

4020-RCEME Corps (Corps Adjt)

8 October 2014

Distribution List

ROYAL CANADIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS CORPS FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HELD AT THE ROYAL CANADIAN ELECTRICAL AND
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS SCHOOL CFB BORDEN 0900 HOURS 21 AUGUST 2014

Chairperson. Colonel K.J. Hamilton, RCEME Corps Fund President

Members. Lieutenant-Colonel L. Dencsak, RCEME Corps Fund
Administrative Committee Chairperson
Major M. Tousignant, 2nd Canadian Division Representative
Captain G.S. Dzeoba, RCEME Corps Adjutant
Lieutenant C.N. Rideout, Acting 5th Canadian Division Representative
Chief Warrant Officer R. Gilbert, National Capital Region
(NCR) Representative
Master Warrant Officer J.S. Guillemette, Acting Canadian Army Doctrine
and Training Centre Representative
Master Warrant Officer A. Papple, Acting Air and Navy Command
Representative
Master Warrant Officer R.C. Waugh, 3rd Canadian Division Representative
Master Warrant Officer K. Osborne, RCEME Association Representative
Corporal M.J.F. Brosseau, 4th Canadian Division Representative

Mrs. G. Somerton de Jimenez, RCEME Corps Administrative Assistant

Ex-Officios. Brigadier-General (Retired) P.J. Holt, RCEME Colonel Commandant
Colonel (Retired) T. Temple, EME Association President

Absent. Chief Warrant Officer WO (Retired) E. Kish, RCEME Association President
Lieutenant D. Coulter, 5th Canadian Division Representative
Chief Warrant Officer L.J.A. Moreau, Canadian Army Doctrine and
Training Centre Representative
Chief Warrant Officer J.P.R. Dionne, Air and Navy Command
Representative

Attendees. Warrant Officer J.L.G. Grondin, 1 Service Battalion, CFB Edmonton
Master Corporal J.N.Y. Lemoyne, 5 Service Battalion, CFB Valcartier
Corporal K.E. White, 5 Service Battalion, CFB Valcartier
Corporal G.W. Clement, 5 Service Battalion, CFB Valcartier
Private C.M. Hatch, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School
Private G. Hudder, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School
Private J. Purkis, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School
Private S.W. Rodman, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School
Private K. Sinden, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School
Private M.J. Styres, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School

Private M.P. Toutant, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School

OPENING ADDRESS

1. The meeting was called to order at 0900 hours, 21 August 2014 in the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME) School conference room. The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting, emphasising to the young soldiers in attendance that they are “Ambassadors” for the Fund. He also encouraged more attendance throughout the various divisions.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

ACTION BY

2. Previous Minutes. The RCEME Corps Adjt asked if there were any points regarding the previous minutes dated 26 February 2014. A motion was put forward to pass the minutes as stated. Motion passed.

All

DISCUSSION

3. Budget Review. The budget was presented for the calendar year 1 January – 31 December 2014. The following points brought forward included:

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- a. RCEME Kit Shop Funds. The balance of funds previously available from the RCEME Kit Shop was used to purchase the slip-ons for all members of the RCEME Corps. The old EME Kit Shop is now officially closed and all remaining monies have been transferred to the RCEME Corps Fund;
- b. Cohesion Events. Annual support to regional cohesion events was established at \$303.00 per region. This amount will remain for the remainder of 2014; SECRETARIAL NOTE. After some discussion as to whether the cohesion amounts should automatically be sent to the regions, it was decided that the regions will continue to request these funds as needed in support for their activities, i.e. RCEME Day;
- c. Anniversary Pin Dispersment. The mailing and courier costs to distribute the 2014 anniversary pins to members of the Fund was \$387.60;
- d. RCEME Loyalty Coins. The manufacturing, mailing and courier fees for the 2014 distribution of loyalty coins to this year’s recipients, as well as the delivery of some of the remaining 2013 coins, was \$4186.74;
- e. RCEME Corps Fund Member Benefits. To date, there has been one bereavement benefit of \$100.00 paid. No requests for hardship grants, benevolent loans or emergency loans have been received by this office.

4. 75th Anniversary Accounting. An account is being set up to manage the intake and disbursement of funds. An accountant will be available to help oversee the transactions throughout the 75th Anniversary process. This will ensure provincial laws and CRA guidelines are duly observed.

