

Informal Branch Meeting Minutes – Boucher BBQ

Date: August 18, 2026

Time: 7:45 PM – 9:06 PM

Attendees

Scot, Dez, Charlotte, Melissa, Andrew J., Abigail, Cassandra, Alicia, Mike, Danielle, Nicole, Louise, plus one woman and one man not identified.

Discussion Highlights

Branch Review

- Scot shared feedback gathered from Directors about how the year went from a Branch perspective (refer to separate notes/handout).
- Discussed encouraging COs to provide feedback.
- Danielle mentions that the program is very structured, but there may be opportunities for adjustments or improvements outside the core program structure.

Volunteer Engagement

- Discussed an idea used successfully at another corps:
 - Increase program fees upfront and refund a portion at year-end based on volunteer hours completed.
- Potentially worth exploring further.

Technology Needs

- Consider setting aside funds for a better computer to support online meetings and branch operations.

Priorities for 2026/2027

- Continued focus on finding a suitable safety boat.
- Formal letters to be sent to organizations on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland regarding the safety boat search.
- Develop and maintain a master calendar for events, grant opportunities, and key dates.

Planning Approach

- General agreement to maintain the successful activities and format from last year rather than adding significant new initiatives.
- Focus on sustaining what is working well.

Meetings

- Positive support for alternating between:
 - Formal Branch meetings one month.
 - Committee/work meetings the next month focused on getting things done.
- Agreed there is room to make better use of Outlook for planning and communication.

Fundraising

- 50/50 draws remain simple, effective, and worthwhile.
- No longer pursuing WestJet-related fundraising opportunities.
- Louise suggested keeping the golf tournament and expanding the bottle drive.

Registration

- Registration dates confirmed for **September 9 and 10**.
- Volunteers with computers will be stationed on the main deck.
- Additional registration support will be set up in a classroom for the corps.

Previous Minutes - Fees

- Need to review previous minutes regarding the JP Bell fee reduction.
- Clarification that the branch fee reduction should be **\$35 for each additional child**.
- This amount will need to be updated in Zeffy.
- Discussed auditing records to ensure fees are being applied correctly.
- Also discussed following up with families who may not be able to pay the full amount.

Meeting adjourned: 9:06 PM.