. Programs include a funeral and burial program and an unmarked grave program. They ended their presentation by answering questions. Brochures were available for the delegates.

PROVINCIAL YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Comrade Ken Box brought forth the Provincial Youth Committee Report.

Comrade Box reported that after this year's camp, Carol Pedersen retired after over 20 years as chaperone and then camp director. He encouraged everyone to drop in on the camp. It is well worth it, especially during the opening and closing ceremonies, or to view the activities at Griffith's stadium.

The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

PROVINCIAL POPPY COMMITTEE REPORT

Comrade Evert Whelen presented his Provincial Poppy Committee Report including the resolutions contained therein. Comrade Patti Paul added that Branches take into consideration that we need to let cadets know far in advance of a potential change of date to the poppy campaign so that they are available when needed.

Resolution 6 (p. 103) – concurred - moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

Resolution 7 (p. 103)

Amendment: moved, seconded and **CARRIED** to remove the portion, “especially new PTSD Programs.”

Resolution No. 7: moved, seconded (as amended), and **CARRIED**.

Resolution 8 (p. 103) – concurred - moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

The Provincial Poppy Committee report was then moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Comrade Lorne Varga presented the Public Relations Committee Report and thanked Comrade Donna Gosselin and Comrade Cherilyn Cooke for taking on the responsibility of participating in conference calls.

The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Comrade Dick Wells presented the Provincial Leadership Committee Report.

The report was then moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

COFFEE BREAK – 9:59 AM

RECONVENED – 10:19 AM

PHILIPS LIFELINE DRAW

Terry Berglund from Philips Lifeline conducted a draw and Comrade Vel Burns from Swift Current won the prize.

DISTRICT NO. 1 COMMANDER'S REPORT

Comrade Roberta Taylor presented the District No. 1 Commander's Report. Comrade Taylor reported that Comrade Sharren Dukart had stepped down in June which is when Comrade Taylor had taken over. Comrade Taylor added to her written report that she had attended District Golf in Stoughton in July and a sports committee meeting in Regina in July as well.

The report was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

DISTRICT NO. 2 COMMANDER'S REPORT

Comrade Keith Andrews presented his District No. 2 Commander's Report.

The report was then moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

DISTRICT NO. 3 COMMANDER'S REPORT

Comrade Al Hemingway presented his District No. 3 Commander's Report.

The report was then moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

DISTRICT NO. 4 COMMANDER'S REPORT

Comrade Allan Hodgson presented his District No. 4 Commander's Report and thanked Comrade Marjoram for attending the District Rally. He commented that zones rallies verses District Rallies have good attendance because branches don't have to travel very far. Comrade Hodgson mentioned that Bruce Irwin had stepped down as Deputy District Commander and thanked him for his service.

The report was then moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

PROVINCIAL TUBERCULOSIS VETERAN'S SECTION (TVS) REPORT

Comrade Patti Paul gave the Provincial TVS Report.

The report was then moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

PROVINCIAL HONOURS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Comrade Brent Wignes presented his Provincial Honours and Awards Committee Report. He added to his list revising the totals as follows:

24 Friendship Awards 37 Life Memberships 3 MSMs 1 Media Award

Comrade Wignes reported that the number of Life Memberships and MSMs are considerably lower than in the past couple of years. He also stated that the new on-line Honours, Awards and Protocol manual states that the Life Membership **MUST** be awarded before the M.S.M. can be considered. Many branches are finding that this is a huge financial burden as there is a requirement to pay a certain years of per capita tax for the Life membership which must be submitted to Ottawa. The MSM is considerably less expensive. This should be relayed on to Dominion Command. There should not be the requirement to award the Life Membership before the MSM.