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5. State of the Fund. Presently, the RCEME Corps has 3,708 members. Out of this, 3,139 (85.14%) of members pay into the Fund by pay allotment and 181 are lifetime members, 9 of which are honorary. The RCEME Corps Adjt feels we have to keep pushing the message out about benefits of being a Fund member.

6. RCEME Journal Distribution. Presently the RCEME Corps produces 2,500 copies of the journal, the majority of which are sent to bases for Regular Force members as well as lifetime members to pick up. The RCEME Corps Adjt suggested that it must be established whether lifetime members are entitled to receive a published hard copy.

SECRETARIAL NOTE. In order to avoid any perception of a two-tiered membership, it was decided that a survey will be taken of the lifetime members with respect to receiving a hard copy versus downloading or viewing the journal online.

7. National Artwork Contest. 2015 will mark the 71st anniversary of the RCEME Corps. Contest information will be out shortly and once again the successful submission will be awarded a \$200.00 prize.

SECRETARIAL NOTE. It was widely felt that the RCEME Museum, scheduled to open in November 2015, should be the focus of next year's contest. A vote was taken with the majority voting for "Showcasing Our Legacy" as the official theme.

8. Reservist Membership in the RCEME Corps Fund. It has been an ongoing challenge to solicit membership amongst Reservists for the RCEME Corps Fund. While they have always been welcome, it has been difficult to reach significant numbers. Members of the RCEME Corps Fund have noted concerns about the cost of Reservist membership being \$12.00 per year which is not sufficient to cover the cost of the joining benefit of accoutrements, buttons and a \$10.00 gift certificate to the Great Canadian Kit Shop. Another concern is the perceived challenge of being able to confirm a Reserve member's income and their ability to pay back a hardship or benevolent loan. It was agreed that this Fund should remain as a one-tiered membership. Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair has graciously offered to be a point of contact for the Board of Directors (BOD) with respect to soliciting Reservist membership.

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SECRETARIAL NOTE. Should a Reserve member of the Fund approach the BOD to obtain a hardship or benevolent loan, specific criteria can be implemented to satisfy the concerns of the BOD as to the member's ability to repay any loan amount. Also, there is currently a policy in place that requests Reserve members to pay three years of dues up front when joining the RCEME Corps Fund.

9. 75th Anniversary Logo Artwork Contest. There has only been three (3) submissions to the 75th Anniversary Logo Contest to date and the contest closes 1 September 2014.

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SECRETARIAL NOTE. The Heritage Committee will decide on the winner of the 75th Anniversary Logo Contest and will award the successful artist a cash prize of \$500.00.

10. RCEME Corps Fund Membership Fees. At the BOD 26 February 2014, Colonel Bouchard, then Fund Chairperson, requested that 2 Canadian Division, under Major S. Tousignant, provide this BOD with the results of a study with respect to the RCEME Corps Fund membership fees. Major Tousignant and his working group studied the history of the Fund and echoed the Colonel Commandant's observation that the fees have not increased over those set 20+ years ago. A local survey was conducted with 369 participants, 26 of which were non-members and questions were asked about raising fees to \$3.00 for each member regardless of rank. The survey also investigated what additional benefits these funds could be used for. The suggestions varied from an increase in the RCEME Corps Fund bursary from \$750.00 to \$1000.00, a meal and a drink for each member at a RCEME Day celebration, a departure gift awarded to a member releasing from the Regular Force, depending on years in the Fund, etc.

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SECRETARIAL NOTE. After much discussion, it was decided that a national survey will be put in place to determine the viability of raising the dues to \$2.00 or \$3.00 per year, regardless of rank, with consideration taken to clearly illustrate the benefits to Fund members.

11. RCEME Bursary Winners. The deadline for the 2014 bursary applications was 11 July 2014. In total, 34 submissions were received, an increase from the 32 received in 2013 and 11 in 2012. All 34 submissions were accepted and congratulatory letters will be sent to all successful applicants, each with a bank draft in the amount of \$750.00. Letters to applicants who were not successful will be sent and they will be encouraged to re-apply next year. The following is a list of bursary winners for 2014.

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- a. Mr. Ben Saunders;
- b. Miss Rebecca Leblanc;
- c. Mr. Joshua Winniski;
- d. Miss Geneviève Boivin;
- e. Mr. Corey Battiston;
- f. Miss Serina Archambault;
- g. Miss Virginie Yargeau;
- h. Mr. Spencer Daviau;
- i. Miss Brienne Beaumont; and
- j. Miss Tania Silletta.

