

## VG4A Membership Report, April 6 2024 General Meeting, submitted by Elizabeth Sebesta

We currently have 133 members and 18 supporters. Both lists have been updated, with some names archived and some deleted.

We held a very successful Welcome Gathering in early March. There were four new members, so there was plenty of time for both introductions and Margie's education presentation, as well as questions and time to chat.

The next one will be an evening one in June. When we tried this last year, it was well received. Some members are still working, some are taking care of grandchildren during the day, and some just have other daytime commitments.

I have met with both Barbara Langton and Sandra Carelius to go over the responsibilities of the membership chair. So far they have not been scared off, and are willing to let their names stand!

## VG4A March Financial Statement, April 6 2024 GM, submitted by Norah Macey

VICTORIA GRANDMOTHERS FOR AFRICA								
March 31 2024								
<b>ASSETS</b>								
	Balance per Bank Statement at Month end:				25,832.54			
	(Less Outstanding Cheques:)				0.00			
	Plus Outstanding Deposits				<u>0.00</u>			
	Actual Available Coast Capital Chq Acct:				25,832.54			
	Float for Double Your Money (cash)				<u>300.00</u>			
								26,132.54
<b>LIABILITIES</b>								
	Memberships for 2025				0.00			
								<u>0.00</u>
<b>NET FUND BALANCES</b>								
								<b>26,132.54</b>
Detailed Fund Balances at end of Period:								
	Opening Fund Balance (Beg. Of 2024)	Income	Donations Received	(Expenses)	Net Income 2024	Net Fund Bal (Before transfer)	Transfers to SLF (at yr end)	Net Fund Bal (End of Period)
Operating Fund	5,080.42	3,840.00	722.00	-2,272.40	2,289.60	7,370.02	0.00	7,370.02
Sales and Craft Fund	0.00	1,045.95	25.00	-172.39	898.56	898.56	0.00	898.56
Jazzy Junk Fund	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Art From The Attic Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
African Dinner Fund	0.00	21,920.00	137.29	-7,060.35	14,996.94	14,996.94	0.00	14,996.94
Double Your Money Fund	0.00	915.00		0.00	915.00	915.00	0.00	915.00
Cycle Tour Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Event - Fun Golf	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tru Earth Fund	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Virtual Stride Walk Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Projects Fund	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Travel Fund	951.95	0.00		0.00	0.00	951.95	0.00	951.95
Cycle Tour Contingency	1,000.07	0.00		0.00	0.00	1,000.07	0.00	1,000.07
New Horizons Grant Fund	3,386.00	0.00		-3,386.00	-3,386.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>10,418.44</b>	<b>27,720.95</b>	<b>884.29</b>	<b>-12,891.14</b>	<b>15,714.10</b>	<b>26,132.54</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26,132.54</b>
Inception to Dec 31, 2023 (prior yr end)	2,079,949.60	ESTIMATE				Discrepancy:	Fund bals:	0.00
Transfers during 2024 (not incl year end)	0.00					G/L:		0.00
SLF Transfers at year end 2024	0.00						Enter Bank	
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>2,079,949.60</b>						<b>Balance in G4</b>	
	<u>2,000,000.00</u>							
	-79,949.60	over 2 million!						

### **African Dinner Working Group Report, April 6 2024 GM, submitted by Laurie Wilson**

The members of this working group, many of them new to VG4A, are working extremely hard under the able leadership of Jean MacDonald and Meg Harrigan-Lee. So many other VG4A members have contributed in small and large ways that it feels like a true team effort. Tickets are all sold and details of every aspect of the dinner are being worked out over the next two weeks. If you are attending, please share the table hostess's sense of responsibility to ensure that everyone in attendance has a worthwhile and engaging experience. Information about the live auction items, and an invitation to submit a reserve bid, will be sent out very soon to all members and supporters.

### **Communications Working Group Report, April 6 2024 GM, submitted by Lisbie Rae**

The Digital Skills project is now complete. The New Horizons for Seniors Program gave us a grant of almost \$25,000 to improve the digital skills of our members. Over the last year, we paid Connected Canadians to train VG4A mentors, deliver 6 I-pads with training in their use, and run 10 well-attended Zoom workshops. We also purchased sound equipment that allows us to hear each other better at indoor meetings and at outdoor meetings, without the need for power or sound cables. Laurie and Lisbie will write and submit the final report required by New Horizons and make it available to members by request.

Feedback from members about our partnership with Connected Canadians has been very positive. As a lasting legacy of this year's work, the digital skills team reminds all members to tell their friends about Connected Canadians, as any senior in Canada can request a session on Zoom with a Connected Canadians volunteer to answer questions they have about how to use their devices. Many thanks to the digital skills team of Joyce, Sandra, Lisbie, and Tracy for guiding the project to a successful conclusion.

The monthly workshop series was so popular that we have decided to continue it ourselves, beginning in May; more details will follow soon.

The on-going work of the Communications team includes producing the March and April newsletters, updating the website and VG4A's Facebook page, handling publicity for the African Dinner and collaborating with the Cycle Tour Working Group to plan publicity for this year's Cycle Tour. A separate team has been investigating how to archive VG4A's records such as photos, videos, minutes and newsletters. To comply with tougher laws governing collection of data, another team is expanding VG4A's policies on protection of privacy. These changes will be brought to the membership to read ahead of the next GM.

