

Memorandum

12 Wing Shearwater

5545-1

Mar 2024

Dist List

**12 WING MESS GENERAL MESS MEETING
HELD FRIDAY 01 MARCH 2024 AT 1300 HRS**

Chairperson

MCpl LeBlanc PMC (outgoing)

Committee Members Executive

Capt Carter V/PMC (incoming PMC)
PO2 Gosse Secretary (incoming V/PMC – absent)

Committee Members

MCpl Kallai Financial Rep
Sgt Poirier Entertainment Chair (outgoing)
MCpl Legaarden Improvements Chair
MCpl Yeadon Sports Chair (outgoing – absent)
Cpl Dunbar Marketing Chair (absent)
Capt Mahoney Professional Development Rep (absent)
MWO Cook Associate Members Rep

Ex-Officio

Michelle Baumhour Mess Manager
LCol Lawrence CO 12 AMS
LCol Malone CO 12 OSS

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Call to order and introductory remarks 12 Wing Mess General Mess Meeting called to order at 1300. PMC started with a quick request for the gavel to be returned to the Mess once it is no longer needed by whomever has it. The gavel was last seen during the 12 Wing Holiday Dinner. The Mess is currently using a large wooden hammer (similar as a temporary gavel). PMC welcomed all members in attendance and online, thanking those who were present. Overall turnout was disappointing, specifically noted in the absence of	PMC

all 406 and most of 423. *(The meeting date was first suggested to the units on 8 Feb. No attempt to contact the Mess to inform of conflicts or request to reschedule the meeting date was made. An earlier request to the Mess to amend the meeting time from 1030 to 1300 was acknowledged and implemented.)*

PMC explained decorum and procedure for in person attendees (parliamentary – direct conversation to PMC) and MS Teams participants (mute microphone – use chat). Main motions were requested to be sent to the Mess prior to the meeting with voting to occur electronically afterwards. Prior to meeting several members expressed concerns from this request, which was explained as an effort to keep meeting on track and reasonable duration. PMC acknowledged that discussing and debating motions are one of the core functions of a Mess meeting, therefore members would not be “silenced” from making main motions or subsidiary motions (amend, table, postpone indefinitely). Explained that any motions not specifically addressed during the meeting could still be debated electronically (by email) afterwards, per the updated constitution.

PMC stated that they will be standing down as PMC per the succession plan but will remain with the Mess Committee as a 12 AMS unit rep. Per the succession plan, V/PMC will assume PMC and Secretary will assume V/PMC. No replacement to Secretary has been identified for appointment and no candidates were forthcoming.

Secretary for this cycle must come from MCpl/MS and below and can be elected (by membership vote) or appointed (by WComd/WCWO).

2. Mess Committee composition

PMC

PMC explained briefly the composition of the Mess Executive, the Mess Committee, unit reps, and the succession from Mess Secretary up to Mess PMC. Identified Mess position vacancies and reiterate requirement for Mess Secretary from MCpl/MS and below rank group. PMC reminded members that Mess functions are based on the will of its membership and members are encouraged to take a more active role in the Mess. No candidates were forthcoming.

MESS EXECUTIVE	CURRENT	UPCOMING
PMC	MCPL PETER LEBLANC	CAPT KATELYN CARTER
V/PMC	CAPT KATELYN CARTER	PO2 FRANKIE GOSSE
SECRETARY	PO2 FRANKIE GOSSE	> vacant <

MESS COMMITTEE	CURRENT	UPCOMING
FINANCIAL REP	MCPL TAMAS KALLAI	MCPL TAMAS KALLAI
ENTERTAINMENT CHAIR	SGT JEN POIRIER	> vacant <
MARKETING CHAIR	CPL RICH DUNBAR	CPL RICH DUNBAR
IMPROVEMENTS CHAIR	MCPL LEGAARDEN	MCPL LEGAARDEN
SPORTS CHAIR	MCPL SAM YEADON	2LT JUSTIN KIRKE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REP	CAPT KATELYN MAHONEY	> vacant <
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REP	MWO PETER COOK	MWO PETER COOK

