



The bridge

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◆ BACKGROUND

As we move ahead on the plan agreed to at our fall meetings, it is clear there is much to be done and the goals we have set can only be achieved by Association-wide involvement. We need to move forward on several fronts simultaneously—we need wide involvement in terms of both geography and skills. The extent and breadth of what we need to accomplish is clearly beyond the capabilities of our Board—just too much work to be done. We need to bring in interested individuals from across the country to move our agenda forward. The Board agreed that a range of committees would be the best way to tackle this challenge.

Since that time we have discussed a number of requirements and ways to meet them. It was agreed that:

- It is possible that we may need to go outside the Board for Committee Chairs on occasion since Board members can only do so much and we will require wider expertise.
- Some committees must be closely tied to Branches and aim to have a dedicated committee member from each Branch. Others will have little connection to Branches.
- Some committees will require frequent involvement while others may require sporadic involvement.
- Some committees will require members to represent NAC publicly, others will involve only 'backroom' work.

◆ COMMITTEES

We have established and are working to de-velop the following committees:

AWARDS: Chair: Ray Zuliani [ray.zuliani@gmail.com]. This is a long standing committee which has operated successfully for a number of years in accordance with the criteria and procedures contained in the Guidance Manual and on the website. This issue of *Starshell* has instructions describing how Branches may submit proposals for the coming Annual General Meeting cycle. (See

Nomination Form p.9)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Chair: NAC National President [jmc@rruthers.com]. Board members from Halifax (Tony Goode), Ottawa (Dave Hudock) and Victoria (Mike Morres). The committee is following the intent of the existing Guidance Manual (GM). Committee terms will be updated in the GM rewrite.

ENDOWMENT: Chairman: Brooke Campbell [brooke3@shaw.ca]. Members: Brooke, Larry Fournier, Doug Plumsteel, Reg Kowalchuck and Peter Chipman. A successful, established and ongoing committee whose terms are defined in the GM. Again a request for proposals is contained in this issue of *Starshell* (see page 10 for grant application form, Ed.).

FINANCE: Chair: King Wan [king.r.wan1@gmail.com]. Members Branch Treasurers. Detailed instructions, developed by Derek Greer, are in the Guidance Manual. An updated set of instructions proposed for new Administrative Instructions has been circulated.

MEMBERSHIP: Chair: Edgar Williams [edgarwilliams@nl.rogers.com]. Members will include Branch Membership Directors plus interested members. Ed has proposed an approach and methodology which will be available on the website. Success of this committee in developing guidance by which Branches can attract a wider, younger membership is critical to NAC success. For success we all need to become involved in expanding our membership.

NAVAL AFFAIRS: Chair: Dan Sing [ddcc4@sympatico.ca]. Members from both within and outside the Association. Along with the grassroots OUTREACH COMMITTEE, the NA Committee is the heart of the Association, explaining to Canadians the need for a strong Navy. A significant portion of the national budget will be applied to sup-

porting the work of this committee. Dan has developed a concept and proposed approach of the committee and further details can be found on the website where much of the work of the committee will also be available.

NOMINATIONS: Chairman: Jim Humphries [humphriesj@shaw.ca]. A small group with membership from our geographic regions as defined by new Bylaw 5.02 which dictates: "...consisting of not less than three members from different geographical areas." A first task will be to develop terms of reference and refine the nominating process used this year. Details of the election process are published in this edition of *Starshell*. (See *Nomination Form pp.7-8.*)

OUTREACH: Chair Richard Archer [richmar.archer@rogers.com] has developed a grassroots approach aimed at helping Canadians understand the need for a strong Navy. A coordinator is required in every Branch and hopefully every Branch will develop several presenters who take our message to the country. This important work of the Association is totally dependent on Branches stepping up to the plate to field a strong team.

RESERVES: Chair: John Anderson [john@epremiumfinance.ca]. An historical strong point of our Association, the relationship with local reserve units has, in many cases, withered. For Branches without a local regular force presence, a tight relationship with the reserve unit is perhaps the prime method of carrying out our work. Like Outreach, this important work can only be carried out at the Branch level.

WEB: Chair: Bob Bush [robertbushARL@aol.com] Members are Branch webmasters. With the new website it is easy for every Branch to create a modern site that works seamlessly with our new National site at www.navalassoc.ca

Exactly how these committees are struc-

tured and their terms of reference will be developed over the next few months and captured in our new Administrative Instructions / roots approach aimed at helping Canadians understand the need for a strong Navy. A coordinator is required in every Branch and hopefully every Branch will develop several presenters who take our message to the country. This important work of the Association is totally dependent on Branches stepping up to the plate to field a strong team.

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Exactly how these committees are structured and their terms of reference will be developed over the next few months and captured in our new Administrative Instructions / Guidance Manual. All committees will require Board involvement of varying degrees.

We may find that not all committees are required on an ongoing basis but it is more likely we may find that others such as fundraising and national meeting committees will need to be added.

One issue that arose during Board discussions was the composition and operation of the Executive Committee (EC) The EC is defined by the Guidance Manual, however, there was some discussion regarding the need

for such an entity. In my experience there are urgent, usually minor, matters which this Board cannot or should not spend its time with—such as funding of research, work on the website—which are beyond the authority of the President to decide. All material decisions will be brought to the Board and should the EC make or take a decision, the Board will be informed as soon as possible.

This expansion of NAC work will only be successful if it has strong support from our Branches and you our members. Please consider how you might get involved.

Should you have questions, please contact Ken or myself for general items or committee chairs for specific questions.

Yours aye



Note: The preceding NAC Chairman's column was published in the Winter 2014-2015 edition of the Naval Association of Canada's quarterly, *Starshell*.