The report was then moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

HONORARY OFFICERS

Comrade M.C. (Dick) Wells presented the Honorary Officers for the next two year term:

Honorary Patron	Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan
Honorary President	Comrade Pat Varga, Unity SK
Honorary Vice President	Comrade Peter Piper, Stoughton SK
Honorary Solicitor	Mr. Keith W. Prior, Regina SK
Honorary Chaplains	Rev. Ron H. Sutton, Regina SK Bishop Charles Arthurson, Prince Albert SK

WOUNDED WARRIORS WEEKEND

Comrade Pat Varga sits on the WWW Board and presented a verbal report to the convention.

The Wounded Warriors Weekend Foundation offers healing weekends for military veterans, law enforcement officers and first responders who have suffered physically and psychologically because of their service. Over 700 people have attended a weekend thus far. Unfortunately, the weekend in Chilliwack scheduled for July 2015 was cancelled because of fundraising and other challenges, making it impossible to provide a stress-free environment. But work is ongoing to be able to continue to offer these weekends.

The next weekend is July 28 – Aug. 1, 2016, in Nipawin. All monies raised in Saskatchewan in 2015 will be used to fund this event. Schedule:

July 28 - Arrival of the Wounded Warriors, cavalcade to Nipawin

July 29-31 – Activities such as fishing, golfing, tours, picnic, fish fry, Lt. Governor’s celebration etc. etc.

Aug. 1- Departure from Saskatoon

As a fundraiser, specially marked bottled water is being sold: 24/\$20.00. To get yours, contact Comrades Pat Varga or Gordon Joyes. The water can also be ordered directly from Arctic Chiller in Edmonton. Volunteer and fundraising opportunities are available—look for further information via Provincial Command as plans are finalized for the event in Nipawin 2016.

Comment from the floor: Verda Hoppe added that a torch run will be held Wounded Warriors Weekend from Regina to Nipawin. Should you wish to carry the torch, contact Brenda Fredrickson or Gordon Joyes.

Question from the floor: How much does a dog cost? Response from Comrade Varga:

1. Cost of three dogs donated last year to WW Weekend was nil;
2. Negotiations will be for \$5000 training and follow-up;
3. Travel and training for handler at trainer’s location – about \$1000.

Comrade Verda Hoppe asked delegates to donate their lanyards for the WW Weekend. Thanks to all that handed them in.

More information will be forthcoming to Branches in the new year.

Note to minutes: Reminder: Any Legion member can hold a dual membership with our TVS No. 78 Branch. Cost is \$10.00. Contact the Command Office or Branch Secretary for more details.

NON-CONCURRED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 11 (P. 123) – It was requested that this non-concurred resolution be brought back to the floor as passed through District caucus for further consideration:
Motion was moved, seconded and **CARRIED** to bring back to the convention floor.
Following a standing vote, the Resolution was moved, seconded and **CARRIED**

Comrade Lorne Varga then came forward to complete the sports committee report which was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

NEW BUSINESS:

New Business Item No. 1:

Comrade Pat Varga brought forth a resolution to go forward to Dominion Convention.

WHEREAS the intent of the Dominion Command Committees conference calls is for inclusion and participation by all provinces, and

WHEREAS these conference calls are held during the daytime hours, originating in Ottawa, and

WHEREAS many of the Provincial Command Officers and Chairmen of Committees are employed which makes it very difficult for them to participate which eliminates the participation of that province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command committee conference calls be held outside of daytime business hours and preferably on a weekend to ensure all Provincial representatives have the opportunity to participate and all provinces are represented.

Coleville No. 365 Moved by Comrade Lorne Varga, seconded by Comrade Ed Rogerson.

The resolution was moved, seconded and **CARRIED**

New Business Item No. 2:

Comrade Marjoram asked if anyone was willing to tackle the next convention in 2017. Comrade Sharren Dukart said she would check with Estevan branch No. 060 and Comrade Patti Paul said that the tri Branches in Saskatoon are interested in hosting as well. Both were asked to get their letters of request into the Sask. Command Office ASAP.