3.	<p>Review of previous minutes:</p> <p>Previous GMM minutes from 6 Oct 2023 were sent to the Mess membership by email for electronic vote.</p> <p>Motion to approve previous GMM minutes from email voting results are as follows:</p> <p>Approve : 47 Reject : 0 Abstain: 6 Total Votes: 53</p> <p>Motion Passed</p>	Secretary
4.	<p>Financial report</p> <p>Financial Rep announced the door prizes for members in attendance and asked everyone to look under their seats. Prior to the meeting several “winning” tickets were randomly taped under seats which winners would redeem for a \$15 gift card. This initiative was well received but several seats remained empty and prizes unclaimed due to limited attendance.</p> <p>Financial Rep explained the breakdown of Mess dues and how they impact the budget. Reminded members that the Mess is required to produce a balanced budget, while unencumbered cash covers losses and can be used for some purchases. The Mess bank account increased by \$6,000 this year, reversing a trend of decline from previous years.</p> <p>Reminded members that when Mess subsidizes event tickets or prizes, entitlement must always be greater for members than for guests. This does not mean that guests are prohibited from attending events or winning prizes. Examples provided included a grand prize which is only for members, or a ticket price \$10 more for guests. Also explained that events are only available for guests when attended by a member. The guest does not need to be escorted everywhere through the Mess, but they are not eligible to enter the Mess without an escort.</p> <p><i>The Financial Rep position is eligible for election but was unopposed with no candidate's forthcoming to challenge. MCpl Kallai remains as Financial Rep.</i></p>	Financial Rep
5.	<p>Entertainment report</p> <p>Entertainment Chair discussed intention to step down from Mess position and is looking for an appropriate replacement. The position is very rewarding, but also demanding. The Entertainment Chair said they believe the Mess community is important and a great thing.</p> <p>Past events</p> <p>Entertainment Chair listed off events over the last year, suggesting that family oriented events (which allow children to attend) were the most requested by</p>	Entertainment Chair

	<p>members and successful overall. Darts nights, although it was widely requested by members, have proven to be wholly unsuccessful with little to no participants and have been discontinued. Board game nights have been more popular than darts, with about 10-12 participants on average. Wing nights have seen some success, especially when underage guests were allowed in the Ashley Lounge (bar open only in Eagles Nest) with movies playing. Now that Warrior Block has finished their kitchen renovations and the Mess has access to the Sea King Club kitchen again the wing nights will be starting up again.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">*PMC amplified the statement “Mess has access to the kitchen again”. The Mess does not have free access to the kitchen, which although is within the Sea King Club building, does not belong to the 12 Wing Mess. The access to the kitchen is limited to Base Foods and cannot be used by Mess members. It still can be used by Base Foods to the benefit of members (for example, wing nights which are cooked on site).</p> <p>The pubcrawl was very successful but only allowed for a small number of participants so many missed out. More pubcrawls will be planned with priority to members who missed out. The Scotch-tasting event had only 30 tickets but sold out very quickly so the Mess will look to expand the scope of this event in the future. Bingo has also proven to be very popular and successful, so there will be more regular bingo events planned.</p> <p>Upcoming events</p> <p>Mess will look to host another trivia night event (with more ‘general knowledge’ trivia) and another casino style event. Entertainment Chair mentioned that several members have requested a poker tournament and called for a volunteer interested to organize it to contact the Mess. Mentioned the Wine and Cheese event organized by the V/PMC is scheduled for the weekend and there are still about 25 tickets available for purchase. Encouraged members to take part as there will be great wines from over the world and quality cheeses, so bring your spouse or guest.</p> <p>Lastly, mentioned that the Mess is hosting a clothing swap organized by the Financial Rep MCpl Kallai. Members can bring unwanted (but good condition) clothing, toys and household items to the Mess which will be set up and available for Mess members to take what they need, free of charge. The event starts on 25 March in the Ashley Lounge.</p> <p><i>The Entertainment Chair position is eligible for election but was unopposed with no candidate’s forthcoming to challenge. Sgt Poirier intends to step down and remain as a unit rep.</i></p> <p><i>The Entertainment Chair is forecast to be vacant.</i></p>	
6.	<p>Marketing report</p> <p>Marketing Chair was not present.</p> <p>PMC mentioned Marketing Chair Cpl Dunbar started with a team of four which has since dwindled to one. The idea was to improve methods and suggestions for how to promote events and news from the Mess. Emails and posters have limited results, but certainly we are open to new great ideas. PMC asked anyone who may be</p>	Marketing Chair

