



**The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005
Liberation of the Netherlands**



Comrades,

In connection with the Annual General Meeting on April 7, 2024, I am sending you the attached Annual Report (Secretary's Report), the balance sheet and the statement of income and expenditure for 2023.

I will send you the reports of the working groups that belong to this separately.

The balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure have been drawn up by Mr. Jan Groot, retired accountant, with the support of Peter Bongers (Treasurer) and Jan van Loo (Secretary).

Mr. Groot also made a number of comments regarding these documents. His comments are attached.

I also consulted Mr. Groot about drawing up a budget. I informed him that there is no obligation in the law in this regard (Management and Supervision of Legal Entities Act), but that drawing up a budget could be part of a "good governance."

I will propose to the board to draw up a budget for the year 2024.

Sincerely,

Royal Canadian Legion 'Liberation of The Netherlands' Branch 005
Lochem, March 27, 2024.



Mr. Jan CK van Loo LL.M., Secretary

The year 2023 has been a year with highs and lows for our Branch, which applies to every year, but we lost our President, Martin Reelick on November 4, 2023, which was an unprecedented low for our organisation (please see the “In Memoriam” in our [Newsletter of November 2023](#).)

Partly due to the inability to fill the positions of 2nd Vice President and Treasurer during the previous AGM, our organisation was weakened; however, the requests, our “core business” went well and in 2023 the Colour Party and/or Delegation of our Branch attended **37** events. Board meetings also carried on, according to plan, however the Secretary was unfortunately less available in the first quarter of 2024 due to health problems.

The collaboration with the Canadian Embassy, commemoration organisers, and other relations continued to run smoothly.

We bid farewell to H.E. Lisa Helfand as Ambassador of Canada and thanked her for her cooperation over the years. The new Ambassador, H.E. Hugh Adsett has been welcomed to our Clubhouse in Lochem in January 2024 and our collaboration is proving fruitful.

As I indicated in the 2022 report, we will need to place focus on the composition of the Colour Party. It is often difficult to get the Colour Party to full strength. Therefore, I once again call upon our members to consider candidates in their area who may be interested in becoming a member of the Colour Party. Training will be provided, of course.

We will continue to work with a focus on the Indigenous Legacy Project regarding Canadian First Nations Soldiers, in which we want to honour the fallen Canadian soldiers with Indigenous roots. I refer you to the messages in our newsletters and especially the messages from the Project Group.

The formerly annual Red Maple Soirée, hosted by the Canadian Embassy, continues to be on hold; therefore, the fundraising which had previously been associated with this, of which our Branch received funding, is no longer available. Colonel Marc LaFortune, Military Attaché has promised support in the past year to revive the Red Maple Soirée.

The Board continues to be of the opinion that it is highly desirable that education by members of the Education Working Group take place in more locations throughout the Netherlands than is currently the case.

Maintaining the membership administration formally is the responsibility of the Secretary; however, much praise goes to our Membership Administrator, Anneke Poppenk. Anneke ensures that the databases of our members and other contacts is updated and developed throughout the year, and also maintains contacts with the Dominion Command in Canada in this regard.

In preparation for 2024, a very useful overview has been made of all requests and activities. This model is also a good basis for making a budget. Such a budget can form an important part of the “good governance” desired by the Board.

Finally, we are increasingly bothered by “Spam” emails via the addresses on our website. As a result, we are at risk of being caught by a “phishing” scam. We are working on a system to avert our risks in this regard and will inform the membership about this in the coming months.

March 2024,

Mr. Jan CK van Loo LL.M., Secretary

Statement of Income and Expenses 2023

Income	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
	€	€
Contributions	3.665	3.320
Donations	7.022	2.015
Promotent	3.531	2.356
Kitshop	441	35
Other	24	229
Total Income	14.683	7.955
Expenses		
Members		336
Commemorations	1.050	2.250
Board Costs	2.872	2.846
Overhead Costs	7.896	4.684
Change in stocks	4.883	7.946
Depreciation	633	1.584
Total Expenses	17.334	19.646
Net Income	-2.651	-11.691
Specific statement of income and expenditure		
<u>Members</u>		
Social		336
<u>Commemorations</u>		
Commemorations		600
Colour Party	1.050	1.650
	1.050	2.250
<u>Overhead Costs</u>		
Subscriptions	-	697
Insurance	102	305
Representation	2.387	900
PR and recruitment	692	337
Printing costs	738	189
Bank charges	358	254
<u>Other costs</u>	108	40
Contribution Zone Europe	237	231
Customs Fees	-	17
Maintenance/Small Purchases	1.294	-
Dominion Command	1.496	1.214
Other income and expenses	484	500
Total Other Income and Expenses	7.896	4.684

Balance as of 31 December 2023

	<u>31-Dec-23</u>	<u>31-Dec-22</u>
	€	€
Active		
<u>Fixed</u>		
Inventory	2.642	3.275
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Stocks	3.749	5.808
Goods	160	2.000
Wreaths	720	257
Ribbons/Coins	4.629	8.065
Receivables		
Other receivables	386	410
Accrued assets	386	410
Liquid Assets		
Cash	296	296
ABN AMRO Bank, Current Account	19.664	17.371
ABN AMRO Bank, Current Account	21.941	22.008
ABN AMRO Bank, Current Account	159	159
ABN AMRO Bank, Poppy Account	2.012	
	44.072	39.834
Total assets	51.729	51.584
Passive		
<u>Equity</u>		
Other reserves	29.081	40.075
Destination reserve	20.000	20.000
Operating result	46.430	48.384
<u>Short-Term Liabilities</u>		
Remaining debts	1.500	
Deferred income	3.799	3.200
	5.299	3.200
Total Liabilities	51.729	51.584

Remarks on the 2023 Financial Statements

- Figures are based on the information provided and conversations conducted.
- Bank account that did not appear on the 2022 balance sheet, but did appear on the bank's financial statement, now in the administration processed. The opening balance is credited to equity.
- Terminology "reserve" converted to "designated reserve." The nature and expenditure of this is still to be determined/defined.
- No budget for 2023 received.
- Once again, significant stock loss.
- Bank account with balance of €159, as well as cash balances not debited. Administrative decision required for this.
- Cost classification not comparable to last year. Followed the corresponding descriptions as much as possible, but this was not always possible.

- Advice to the board: monitor finances/prepare budget/maintain stocks much more closely. The WBTR in force on July 1, 2021 is not complied with.

- It is an association, so there is an audit committee. They will have to look at the books and records. When and by whom should be stated.

Regards,
Jan Groot