

UNTDA Board Meeting

President's Report

March 14, 2023

Many of my reports have started with the expression of thanks and/or recognition of considerable volumes of work carried out by our board members! I have served on several volunteer boards in the past and can say without equivocation that most of our directors are second to none in their dedicated and active service to the membership. With the coming annual meeting, conference and all the aspects of our Association reforms coming to a head, the demands have been considerable!

As we discussed in the December meeting this meeting is fundamental to our preparations for Victoria.

The change of name is the banner decision to signal that the UNTDA has created a new and lasting organization to serve the naval reserve in Canada. It will remove the lack of clarity around what the new organization is focused on and provide the basis for the launch of the recommissioned Association.

Both Ross and Daniel will provide a report on the Name Quest survey and then ask the board to select a name to be submitted to the Annual meeting for approval.

Naturally the new name while important, is secondary to the establishment of a strong board to see the effective recommissioning of the UNTDA into a focused force acting on behalf of the naval reserve in Canada.

The Governance and Nomination Committee, chaired by Jennifer, with Bob Blakely as the vice chair will be extremely engaged in developing recommendations on a strong board to design the future of the Association.

Jennifer will report on the committee and the proposed process they intend to follow in developing their slate for your approval.

You have for consideration the Report on Board Restructuring that addresses the proposed board structure moving forward.

One important element is the question of representation. Best practice in good governance of boards has the fundamental principle that the primary duty of a board member is to the corporation. Consequently, the representation of any other interest, personal, geographic or otherwise is secondary to serving the corporation. This does not suggest that geographic, or special representation is off the table but only that it must submit to the interests of the corporation.

So while we should not formally elect people to serve a special interest that does not in any way limit our responsibility to ensure the board in its make up appropriately reflect our community.

I started to develop a recommended geographical numbers, but at the EX Cttee we decided that we should not be tied down to hard numbers for the new 2023 board and changed the recommendation accordingly.

Since we met we have made progress in identifying NCMs with an interest in becoming involved in the Association and in recruitment but it is very preliminary so I would urge you to take every opportunity that arises to encourage NCMs to become involved. I have done so at a centennial event for York and no doubt most of you will be at some naval event. There is a lot of talent that we can draw on for the board and our committees.

Please note that there is a special communications strategy prepared by Paul Seguna contained in the consent agenda. I would urge you to read it. We may not have much time to deal with it at the meeting but you should be aware of it as it will be a key guide for the Communications Committee.

Just a reminder that we have the board dinner scheduled for Wednesday at the conference and the Mess dinner so please make sure you are lined up for both.