

NRAC Events and Awards Committee – Report to Board September 2023

The Committee held its first meeting via Zoom on Monday 28 August 2023.

Andy Pollock GTA (Mississauga);

Mark Nicolle – St. John’s

Craig Walkington – Labrador City

Roger Elmes – GVRD (White Rock) - Chair

Cheryl Bush – Eastern Ontario - had a previous commitment with excavators at their camp.

While awaiting all to join the meeting Andy Pollock noted that lots of occupations and experiences are represented and this can be drawn on to help build up NRAC

A brief review of the creation of NRAC was followed by a quick review of documents circulated to outline previous events and awards. (**ATTACHMENT 1**)

Committee Mandate The committee reviewed and concurred with its mandate as set out on the NRAC website. <https://navalreserveassociationofcanada.ca/unttd-board-committees/>

Awards Progress on the annual award for the best Junior Officer in Training (JOT) was outlined. (Subsequent to our August meeting the refurbishment of the JOT Trophy was completed with new plaques and bilingual inscriptions. The trophy was transferred to COMNAVRES on 6 October 2023 in a high quality hardshell suitcase to facilitate safe conveyance from year to year as it moves from NRD to NRD.) It was noted that the Silver Destroyer for the best NRD has been replaced by the Commodore’s Cup and that the Sailor of the year Award and a number of intra unit awards also exist. In discussing the potential for creating other awards or prizes it was confirmed that we want to avoid duplication, overlap and conflict with any awards by naval formation or naval and maritime associations. It would be useful to be aware of existing awards. Craig Walkington suggested we put together a matrix of awards, their criteria and rules and volunteered to create the initial framework. Moose noted that NRAC could build on existing awards by perhaps adding scholarships or something else to enhance them. Craig Walkington circulated a first draft of the matrix. (**attached as separate Excel Spreadsheet**)

Planning Events. The committee reviewed the planning document and found it comprehensive with perhaps a note on ensuring the local situation, services, and related issues be taken into account.

Existing seed money policy was reviewed and endorsed – provides a grant of up to \$300 and seed money of up to \$2500 (essentially a forgivable loan). The other model is a forgivable loan of up to \$10,000 for major national events. (**ATTACHMENT 2**)

The committee discussed the current model of a major national event every 5 years, with regional events on an annual basis, and local events run at local restaurants or in NRD Messes monthly or bi-monthly. It was suggested that regional and national events should have an educational, training and/or policy components.

Discussion confirmed that the interests of NCMs would be very similar to those of commissioned members. The example of a recent event in St. John’s underlined that the interests are shared across ranks. Sailor First class is same as others. Regional events could include updates from naval leadership to ensure relevance of NRAC. The example of a St. John’s company doing AI-based RIB Training. This will

help ensure robustness of NRAC as an up-to-date organization that is useful to serving and retired members.

ATTACHMENT 1

NRAC – Events and Awards Committee – Initial Documents and Meeting – DRAFT Agenda

This information is presented to encourage discussion. None of it is intended to intimidate or to prescribe future actions or policy development. They are simply examples of things that an active naval reserve association can encourage, or if it wishes, undertake.

AWARDS

Awards of Funding to Support New or Existing Legacy Projects

NRAC's predecessor organization, the UNTDA, has contributed to a number of legacy projects and awards which can be viewed at https://navalreserveassociationofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/UNTDA_Legacy_Projects.pdf. NRAC inherits each of these contributions. Plans were also made with the University of King's College Halifax <https://ukings.ca/> to present a significant plaque in 2023 commemorating HMCS Kings <https://www.canada.ca/en/navy/services/history/ships-histories/kings.html> which graduated 3,100 RCNVR officers during WW2. Unfortunately, the university decided in the end that they did not need another memento of that era.

Awards – as Prizes

With the Naval Reserves already having a Sailor of the Year Award, the UNTDA made plans to annually donate a sword to the Best Junior Officer Under Training (JOT). Following extensive discussions with NAVRES it was determined that a better option would be to repurpose the existing UNTD Proficiency Trophy so it could be awarded annually to the best JOT through a process similar to the Sailor of the Year Award. We await wording from NAVRES for the bilingual trophy name. Once that is received, the trophy will be fitted out ready for its first presentation in 2023. The current trophy can be viewed at <https://navalreserveassociationofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/unt-d-nlt-2016-06.pdf> p. 8.

Existing Guidelines for Awards – Legacy Projects

A policy was never developed by the UNTDA on awards but the following criteria were developed and approved by the UNTDA Board and used in making funding awards to the legacy projects referenced above.

- The project produces a long – lasting publicly accessible artifact or Award that supports/memorializes an aspect of the RCN and its sailors and veterans.
- The project produces a long – lasting publicly accessible artifact or Award that supports Canadian Maritime interests
- The project includes a publicly visible acknowledgement of the UNTDA support
- The project comes from a recognized organization, or by credible individuals with a connection to the Navy or the UNTDA

- The project is supported by other organizations or maritime businesses, or would be if we contributed funds
- The project produces a one-time artifact or Award unique to its regional placement.
- There is sufficient funding available in our reserve funds for an artifact, or can be included in our annual operating budget.