12. Arte et Marte Park. Further to the request made at the previous BOD, the RCEME Corps Adjutant visited the "Ad Astra Park" at CFB Trenton. This memorial park covers approximately six acres and displays memorial stones with the names of fallen comrades or of those members still serving. These stones are placed around various monuments. A register of

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names/stones, as well as a map of the stone location, is also available. An annual dedication ceremony is held each September. Apart from being a brilliant memorial, this project would be both a great fundraiser for the 75th Anniversary as well as a source of ongoing funds to support the expenses of the RCEME Museum.

SECRETARIAL NOTE. Further investigation will be made to ascertain where such a park could be located.

13. Heritage Presentation. The Colonel Commandant introduced the RCEME Heritage org chart and the museum governance team. The ground-breaking ceremony of the museum in Kingston took place 17 June 2014 with occupancy projected for November 2015. It was noted that there are three key timelines for the 75th Anniversary headed by the Heritage Committee. These include commemorative products, headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Matsalla, the RCEME Monument expansion at CFB Borden headed by Major Garrard and the celebratory activities, both national and regional. The RCEME Council, in April 2014, approved Mr. Michel L'Italien as the author of "RCEME at 75". Col Cmdt

14. Amalgamation of Associations. Lieutenant-Colonel Fuller provided the BOD with the details of the working ground held in March 2014 whose objective was to determine the feasibility of a strong Corps Fund through the amalgamation of the RCEME Associations and the EME Association. RCEME Council approved this initiative at their meeting on 15 April 2014 and it is hoped this could be achieved prior to 2018. LCol Fuller

SECRETARIAL NOTE. It was motioned by the BOD Chairperson and seconded by the Colonel Commandant that all the associations and the RCEME Corps Fund should merge under the Canada Not for Profit Corporations Act. This was unanimously approved by the BOD.

15. "Canada's Craftsmen at 50" Printing. Investigation has been made into reprinting the English version of Colonel (Retired) Murray Johnston's book, "Canada's Craftsmen at 50". This illustrated history of the RCEME Corps was successfully used as a gift to the graduates of both the Officers' Developmental Period (ODP) 1.1 and 1.2 courses, along with top candidates and runners-up of various courses throughout the school. The cost to re-print 500 copies of this book would be approximately \$8,700.00. The RSM of the RCEME School will compile a return, based on approximate quantities of books needed at the school, leading up to the 75th anniversary. RSM
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SECRETARIAL NOTE. The Chairperson motioned that a print run of 500 copies of the English version be made for the top candidates of the RCEME School. Motion seconded and carried.

16. Sponsorship/Public Relations Events. At the September 2013 BOD, the then-Chairperson proposed investigating the feasibility of sponsoring a race car or a similar public relations event. This would be over and above the already funded regional activities and applicants would be encouraged to apply in the same manner as the RCEME bursary awards, with a 500 word written essay.

SECRETARIAL NOTE. After much discussion, it was motioned by the National Capital Region (NCR) Representative and seconded by 3rd Division Representative to close this subject due to the difficulty in incorporating this as a benefit to the Fund.

17. Round Table. Both Lieutenant-Colonel Fuller and Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair reiterated their commitments to work with everyone and further welcomed any BOD member to call with any questions they may have concerning either the amalgamation of associations or the involvement of Reserve personnel in the RCEME Corps Fund.

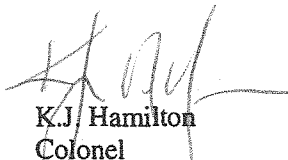
All

18. Adjournment. The Chairperson thanked all personnel both present and via VTC for attending the meeting. He particularly thanked the Apprentices and expressed his pleasure with both their contributions and attendance. Colonel Hamilton also addressed the possibility that this would be Brigadier-General (Retired) Holt's last BOD meeting. The Colonel Commandant has been a tireless supporter of the RCEME Corps Fund and his history and experience both with the Corps and with the Fund provided many with amusing anecdotes and stories of the past regarding the development of the Fund in the earlier days of the Corps. The next meeting will be held sometime in February 2015, location TBD.

Chairperson



L.R. Dencsak
Lieutenant-Colonel
Administrative Committee Chairperson



K.J. Hamilton
Colonel
RCEME Corps Fund President

Distribution List

All members