	<p>interested in joining the marketing team to reach out to the Mess or Cpl Dunbar directly.</p> <p><i>The Marketing Chair position is eligible for election but was unopposed with no candidate's forthcoming to challenge.</i></p> <p><i>Cpl Dunbar remains as Marketing Chair.</i></p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Golf simulator report</p> <p>Golf Simulator Rep was not present.</p> <p>PMC identified Sgt Kyle Wright as the Golf Simulator Rep which is not a recognized formal Mess position but a volunteer responsible to the Sports Chair. Golf Simulator Rep reported to the PMC before the meeting that the golf screen was damaged, caused primarily by incorrect golf tees being used. The company which sells the golf simulator also sells rubberized tees designed for use with the simulator, which the Mess Committee has agreed to purchase with discretionary funds (the total amount would be less than \$100). PMC also noted that the screen will need to be replaced at a price of \$500 before tax. PMC called for quick show of hands if the membership would want the Mess Committee to use discretionary funds to also replace the existing screen. The membership indicated they were in favour of this action.</p> <p>PMC also showed photo of what the simulator looked like after one of the sessions, which was disorganized, littered and had some broken clubs which were not reported. Suggested that new rules may need to be implemented to ensure that users of the golf simulator were held accountable to keep the area clean and tidy, and any broken items are reported.</p> <p><i>The Golf Simulator Rep position is a volunteer and not subject to elections. The position can be held by multiple members at once, just like with unit reps. Sgt Wright remains as Golf Simulator Rep and no other volunteers were forthcoming.</i></p>	<p>Golf Simulator Rep</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Improvements report</p> <p>Improvements Chair described proposal to update smoking area, one for cigarettes and one for cannabis. Proposal is for two outdoor covered seating area on either side of the south-east stairs by the south parking lot. Images are included in the powerpoint presentation (attached as enclosure). The idea is that the current smoking area is not ideal for patrons of the Mess, who often resort to smoking along the back patio anyway. The smoking area is proposed to include lights, chairs and tables, and propane heaters for winter time. Details were not available but it was suggested that some parts of this proposal, if approved, would not need to use Mess funds. The Mess will work towards making this proposal into an action item.</p> <p>There was also an opportunity to take chairs from the old Binnacle Room and replace them with some chairs in the Ashley Lounge. The comfort of the chairs is the primary reason for the proposed switch, as most of the Binnacle Room chairs are now used far less than those in the Ashley Lounge. PMC asked for a general show of hands if the Mess would be interested in replacing ALL the chairs in the Ashley Lounge (purchasing new chairs). About half showed to be in favour and half opposed so PMC stated that more discussion and research is needed before proposing this to the Mess.</p>	<p>Improvements Chair</p>

	<p><i>The Improvements Chair position is not eligible for election for another 6 months. (Mess Committee members are entitled to retain position for 1 year). MCpl Legaarden remains as Marketing Chair.</i></p>	
9.	<p>Sports report</p> <p>Sports Chair was not present.</p> <p>PMC announced that Sports Chair MCpl Yeadon will be stepping down and 2Lt Kirke will be assuming position. Explained that this Mess position has fluctuated between very relevant and important to almost non-existent, depending on what the membership wants. In the recent past tickets were purchased for various sports teams in the Halifax area and most of the tickets remained unclaimed or unused. In the future the Mess is looking set up rules which allow members to purchase a ticket for a game and bring the ticket and receipt to the Mess for some reimbursement. This way the Mess will not be wasting money buying unused tickets, but still help to benefit members who wish to take advantage of it.</p> <p>PMC asked that any members who are interested in sports related events to connect with the Mess for ideas and possibly, if there is enough interest, stand up a sports committee to streamline decisions. No members were forthcoming.</p> <p><i>The Sports Chair position is eligible for election this cycle. 2Lt Kirke has announced candidacy, with no other challengers forthcoming. 2Lt Kirke assumes Sports Chair by acclamation.</i></p>	Sports Chair
10.	<p>Professional development report</p> <p>Professional Development Rep was not present.</p> <p>PMC identified Capt Mahoney as Professional Development (PD) Rep. PD Rep indicated to Mess Committee at the last committee meeting that the position of PD Rep may not be valuable to the Mess membership. The rationale for this came from previous events which were organized and had zero attendance. Other events which were run by Halifax and extended invitations to 12 Wing Shearwater also saw very low attendance. The PMC suggested that this position evolved from what was once the Living-In Members rep (primarily to represent Warrior Block residents) into what it is today and agrees with PD Rep that the scope of the position today should be reviewed and amended to be more relevant, otherwise the position could be rescinded. PMC challenged the membership to reach out with ideas of what could be done with this position to make it more relevant and beneficial to the Mess of today.</p> <p><i>The PD Rep is eligible for election this cycle but the viability of the position is under review by the Mess Committee. Capt Mahoney is stepping down as PD Rep. No candidates were forthcoming, the PD Rep position is forecast to be re-purposed or rescinded.</i></p>	Professional Development Rep
11.	<p>Associate members report</p> <p>Associate Members Rep identified that there are currently no Associate Members. Proposed starting a registry where retired members could come to the Mess and</p>	Associate Members Rep

