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ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS.

Please read the following, important letter from our Past President Dave Love.

To the Membership At Large of the Calgary Military Historical Society **From David Love, Past President**

The following is an update on the Society's status. Even though I am no longer your President and now hold no elected office, it is probably most appropriate that I write this in the absence of a duly-elected new Executive Committee. By way of justification, firstly I, along with Floyd Stinson and Rob Wellings, continue by motion at the Annual General Meeting to be acting Society Trustees, with the authority that those offices contain. Also, seeing that I am now Past President, normal circumstances would automatically place me on a newly-elected Executive Committee. So, I'm kind of half way there already.

I thought long and hard how I should approach this letter because I find myself feeling that I must make certain editorial comments after the actual update, which may not be accepted with favour by some or all of you. With those comments, I promise to try and keep things brief.

First – good news. We now have a full slate of candidates for the Executive Committee. As you already know, Mike Clare and Rob Wellings earlier this year stated their willingness to be re-elected to their former positions as Vice-President and Secretary respectively, should the membership agree. Myself, as Past President, automatically assumes that position within a new Executive Committee without needing to be formally elected. Recently, Dave Soltess has agreed to let his name stand as President while our newest member, Dell Pohlman, expressed his willingness to stand for Treasurer. Rounding out the cast, should a new Executive agree, would be a formal appointment of Directors (Directors are not elected), namely David Gale as Editor, myself as Historian, and Floyd Stinson as a Director-at-Large. All the candidates for election are self-nominated which is allowed under the CMHS Constitution. no other member is nominated for any position, then the new Executive Committee would be elected by acclamation. Truthfully, upon receipt of this good news and what has transpired over the past few months, I am not holding my breath for additional nominations, however I will give everyone the opportunity to submit their names, if they wish so, up to one week after the receipt of this letter. At that point, I will consider the nominations cease. During the same time period, I will also receive any input, by exception, from the membership regarding these nominations. If, after the one week period has ended, these people are still the only candidates and I have received no input that needs addressing, I will declare them to be elected by acclamation and formally report back to you with the result. And you will have your new Executive Committee.

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To summarize the existing nominations: Dave Soltess (President), Mike Clare (Vice-President), Dave Love (Past-President), Rob Wellings (Secretary), Dell Pohlman (Treasurer). Directors (should the new Executive agree) will be David Gale (Editor), Dave Love (Historian), Floyd Stinson (Director-at-Large).

With this recent development, the bottom line is that our Society can continue to operate as such without any interruption or compromise. Other things that will automatically happen once the election is declared will be the appointment of bank signatories (probably Dell Pohlman as Treasurer and Rob Wellings as Secretary). Also, a recognition will be made that Dave Soltess, Dell Pohlman and Rob Wellings assume the role as Society Trustees, as per our Constitution and the Societies Act of Alberta.

I personally am very happy with this. This organization has been a positive part of my life for at least 40 years now and probably more so I, personally, and if you will allow me, on behalf of the membership at large, wish to thank these people who feel the Society is worth saving by stating their willingness to take on what really are minimal responsibilities as Officers of the Society. Without this commitment, the Calgary Military Historical Society, as such, would be no more as of June 1.

Now, here is where my remarks may be unpopular with some or all of you, but I think they really need to be stated and hopefully considered. I don't want to see us faced with the same situation later in the year when we have our next AGM and new election. Permit me to say that I think many of you should do some real soul-searching. Candidly, the Society has just missed a big bullet. We have thirty to forty members, some of which have been members for decades. And yet, not enough of you stepped forward to allow this Society to continue without having to go through what we just did. I cannot help but feel it really isn't asking too much for people to agree to take a more active role in the running of the Society. True, there are no member requirements in place other than paying your annual dues (very reasonable by the way) and agreeing to follow the Society Code of Ethics outlined in our Constitution. That's all. You don't have to attend meetings. No one is required to present something in front of the membership (your friends, by the way). You are under no obligation or real pressure to vote on issues (although we hope you will), etc., etc. I have realized through a reasonably lengthy and varied life, that anything worthwhile sometimes takes a little effort and commitment. And different members taking an active role re-energizes an organization. All your last Executive, and a small group of long-time operationally-active members are asking is that you consider "doing your bit". Obviously, if your personal situation – issues of health, disability, family pressure, etc. – do not allow you to take a more active role, I, for one and I know everyone else will readily understand and accept that. But, the simple truth is that I have seen too many organizations start to stagnate and ultimately wither away and die because their members sit on their asses when it comes to actively supporting the operations of their respective organizations. It doesn't happen overnight, but it is insidious if YOU let it happen. In our case, after discussion with several of the above mentioned members, we all realize the potential dissolution that we found ourselves having to contemplate, has been coming for many years now. Attitudes of "well, someone else will do it" or "I don't care that much" or simple apathy seems to have permeated the CMHS. I'll leave that with all of you to consider. That's the last time I will mention this. I consider the case closed. Take care and be safe.

Dave

Letter emailed out February 25th, 2022