

Senate Report – Ron Daykin

Elgin RTO/ERO was well represented once again at Provincial Senate held at the Downtown Marriott Eaton Center. Our delegates were Rosemary Moreau attending as President and Ron Daykin attending as 1st Vice President. One observer attended this year, Fran Wren, who also acted as one of the scrutineers for our elections. Dave Giles attended as chair of the Pension Concerns Committee and Ric Murray attended as member of the Constitution Committee and also acted as one of the Speakers. Dale Murray attended as a guest of Ric and joined us for the social events.

As always Senate begin on a social note with a Wine and Cheese put on by RTO and supported by Johnston Inc.

Business began at 8:45 on Tuesday with O Canada and the notices of motion. Elgin District had submitted two motions which were referred to Executive for costing.

That Bylaw 4 – The Senate, be amended by the addition of a new section to read: Any Full or Associate member may attend Senate as an observer.

That Bylaw 4 – The Senate, be amended by the addition of a new section to read: A Past President or former Executive Director of RTO/ERO who is a Full member, may attend Senate as an observer.

A third notice of motion was defeated:

That Article 6 – The Senate, 6.02(a) be amended by substitution to read: (a) one representative from each District called Senator.

There was some controversy over the funding of the Geriatrics Foundation and it was debated at some length during the first morning. Our lawyers had advised us that no member fees would be diverted to support the Foundation but some of the districts were using their funds to send in donations. It was argued that even though it was not Provincial diverting funds to the Foundation, the District in using their rebate would be still using member fees. It was not clear what advice our Lawyers gave us in regard to this so in the end executive took the question back for study. This is an issue that will be dealt with at Spring Senate.

Notice of Motion: That no membership fees be given to the foundation from Provincial or District.

The budget was debated extensively, especially in regard to the motions passed at the Spring Senate concerning the changes in District Rebates. The percentage rebate to the districts will be reduced as of January 2012. The reasoning behind the reduction in the District rebates was that districts aren't using all their rebate and have accumulated, in some cases, large reserve funds. It is the contention of RTO/ERO that the monies rebated to the districts should be used and not accumulated into reserve funds. The debate also focused around the membership and density

of districts. Currently once membership reaches 600 or 1200 the rebate to the district is reduced. Oxford brought forward a motion to allow forgiveness for the districts that would have their fees reduced this year only. On advice from the chair it was referred until after the budget was passed. When it was brought forward it was ruled out of order because the budget was passed. It was mentioned by Jim Sparrow and supported by Leo Normandeau that in order to pass Oxford's motion it would set a president and many districts would have grounds to have funds returned to them retroactively.

Your new Provincial Executive is;

By Acclamation; Jim Sparrow – President; Leo Normandeau - 1st Vice President

By Election; Norbert Boudreau - 2nd Vice President

Provincial Executive by Election; June Szeman; Margaret Clark

Our Executive Director remains: Harold Brathwaite

The banquet held on Wednesday night took moments to honour Past Presidents and Member guests and of course retiring executive members. Dignitaries were piped in, always a great part of the event, and we were entertained by Sonja Gustafson, Soprano Vocalist who put on a wonderful show.

On the last morning of Senate, Senate Chairs gave their reports after the budget was completed. As the business portion ran over these were given in brief. Reports are available on the provincial websight.

Senate ended on time and lunch was served before senators left for home.