	<p>request being invited as a guest to a function. This would be for people who want to be part of the Mess but don't have anyone who is attending events which could invite them as a guest.</p> <p>Comment was raised by LCol Malone suggesting that what was being proposed would be satisfied by those guests becoming Associate Members and paying Associate Member dues. MWO Cook responded that the current dues for Associate Members doesn't make financial sense for them to join, as there is little return on investment. This way it would allow guests which are eligible to become Associate Members but are only interested in some events to still participate and potentially add revenue to events.</p> <p>PMC recognized there are good points being raised, and reminded the Mess that the current dues for Associate Members were voted on recently and that the Mess is able to set and amend dues for all members. The catch-22 being suggested is that if we plan events which are only, for example, \$5 less for members than for guests, then potential Associate Members would not see a return on investment becoming members and paying dues when as guests they would only have to pay \$5 more. So some consideration should be made about if we want to encourage potential associate members to join rather than remain as guests, and implement these considerations into planning of events. The constitution amendment can be proposed to reflect the position of the Mess. PMC suggested that this should be discussed and debated further and reintroduced the membership at a later time.</p> <p><i>The Associate Members Rep position is eligible for election this cycle but was unopposed with no candidate's forthcoming to challenge. MWO Cook remains as Associate Members Rep.</i></p>	
12.	<p>Old business</p> <p>PMC discussed personal experience of being part of the Mess Executive and thanked the Mess Committee for all the help they have provided during his tenure.</p> <p><i>-Motion to amend constitution to allow wearing of hats in the Mess when in civilian dress:</i></p> <p>PMC explained the circumstances leading to and results of the proposal to allow the wearing of hats in the Mess while in civilian clothing. Several members had communicated to the Mess a strong desire to change this rule, which prompted the Mess to investigate if this was even possible before asking the membership. The initial finding indicated the Mess defines its own dress policy, unless that contradicts a higher policy. CF Dress Instructions clearly states that hats are to be removed in the Mess, however the incorrect assumption that the interpretation of CF Dress Instructions with regards to hats in the Mess might apply only to the wearing of uniform (one of the 5 orders of dress) and not in civilian clothing. Guests are not explicitly subjected to the CF Dress Instructions, although their conduct (regarding the rules of the Mess) remains the responsibility of the member who invited them in, and most Legions now allow the wearing of hats for guests. After it was presented to the Mess, the motion was determined to not be in order (not a valid motion) and would not carry regardless of voting results. The counting of votes was ceased and the motion was rescinded. PMC acknowledged that this vote was extremely polarizing for members, with many members reaching out directly to express a very positive or very negative reaction to the motion, depending on their own personal beliefs. PMC apologized to the membership for any offense caused as there was a</p>	PMC

	<p>great many who were offended. The intent of bringing the constitution amendment to vote was an effort to remain impartial and fair to the membership. It was noted that, although many were strongly opposed, most of the votes received were in favour of the amendment. The PMC asked if there were any further comments or discussion related to this matter but there was not.</p> <p><i>-Discussion: Hiring of drivers/renting of vehicles for Mess events:</i> PMC indicated that last Mess meeting the question was raised about using members vehicles, or rental vehicles with members driving. This was suggested after a discussion about the limited use case for taxi chits, during the last meeting. PMC had suggested during the last meeting that it was possible for the Mess to use members as drivers and rent cars or use members cars, however, this was inaccurate. If the Mess desires to use drivers to ferry members back and forth between events and their home (or elsewhere), the Mess should be officially hiring a driving service with a signed contract to accomplish this. The Mess cannot assume liability for transportation of members and therefore cannot support members as drivers. WO Scherrer asked the question from the floor if they could leave a note inside their car which stated they would drive members home for a small fee. PMC flatly stated that this was not allowed, although nothing prevents a member from offering rides to their friends, the Mess could not support this action.</p> <p><i>-Motion: Mess to spend up to \$1500 for tabletop gaming station:</i> Motion was approved. The members involved in this acquisition are still sourcing what is required and will be making the purchases through the Mess soon.</p> <p><i>-Raffle draw for volunteers:</i> PMC mentioned that a draw would be made for all members who volunteered at a Mess event over the last year, as had been done previously when Sgt Poirier was still PMC. The draw would be for gift cards and was offered as a thank you to encourage more volunteers to come forward. PMC asked any volunteers who did not respond to Sgt Poirier’s email to come forward after the meeting so they can be included in the draw. The draw occurred after the meeting and the winners were contacted by email.</p> <p><i>-Mess contest draw:</i> PMC mentioned that the Mess would start the monthly contest draw again as of Monday (4 Mar). Each week members could sign the registry, with the draw occurring at the end of the month for a \$150 gift card. Contest would continue each month except December as the Mess is far too busy during that month.</p> <p><i>-Underage guests:</i> PMC wanted to reiterate the rules surrounding underage guests. Reminded members that the Mess is a social club but it also a bar with an active NS liquor license. Although some events occur which allow underage guests, most do not. When underage guests are invited, there are restrictions which must be followed. Most events will not allow underage guests (underage members are always allowed) unless clearly stated.</p> <p>PMC turnover. MCpl LeBlanc stepped down as PMC, Capt Carter assumes position of PMC.</p>	
11.	New business	PMC (new)