EVENTS

Events too numerous to count have ranged from monthly luncheons based in a specific city like Ottawa, Hamilton, Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria to regional 2 day events to national 4 or 5 day events to a cruise from NYC in the QM2, with commitment of ashes and a mess dinner enroute to a week long stay at the all-ranks [Victory Services Club](#) in the heart of London while we visited the [University Royal Naval Units \(URNU\)](#) across the UK. This international event is covered in some detail in the newsletters of [March 2012](#) and [September 2012](#). Other events are covered in the newsletters from 1988 to 2022 at <https://navalreserveassociationofcanada.ca/newsletters/>

Report on 2023 Centennial Conference and Celebration - Victoria

Previously circulated to Board **UNTDA 2023 – Planning a Conference** (attached)

Planning an Activity, Event or Conference

Planning events large and small; local and regional; or national can be very rewarding and help create a strong national association. Thought must be given to the objectives and potential outcomes. Some can be fairly simple to organize while others can be very complex. The principles and practices outlined in the above report can be adjusted to apply to all types and sizes of events.

Event Seed Money – or Forgivable Loan

The purpose of seed money is to provide event organizers with a cushion to allow them to make required deposits and meet any approved costs before any revenue has been generated for an event. Organizers will need to budget to recover the seed money and to generate a 10% surplus to expand NRAC's seed money fund. When the fund has grown to a reasonable and sustainable level the Board may reallocate some of the fund to other purposes.

First Meeting – DRAFT Agenda

1. Self-introductions
2. Review draft committee mandate <https://navalreserveassociationofcanada.ca/untd-board-committees/>
3. Overview level review of existing awards
4. Define purposes of awards - what should they accomplish; what outcomes?
5. Suggestions of other awards.
6. Overview level review of circulated documents
 - a. Planning a Conference
 - i. **UNTDA 2023 – Planning a Conference 2023-06-29** (attached)
 - b. Existing criteria on Awards

- c. Existing policy on Events
 - i. **A Support Program for Local Events (attached for background)**
 - ii. **NRAC – Current UNTD Era policy on Seed Money and Potential Changes (attached)**

An alternative could be to provide that “National” events, sponsored by the board, would be fully underwritten by the Association, and this would apply

ATTACHMENT 2

NRAC – Current UNTD Era policy on Seed Money and Potential Changes

Below is background information on the policy on seed money to support locally initiated activities – as distinct from those organized by the national association. At present this policy as amended and approved in the motion near the bottom is inherited from the UNTDA and could be modified by changing “UNTD” and “UNTDA” to NRAC; “of graduates of naval reserve officer training programmes” to former and serving naval reservists.

Or the Awards and Events Committee could recommend more sweeping changes to the NRAC Board.

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UNTD – SEED MONEY AND GRANT FOR UNTD LOCALLY-INITIATED EVENTS 2017

BACKGROUND

In some locales there have been a number of UNTD locally-initiated activities. To assist other areas to run such activities a grant and seed money would be useful. Such funds could also be made available to those in locales where UNTD events have been a more common occurrence.

A motion was approved 2015/06/16 to provide a \$100 grant and/or up to \$500 repayable seed money to ex UNTDs or graduates of any NROC program to organize events open to all graduates of such programs.

At the meeting on June 13, 2017 there was discussion as to the amounts and conditions as well as to what constitutes an "event" and what is deemed "local".

OBJECTIVES

To reinforce existing and create new links amongst UNTDs, graduates of other naval reserve officer training programmes, and members of the UNTD Association and to reinforce and broaden the membership of the Association.

RATIONALE

During our March 2017 meeting, discussion about this policy flowed from two requests. The proposed revisions, in red below, amend the previously adopted policy to make the approval of requests totally at the discretion of the board and subject to the board’s acceptance and approval of an event budget.

The altered motion preserves the two classes of an outright grant and of a repayable loan, while increasing the total potential amounts in each category, thus preserving the principle of a revolving fund for larger amounts. The terms local and event are defined.

MOTION

That the UNTD Association of Canada may, upon acceptance and approval of an event budget, provide a grant of up to \$300 to any group to organize an event open to all graduates of all such programs.

That the UNTD Association additionally may, upon acceptance and approval of an event budget, make available up to \$2500 repayable seed money to any group of graduates of naval reserve officer training programmes desiring to organize an event open to all graduates of all such programs.

Examples of events include, but are not limited to, mess dinners, reunions, land and sea cruises, and other events that require deposits and other financial expenditures. The UNTDA from time to time runs events. This funding is designed to support locally-initiated (non-UNTDA) events suggested by any group of graduates of naval reserve officer training programmes.

2017/08/16