RECESS: 11:27 am

A short recess was called to prepare for the Installation of Officers and the closing of Convention

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Honorary Officers in Attendance:

Provincial Honorary Chaplain	Bishop Charles Arthurson
Provincial Honorary Vice President	Peter Piper
Provincial Honorary President	Pat Varga

New Officers:

Provincial Chairman	Ray Marjoram
Provincial Vice Presidents	Allan Hodgson
	Keith Andrews
Provincial 1 st Vice President	Lorne Varga
Provincial Immediate Past President	M.C. (Dick) Wells
Provincial President	Ken Box

Comrade Mark Barham declared the offices of Saskatchewan Command duly filled and officially installed and the new Provincial Council took their proper places at the head table.

Newly installed Provincial President, Comrade Ken Box addressed the delegates. He introduced his family that was in attendance. He promised to carry out his duties to the best of his ability and hoped that the membership would not be disappointed. He stressed that membership is still our main concern and that support to Veterans is still number one. He reminded Branches to keep the submissions coming for the next Military Recognition Book. There is no better fundraising effort to keep the command in the black. As this is election day, get out and vote. This is the freedom that our veterans fought and died for. Exercise your right!

POST COUNCIL MEETING

Comrade Marjoram reminded the incoming Provincial Council that a post Convention council meeting would be held immediately following the closing of this convention.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion for adjournment was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED**.

Provincial Chairman, Comrade Ray Marjoram, closed the convention as per Legion Ritual with the Marching Off of the Colours and "*God Save the Queen.*" All were thanked for their participation and wished a safe journey home.

There being no further business, the Convention adjourned at 12:14 pm.

Stephanie Anhorn
Recording Secretary

DOMINION REPRESENTATIVE ADDRESS

Mark Barham, Treasurer

Thank you for the kind hospitality and the invitation to be here. Comrade Chairman! Comrade President, comrades all! I bring you greetings on behalf of Dominion President Tom Eagles, and on behalf of President Chris Strong from Alberta NWT Command who could not be here today.

Comrades, what you are about to see is a video from Comrade Eagles. It has been shown to every provincial convention. So I will sit and speak after it has been seen here.

First comrades, do you like the video? I will relay your feedback to the Dominion President!

Comrades, at convention in Edmonton in 2014, the floor mandated that Dominion Command cut expenses. I can report here that this has been accomplished. In 2014, the expected deficit was anticipated to be 1.2 million dollars. I can report, with expenses cut in the last six months of the 2014 year, the deficit was cut to 246 k. Almost 1 million dollars were cut in expenses.

We anticipate in 2016 to have a balanced budget. But we have a problem. The years beyond 2016 will be absolute challenges. The problem is declining membership as that directly affects the ability to deliver programs while maintaining a balanced budget. As a matter of record, at the Dominion Executive Council, we passed a motion to only have balanced budgets going forward.

Membership at a branch level represents somewhere in the neighbourhood of less than 5 percent of branch revenue. But at the Dominion Level, the revenue from memberships represents in excess of 55 percent of total revenue. That is the money to run the national programs. And that is why there is a disconnect between branch and dominion with regard to the importance of membership.

So in 2016, at the Dominion Convention, I will lay out the complete business plan with the survivability of the Royal Canadian Legion beyond 2016. I will explain, and present a six year business plan so all members can see the revenue needs associated with the programs currently in place and options associated with programs and revenue requirements.

Comrades, we have been working hard on your behalf. We have changed our meeting dates of DEC to ensure we plan, rather than react. We have forced Zero Based budgeting on all committees. We have had success.

I ask you all to be patient and open minded to the changes which must be made and I anticipate the support of the membership in embracing the challenges going forward, which coincidentally is the theme of your own convention.

Finally, Comrade Wells, I congratulate you on your transition to a new position. And I will say, your quiet presence will be missed at Dominion Command.

Thank you.

FENETY MARKETING SERVICES PRESENTATION
Mark Fenety, President, Fenety Marketing Services

Dear Executive, Guests and Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Saskatchewan Command.

