

President's Report
For the
UNTDA Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 14th, 2021

First of all, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and fun filled holiday season! Hopefully it will be the last holiday season where we have the shadow of COVID limiting our ability to take full advantage of this family oriented season.

Most of us have been very active this year in advancing the work of the Committees and in carrying out special tasks such as CSVC, building relationships with COMNAVRES and the NRDs and strengthening our Communications.

I said in my June Report:

"We all are volunteers and that has created an extra burden as we ramp up activity particularly in the case of those who are actively employed. The expectations of Board members is considerable and your time and effort is appreciated."

I now see those comments as an understatement. The last four months since our September meeting have underlined the pressures on us as an organization. Some of our members are carrying an incredible burden in addition to their non-UNTDA obligations!

If we have been busy to date it is an understatement to say that the pressures are growing and they are important to the future we have set for ourselves. Our very success in the many accomplishments we have made in the last two years are levering more activities and that while it is something to celebrate it nonetheless creates numerous challenges we must address.

Let me be more specific. Bob Blakely has been working on our Incorporation and by-laws while managing a very busy practice, as we move to finalizing the By-laws and tackling the policy process, it will be difficult to ask Bob to undertake much more in the short term. Kim Kubeck has been working on the CSVC initiative which is incredibly time consuming in addition to her other responsibilities and she has no capacity to undertake other responsibilities prior to CSVC completion.

Daniel Hache has been working on our relationships and coordinating them internally while working for the Federal Public Health. He is making great progress but there is no end in sight for this responsibility as we build relationships with like organizations. Jennifer Bennett has been very active on the Executive Committee and advising on coordination activities while working on her external leadership responsibilities and dealing with family health issues. Ross Connell has in addition to being treasurer, has been assisting Kim and Jennifer in covering off the day to day Communications responsibility while attempting to expand our messaging. Russ Cape has been working on the frustrations of coordinating memberships and strengthening his committee to reach into new areas where new assistance is required. Roger Elmes has been managing the upcoming 2023 convention and attempting to anticipate how the rapid changes in our organization may impact our convention. Bill Clearihue and Glenn Carroll have been working on our history, archives and the interesting potential of the NAC to our history and to potentially help CSVC. Marta Mulkins, while working in a very senior capacity in Ottawa has pulled together her report during the year and will have a role to play in the follow up. Others of you have been working hard on committees.

This level of activity does not take into account many of the potential initiatives arising from the above efforts.

While I am exceedingly grateful on our behalf for all of the above work, it is sobering to realize that the timely completion of the above initiatives requires more skilled bodies than we currently have available.

There is no quick fix as much of the above requires us locating and persuading new recruits to our Board and Committees.

I intend to convene two meetings to act quickly on the above concerns:

1. The Governance and nominating Committee to Identify potential recruits and approach them.
2. The Executive Committee and Marta to consider priorities coming out of her report and determine what we think should be addressed between now and the 2023 Convention and what should await the Convention.

It is clear that we need new recruits (post UNTDs) to strengthen all our committees. To give us greater depth in our planning for 2023, to expand our reach in recruiting and give us greater depth in communications. I urge you all to submit to me any names you believe will make a difference in strengthening our response to the above challenges.

We have made great progress in advancing the future of the UNTDA and transforming ourselves to into Canadian Naval Reserve organization attractive to active and retired members of the Reserve but we must double down on attracting and engaging our target audience. It would be truly harmful to our momentum if our 2023 Convention did not demonstrate our progress in reflecting our intended new directions which should form the basis of our work post 2023!

Again my thanks to Barry Frewer for his excellent work on Gunroom shots which has become a happily anticipated report on UNTDA activities.

The Executive Committee met in October and November and we concentrated primarily on pursuing our mandates arising from the last Board meeting with an emphasis in our relationship with COMNAVRES and CSVC.

In addition to the Special board meeting on November 30th, there will be a need for Special meetings in the first quarter of 2022 as we complete the work flowing from the incorporation.

Thank you for all the work in 2021! It has been incredible and has created many new opportunities that will challenge us to keep pace in 2022.

Graham Scott