### **Cycle Tour Working Group Report, April 6 2024 GM, submitted by Laurie Wilson**

This year's working group is already meeting and putting plans in place for our 18<sup>th</sup> annual Cycle Tour, August 11<sup>th</sup> – September 8<sup>th</sup>. The "Save the Date" message has been sent to dozens of potential riders and posted on the Cycle Tour page of the website. Registration information will be out soon. As was the case last year, everyone will register for the four-week personalized tour. It will include several optional group rides, including one from Campbell River to Victoria. This format truly allows anyone interested to participate, on any kind of bike, indoors or outdoors, with any kind of personalized target distances.

To help you get ready we have regular Monday, Wednesday and Friday rides, along with our new Thursday 11 am "Joy of Cycling" ride. Victoria gets better and better for cycling routes. There are some good coffee shops too!

### **Education Working Group Report, April 6 2024 GM, submitted by Margie Cogill**

- We have done two “Elevator Talk” workshops since January, one with 12 and one with 6 participants.
- We did a presentation at The Renaissance Retirement Home on March 26<sup>th</sup> with Sales and Crafts.
- We have a commitment at Hillcrest School for 5 classroom presentations the week of May 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>.
- We continue to source other schools to present at for this school term. We have some willing classroom assistants from among new members.
- We will have a display table as part of the *Dying With Dignity* event on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- We are organizing the Scavenger Hunt to encourage people to take a close look at the quilt during the African Dinner.

### **Sales and Crafts Working Group Report, April 6 2024 GM, submitted by Orleen MacLulich**

Sales and Crafts have had 8 very successful card making bees since January. We wanted to build up our stock of cards for sales at the African Dinner. The card making bees are now on hold until September when we will replenish cards for the Christmas fair season.

In two work bee sessions we made 118 newspaper bags for the Surprise Bags at the African Dinner. We have been requested to make a few more for good measure.

We had an Education presentation and Craft sale at the Renaissance retirement home on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Once the African Dinner is over we are hoping to organize visits to The Victorian at MacKenzie and to the Cridge. Anyone who has a connection to a retirement home that may be interested in a similar presentation please contact [orleenm@telus.net](mailto:orleenm@telus.net) or [calong10@telus.net](mailto:calong10@telus.net).

In mid-March our working group had a brainstorming meeting to vet ideas for new items to freshen our inventory stock. It generated lots of new ideas. Three new members contributed as well. Stay tuned for future work bees.....

The topic of a lending library of cycling pinnies has gone back and forth between Sales and Crafts and the Cycle Working Group. It was decided that Judy Seeley will make 10 smaller, children’s pinnies to loan out for grandchildren participating in the grandmother/ grandchildren ride to the Cycle Welcome gathering. It was approved by the Coordinating Group that these pinnies be expensed through the operating expense account. Sales and Crafts currently have 6 adult pinnies for sale at \$10 and will canvas members as to whether there is a demand for more. The question of who will manage the lending library of pinnies will go back to the Cycle Working Group for discussion or alternatively, Bonnie Yarish has offered to store them and get them to the young cyclists on the day of the event.

### **Social Events and Community-Building**

If any of our new members are interested in joining one of our existing book clubs, the film club, the Friday walkers, the Beginner+ golf group or the first-of-the-month cold water plungers, send an e-mail to Laurie Wilson ([vacationlauren@gmail.com](mailto:vacationlauren@gmail.com)). The online Scrabble tournament still has 7 players battling it out – stay tuned.

Consider participating in the Calendar Launch Party or the Loaf ‘n’ Ladle lunch in May!

## Grandmothers Regional Liaison (GRL) Report, April 6 2024 GM, submitted by Bonnie Yarish

Suko Bhebhe is the new development officer for the Grandmothers Campaign. She was born in Zimbabwe and came to Canada 10 years ago. She has a background in African studies and development and experience with volunteer management, youth and community engagement and social mobilization. Her email address is [sbhebhe@stephenlewisfoundation.org](mailto:sbhebhe@stephenlewisfoundation.org)

Niambi gave a financial overview presentation – power point is available

- Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign raises around 20% of the SLF's revenue every year which is one of the largest sources of funds for the SLF.
- Legacy giving is a growing part of funding and helps in planning for the SLF's longevity.
- For the first half of the 2024 fiscal year there is a total of \$5 million raised with a goal of \$8 million by the end of the fiscal year. The Grandmothers Campaign accounts for 24% of that.
- The SLF and other non-profits have seen a trend of a decline in major gifts and a reduction in gift amounts because of the economy.
- Even though the number of active grandmothers groups declined during COVID the revenue raised remains about the same.
- SLF is hoping to institute avenues to communicate with people who donate to grandmothers groups but do not donate a second time.

### Grandmothers trip to Africa

- Suko is coordinating organizing this trip with support from the Programs and Development team. Uganda and Tanzania will probably be the countries visited.
- The tentative date is Spring 2025.
- The SLF is putting together a comprehensive brief to provide more information about the trip and are hoping to share details in the April Granny Bulletin.

### Speakers Bureau Update

- SLF will take the lead on: current stats and messaging regarding HIV and AIDS; collecting media materials; create basic presentations with stories about grandmothers; FAQ document
- Looking for members to update materials that give tips on giving presentations and recruiting talented speakers from within their regions to be consultants and trainers.



Coordinators Meeting March 19, 2024 – missing Barbara Langton, Carol Long, Jane Carroll, Jean MacDonald, Joyce Hobday, Lib Cooper, Peggy Frank, Tory Stevens