
Minutes of the C&E Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) 29 October 2020

Call to order

The Communications and Electronics (C&E) Association held its AGM virtually from the C&E Museum at CFB Kingston, Ontario on Thursday 29 October 2020. The Secretary received seven proxies in advance of the meeting and over 34+ personnel were online to follow the proceedings. The minimum quorum of 25 personnel was thereby met constituting a valid quorum for the meeting.

The following member of the Board Of Directors (BODs) were present:

John Leech, President;
Brian McDonnell, Treasurer;
Michel Boislard, Secretary;
Shawn Sullivan;
Gord Metcalfe;
Jeff Holt;
Tony Charters;
Charlie Cox; and
Bob Martineau

The meeting was called to order at 15:30 hours.

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Last AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 14 November 2018 having been distributed in advance of this meeting, there was no corrections or additions to be made to these minutes. Gord Metcalfe motioned, and Jeff Holt seconded that the minutes of the last AGM be accepted. The motion was accepted by all present.

Opening Remarks

The President of the Association presented a quick recap of the activities that the Association has been involved with during this past year.

Heritage:

The Association has sponsored a bronze plaque to commemorate CFS Clinton located near Clinton, Ontario, located in the municipality of Huron East. It initially opened in July 1941 as RAF Station Clinton under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan as a training unit for radar operators. UK, Canadian, US and other servicemen were trained at Clinton, with practical flights being carried out at nearby RCAF Station Centralia. Clinton remained the primary radar training site for Canadian Forces personnel through the Cold War era, with continued expansions throughout the 1950s and 60s. As part of a centralization effort, CFB Clinton was closed in 1971, with the site abandoned by 1972. Numerous members of the C&E Br received occupation training at this Station. Tony Charters and crew will present the plaque to the municipality of Huron East. Payment of the plaque is being done with funding from the Association and the Vimy Officers Mess (VOM).

Awards:

Two Heritage Individual Awards were awarded to CPO1 (Retired) Wayne Moore and CWO (Retired) Butch Whitlaw for their many years of work in organizing and running the Canadian Forces Supplementary Radio System (CFSRS) Oldtimers Association for former members who served with this organization or the previous and currently serving members of the Canadian Forces Information Operations Group (CFIOG) and members of their family.

A Lifetime Heritage Award was awarded to LCol (Retired) Merv Embury for maintaining a network of 900+ personnel of the Br to assist in the distribution of information across the Branch.

BGen (Retired) Kevin O'Keefe, Col-Comd of the Br and the President of the Association will be presenting these awards in the future to these recipients.

Advocacy:

The Association is a member of the Canadian Defence Association (CDA), the Canadian Forces Veterans Association and support network.

Administration of the C&E Branch Family:

A Business Plan (BP) model was recently adopted by the newly constituted Senate of the C&E Branch to coordinate and oversee the overall activities taking place across the Branch. This model will involve a BP cycle to review, deconflict activities so that there is a better alignment of resources and priorities.

A number of personnel of the Association were busy with the review of the Museum Foundation Fund to examine the current mechanisms it has at its disposal and to make recommendations on way ahead to improve how it could operate to support the overall demands of the C&E extended community.

The Association was also involved with assisting members with emergency medical and financial difficulties.

Operation Jimmy Santa

Again this year, the Association purchased small gifts for members of the Br that are currently deployed on operations around the world. Personnel of the Signalers Club assisted in preparing the packages for distribution.

Contribution to the Canadian Military Communications and Electronic Network (CMCEN) Website

The Association and the C&E Branch contribute financially to the maintain and keep current the subject network for the benefits all personnel of the extended C&E family.

Virtual Professional Development

Due to the current health restrictions, the Association and personnel from Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association (AFCEA) successfully organized a number of virtual PD sessions including:

- The Canadian Cyber Security Centre (CCSC);
- 5G technology; and
- Operations where personnel from the C&E Br are currently deployed.

Over 300+ personnel from all over the world were login to watch these presentations.

Treasurer's Report

Brian McDonnell took over the duties of Treasurer at the end of the last calendar year. As 31 March 2020, the Association has net assets of \$31,718. Statement of operations for the period 1 April 2019 – 2020, we have expenditures of \$5,838 which include plaques for awards, management system for our membership, website maintenance, plaque for the RCAF Clinton and refurbishment of the Princess Royal cairn at the museum. An audit was conducted of the past two years by Col (Retired) I.M. MacLeod and “In the opinion of the undersigned these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the CFC&EA as of 31 March 2020.”

A question was raised regarding seeking the assistance from Veterans Affairs Canada for the repairs of memorials. Tony Charters indicated that there is a Canadian Monuments program however, many of the 90 C&E Br memorials across the world including all the ones on the Base documented by Tony Fequette would not qualify for such funding as they are not designated as national monuments.

It was motioned by Rick Wright and seconded by Capt Brian Farkes that the Treasurer's report be adopted. All in favor. Motion carried

List of Board of Directors

Here is the list of personnel that have agreed to assume the following position with the Association:

- President: John Leech;
- Vice President: Ron Holdway;
- Secretary: Michel Boislard;
- Treasurer: Brain McDonnell;
- Director, Business Planning: Charlie Cox;
- Director, Jeff Holt;
- Director, Hugh Janssen, Line Of Operations (LOO) 3 - Heritage;
- Director, Sean Sullivan;
- Director, Dave Whittier, new West coast representative.

No other nominations were received. Rick Wright motioned, and Bruce Jackson seconded that the above-mentioned personnel be appointed in the position listed above. All in favor. Motion carried.

The President mentioned that BGen (Retired) Paul Rutherford had to step down as Director LOO 2 – Membership Service Lead due to work commitment. The Association is looking for additional personnel and advisors to assist with a number of initiatives. Maj Tim Wallace from Calgary has agreed to look at possibly reviving chapters in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Other Business

No request for other business were put forward by the members present.

General Announcements

Jeff Holt indicated that he and Charlie Cox have prepared a paper about membership dues with a goal to charge a small yearly membership to assist financially. The President indicated that this is part of an overall fundraising study that is being undertaken by the C&E Br at large to see what can be done to raise funds to support activities across the community. The strategy has not been approved yet, but the fees would be fairly low and assist as a form of reliable income. Still need to establish the category of memberships, the levels etc. The Br Senate will need to buy in to this plan before it is implemented.

There is also ongoing discussions with the Museum Foundation on how the Association could receive money to support some of the activities that it undertake.

The President thanked everyone for participating virtually at this year AGM. A big “Thank You” to the CFSCE staff especially Sgt Burchell for coordinating access and all of the technical details, the Museum staff, Br Office personnel and our Secretary.

Adjournment

There being no other new business or questions, the President asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marv Sywyk motioned, and this was seconded by Rick Wright that the AGM be adjourned. All in favour. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:07 hours.

These minutes have been prepared by
Michel Boislard, Secretary,

Reviewed and approved by
John Leech, President

Date of approval