I would first like to compliment all of you for your selfless dedication to Canada's Veterans and current Military Service Personnel, in addition to your support for Communities across Saskatchewan.

Now before I continue with my presentation, I would like to ask anyone that has not filled out a ballot for our draw for 10 x \$100.00 Walmart Gift Certificates yet to please raise their hand and our very own Vanna White, who in this case is my associate, John Casey, will bring you a ballot to fill out as we will be holding our draws at the end of my presentation.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring greetings to you today and for the confidence and trust that you have placed in Fenety Marketing Services over the past 10 years. Our firm solicits support for, and publishes an annual Military Service Recognition Book on your organization's behalf, to honor and recognize your Province's Veterans.

This project has been very well received in Saskatchewan. To date, the total net earnings amount that has been realized by your organization over the past 10 years, from 2006 to 2015 to date, has been \$1,566,322, and that only includes a portion of our 2015 final projected earnings. Your organization's yearly net returns started off with over \$102,000 from our first year's project in the Year 2006, and have grown to annual net earnings of almost \$200,000 for your organization from last year's completed project.

The businesses and private citizens from Saskatchewan have responded, and continue to respond, very positively to the important mandate of the Royal Canadian Legion. The appreciation and respect for our Country's Veterans seems to be at an all-time high and has been accentuated by ongoing conflicts in today's challenging world.

We urge you to continue submitting Veterans stories and pictures to include in future editions of our annual publication, however we also have other fill options that I will review with Cheryllyn for your organization in the event we do not receive enough new submissions to fill any of our future editions, as it in our respective organization's mutual best interest to continue this annual project for the foreseeable future.

Our telephone representatives welcome the opportunity to work on your organization's behalf. Projects on behalf of the 9 Provincial Command Legions we currently work with, are among their favorite annual appeals, based on their own positive feelings towards Veterans, your organization's mandate and the public's response.

I would be remiss if I did not mention once again that the annual appeal we conduct on your organization's behalf was the original idea of one of your very own Legion Comrades in the Province of NL, Mr. Bill Titford, who at that time was the chairman of the Ways and Means committee for the NL Command. Perhaps any of you that are able to attend next year's Dominion Convention in NL next year, may get the opportunity to meet him! Bill's original idea, combined with our reputation for providing high quality tele-fundraising experiences, has led to Fenety

Marketing proudly representing 9 Provincial Commands, resulting in millions of dollars being received by Provincial Commands across Canada to support Veterans and communities.

Fenety Marketing considers it an honor and privilege to work on behalf of the SK Command Legion and remains committed to providing your organization with the highest level of professional representation and net monetary returns available in our industry.

Now before I hold draws for 10 x \$100.00 Walmart Gift Certificate, does anyone have any questions regarding our annual activities on your organization's behalf?

I would like to ask anyone that won a prize to present themselves at our booth by the end of today's business session to pick up your Walmart Gift Card, as I unfortunately have to return to Moncton early tomorrow morning to attend another convention out east. However I will be at the booth until the end of the day, so if you have any questions regarding our program please stop by.

I would like to close by wishing you all the best in your continued work on behalf of our country's veterans and thank you once again for the opportunity to work with your organization.

DISPOSITION OF RESOLUTIONS – 48th BIENNIAL PROVINCIAL CONVENTION

	Page in Convention Book	
1. Resolution of Loyalty	Page 30	CARRIED
2. Kindersley No. 57	Page 31	CARRIED
3. Melfort No. 30	Page 32	CARRIED
4. Melfort No. 30	Page 32	CARRIED
5. Provincial VSS/Srs Committee	Page 74	CARRIED
6. Wakaw No. 195	Page 103	CARRIED
7. Kindersley No. 57	Page 103	CARRIED (as amended)
8. Melfort No. 30	Page 104	CARRIED
<u>Non concurred Resolution No. 11</u>		
Estevan Branch No. 60	Page 123	BROUGHT BACK TO THE FLOOR AND CARRIED