

Dominion Council News

The Conference In Saint John

This year's AGM and Conference are certainly at the top of the list of topics to be covered in this edition of *Dominion Council News*. Congratulations to Conference Chair and New Brunswick Branch President Dr. Stephen Bolton UE, the Conference Committee and the New Brunswick Branch for an exceptional Conference in terms of both varied activities and tight organization. Thanks also to Atlantic Region VP Jim McKenzie UE who was also important to its success.

An Overview of the Activities

Early arrivals were treated to an excursion to King's Landing, and the Thursday Reception was most pleasant by the sun-lit harbour. A detachment of Delancey's Brigade only served to remind us that this was a Loyalist Conference set steps away from where the Loyalists landed 225 years ago. The AGM was held on Friday June 11th, and I have been told it was the fastest on record, having adjourned by lunch. AGM need not drag on to the late afternoon. A short Dominion Council meeting took place in the afternoon, and it still allowed time for many members to visit Loyalist House. A pleasant evening was spent at Lily Lake with dinner and entertainment. Friday evening was also the first of a couple of nights for Pacific Region's popular Hospitality Suite! Saturday morning was devoted to five interesting seminars as well as the Genealogists' Meeting. The afternoon was filled with a bus trip to the ceremony at the refurbished Botsford Memorial, the Reversing Falls, and chance to dip one's feet into the Ocean at a beach. . Perhaps the highlight was the Saturday evening banquet featuring Delancey's Brigade in a recruiting mood, speaker Peter Larocque, and an inspiring message from new President Fred Hayward UE. Another bus ride was organized for the UEL Church Service on the Sunday.

Elections

Elections were held towards the close of the AGM. The new President is Fred Hayward UE and the new Senior VP is Carl Stymiest UE. Those returning included Jim Bruce UE as Treasurer, Diane Reid UE as Recording Secretary and just to refresh your memory regarding the Regional VPs, they are from East to West: Jim McKenzie UE, Robert McBride UE, Bonnie Schepers UE, Gerry Adair UE, and Shirley Dargatz UE. I became automatically the Past President. I was also especially pleased with the election of Zig Misiak as our newest Honorary VP. Thanks to Doug Grant UE for his work with Nominations process and the elections. I should also add that the Trustees, Dr. Stephen Bolton UE, Gordon Coyne UE, and John Hammill UE were re-appointed.

Motions at the AGM

Obviously many motions regarding the approval of reports and other business transpired at the AGM, but of particular note here was a motion to amend Article 9A of the By-Laws to remove limitations on the re-appointments of Honorary Officers, so that we are no longer in the unfortunate position of having to retire exceptional ones.

UELAC Dorchester Award

At the Banquet, I had the pleasure of sharing in the presentation of this Award with Carl Stymiest UE whose committee worked so hard to have it ready for this Conference. The first recipient was Margaret Carter UE and Shirley Dargatz UE was honoured to receive it on Margaret's behalf. There were also a couple of Certificate presentations which is always a pleasure.

New Armorial Bearings Banner

A hearty *Thank You* to Robert Wilkins UE and Heritage Branch who presented New Brunswick Branch with a new Armorial Bearings Banner at the AGM. Long after this Conference has passed, the members of New Brunswick Branch will look on this banner with pride and gratitude.

The Great Membership Draw

Thanks to Doug Grant UE who organized and ran the Membership Draw at the Banquet. The winners were: 1. New Brunswick Branch (\$250.), 2. Col. Edward Jessup Branch (\$125.), 3. Regina Branch (\$75.), and 4. Toronto Branch (\$50.) These events are designed to stimulate growth in our Membership, and we are growing. There was also both a Silent and not so silent Auction too.

UELAC Scholarship Update

Currently Catherine Cottreau-Robins and Gregory Wigmore are recipients of one year UELAC Scholarships this year, and Tim Comepeau is into to his second year. Congratulations to all the recipients.

Looking Ahead

Next year's AGM and Conference will be centred on the weekend of June 13th and it is hosted by Bay of Quinte Branch (marking the 225th anniversary of the Loyalists' arrival in that area). Events will take place at both Napanee and Adolphustown, with the Church Service at the old 1792 Hay Bay Chapel. Philip Smart UE shared some of the plans with us at the AGM.

Loyally, Peter W. Johnson UE, Past President UELAC