



Northland Newsletter

November 2019

Council Report – 2019

The Council meeting was again held at the West Plaza Hotel in Wellington, a very suitable venue. The President, Tony Hamilton, made some changes to the organisation of the council meeting which resulted in savings, both finance and time.

There were two main areas of contention at the meeting this year. The first was the motion presented by the Board to increase subscriptions. Despite the vast range of information provided by the Waikato King Country Branch regarding the future viability of the Association and the information provided by the Board, the motion was lost. This will have significant financial impact on the Association and will need to be addressed again in 2020.

The other areas of contention concerned changes to the rules. First, a motion to change the rule regarding meeting quorum was presented and succeeded. The constitution originally allowed a situation where a meeting was called but lacked a quorum, to call another meeting for which a quorum was not required. This potentially enabled significant decisions regarding the affairs of a Branch to be decided by a small number of people.

The other rule change concerned the allocation of liaison roles of Board members with Branches. Under the rule, the President and Vice President did not have a liaison role with Branches. The Council approved this rule change so that all members of the Board, including the President and Vice President, will be allocated liaison roles.

An interesting and serious issue that is emerging concerns the use of cheques. The Kiwibank has announced that it will not process cheques from 28 February 2020. This means that members will not be able to pay

for Association lunches with cheques if they are Kiwibank customers. And more importantly of course they will not be able to use cheques for other business. Other Banks will no doubt be following this change. A suitable alternative has not been found for those who do not have a computer and are not able to complete financial transactions using internet banking.

Life Member Awards were presented to Mark Leys (Auckland Branch Committee 19 years service) and Gavin Stuart (Christchurch Branch Committee 14years service). Bill Robertson (Wellington) although already a Life Member was acknowledged for his 22 years on the Board as he did not put himself up for re-election.

Tony Hamilton was re-elected unopposed to the Presidency. Alan Straker (Malborough) elected Vice President (40-25). Members elected to the Board: Dallas Elvy (Wellington), Rob Brangwin (Hawkes Bay), Alan Peck (Wellington), Mike Smith (Wellington), and Marjorie Thomas (Hawkes Bay).

Delegates: Rex Morris & Sandra Strachan



Contact your Association at any
time by dialling
0800 888 472

**Your Current Committee
Chairperson**

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GSA Branch delegates meeting at the West Plaza Hotel in Wellington for Council 2019

Maurice, aged 87, was very contented living in the Nursing Home. After meeting Edna, 76, he grew even happier and fell deeply in love. Only yesterday Maurice plucked up the courage, got down on his knees and told her there were two things he would like to ask her. Edna smiled and replied, 'Alright.' Maurice asked softly, 'Will you marry me?' Delighted, Edna answered him, 'Yes.' She then asked Maurice what his second question was. He replied, 'Edna, will you please help me to get up?'

Kiwi Bank – no cheques after February 2020.

This will affect members who pay for attending our function by cheque. We want you to still attend. Either; Please pay in future online. Or (suggestion from a member at a Council report back meeting) bring cash for the May lunch (\$15.00) to the November meeting - we will keep a record. If for some reason you cannot attend in May we will refund your money online. If you choose to bring your cash also have your account number with you.

GSA Centenary 2020

The year 2020 is the Centenary of the Government Superannuitants association. The Government Superannuation Fund grew out of a number of funds from the various government sectors as summarized in this list:

1 Dec 1899	The Police Provident Fund (PPF) was established.
1 Jan 1903	The Government Railways Superannuation Fund (GRSF) established.
1 Jan 1906	The Teachers Superannuation Fund (TSF) established.
1 Jan 1908	The Public Service Superannuation Fund (PSSF) established.
April 1910	The PPF was absorbed into PSSF.
1911	The National Provident Fund (NPF) established.
1914	The NPF became the main scheme for local government employees.
1920	The forerunner to the Government Superannuation Association (GSA), the Superannuated Public Servants Association (SPSA) founded in response to rampant post-war inflation.
1934	The Railway Superannuitants' Association (RSA) founded

Change of address

Please let the National Office know if there are any changes to your personal details. You can update these yourself at www.gsa.org.nz. From the homepage select "Update Details" and enter your annuity number and last name, then select the 'update details' box. Note that while your changes will be recorded, they will not be updated immediately as they will be checked for consistency before being implemented.

It is very important to advise Datacom immediately of any changes to your address and/or bank account details. Where mail is returned "gone no address", or bank accounts are closed, Datacom will make reasonable efforts to try to locate you. If you cannot be located, your annuity may be suspended until contact is re-established.

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive, double pane, energy efficient kind.

But, this week, I got a call from the contractor complaining that his work had been completed a whole year and I had yet to pay.

Boy, oh boy, did we go around! Just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid. So, I proceeded to tell him just what his fast-talking sales guy had told me last year. He said that in one year the windows would pay for themselves. There was silence on the other end of the line, so I just hung up, and he hasn't called back. Guess he was embarrassed!

Joining a Spouse as a Member

A reminder that it does not cost any extra to enrol your spouse or partner as a member. A couple sharing an annuity pays one subscription. When a spouse member survives a deceased member they will receive continued branch communications

and a request to become a subscribing member of GSA.

Active Web Site

GSA has an active web site, www.gsa.org.nz which you can access at any time to keep up to date with GSA activities.

An elderly, but hardy cattleman from Texas once told a young female neighbor that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder on her oatmeal each morning. She did this religiously and lived to the age of 103. She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and a 10 metre hole where the crematorium used to be.

Please Help

If you have an email address please consider using this as your option for receiving newsletters. (If you already do this thank you very much.) The cost of printing and postage, which both continue to rise, will be eliminated. We, and the environment, all gain. Send an email to the Secretary to advise the email address you wish to use. If you ever change your email address please also let us know.

Council Report Back Meetings

We had two very good report back meetings – one in Whangarei and one in Mangonui. The turnout for both was very good. These meetings are organised to provide reports back to the members of the proceedings of the Council meeting. These report back meetings are held every year so that members can have face to face discussions with their committee. It is a chance for members to ask any questions relating to GSA, annuities and the GSFA.



Christmas Luncheon

will be held on

Thursday 21 November 2019

at the Kamo Club (Meldrum Street)

- 11.15 Gather and socialise
 - 11.45 Chairman's Chat / Board liaison bit
 - 12.00 Entertainment by Ngunguru Choir
 - 12.30 Luncheon
- Juice provided
Other drinks at own expense

Please complete and return the form below if you intend to be present for this event.

Note: \$15 per person - Superannuitant non-members welcome too

Please let us know your special dietary requirements so we can let the caterers know.

Please return to
Tony Hamilton
PO Box 3286, Onerahi
Whangarei 0142

no later than Thursday 14 November (allow for slow post!)



Northland Branch G.S.A
End-Year Luncheon

Enclosed is \$..... for Luncheon Booking/s
(\$15 per person – our Branch will provide a subsidy)

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

(Please include email and phone so we can confirm our records are correct.)

Cheques should be made payable to
'Government Superannuitants Assoc - Northland'

Or pay to online bank account:

GSA Northland, 11-5000-0724650-11

If paying online please email names and phone no to: tah3524@gmail.com

NAMES FOR LABELS PLEASE

First and last name