PMC (new) thanked MCpl LeBlanc for service to the Mess.

Describes proposal for a new gaming station researched by Avr Mezei (who recently gamed fame during a Call of Duty gaming contest which objectively makes them one of the most accomplished gamers in the RCAF). Avr Mezei was not present in the meeting but had supporters who spoke on their behalf. The proposal sent to the Mess by email but was not considered by the Mess Committee to be ready as a motion for vote by membership. The proposal was for a gaming station which included 16x screens, chairs, tables, controllers, and gaming systems (PS5), as well as associated components. Proposal was quoted at \$20,000 but expected total cost would be more since proposal did not include games. Discussion from the floor noted that PS5 may not be as practical as computer and programs like Steam. More discussion suggested that Steam wouldn't be the appropriate program either, and that possible storage space of a console would be limited to only 1 or 2 games unless additional harddrives were purchased. PMC mentioned that Mess made a purchase for single gaming station which is located near the golf simulator and is effectively never used. PMC also identified that the CAF/RCAF supports the idea of e-gaming tournaments (based on previous official tournaments held), and it would be great if 12 Wing was able to stand up their own tournament or expand on the national level tournaments. Recognizing that the proposal is not ready for final debate, PMC informed the Mess that this proposal would be considered further and pushed to the membership as a motion for discussion/debate and vote when ready, but not during this meeting.

-Motion to spend \$10,000 to reimburse RCAF Centennial Gala Dinner Tickets

PMC presented first motion to the membership. Motioned by Capt Jamie Arnott and seconded by LCol Thomey, the motion was for the Mess to spend up to \$10,000 to subsidize members tickets to the RCAF Centennial 12 Wing Gala Dinner by \$50. Members would have to purchase ticket first, then go to the Mess for reimbursement.

Discussion from the floor asked if the motion could be reconsidered to be more rank based, where Avr's are reimbursed \$75 for example, and officers for \$10 or something similar. MCpl LeBlanc informed the rationale behind the decision of \$50 was due to fairness of all members belonging to the same Mess and therefore the same advantages. LCol Lawrence made a motion to amend the existing motion to subsidize Junior Ranks \$75, WOs/Sgts, \$50, Officers, \$25. An in-person vote to settle the motion to amend was requested. PMC repeated the motion to amend, repeating the amounts described above, and called for a vote by show of hands. Motion passed, original motion was amended.

-Proposal for Mess to investigate refurbishing the Ashley Lounge stage setup.

MWO Cook suggested to the membership that the Ashley Lounge stage setup needs to be refurbished, particularly the lighting setup above the stage, the internet connectivity (which was just recently updated), and the sound system and microphones. Discussion from the floor suggested that this update was originally proposed 3-4 years ago during a Mess meeting but nothing came of it. PMC suggested that if the proposal was that long ago with no further action it may have been abandoned or forgotten about. More discussion from the floor also noted that the old officer Mess was updated for about \$20,000 and then promptly abandoned (as the Messes combined to and utilized only the Sea King Club). PMC asked if there was a member who wanted to investigate this proposal further and come back

	<p>with a formal motion. MWO Cook volunteered to investigate further and report back to the Mess.</p> <p>PMC asked for further question/comments, none were forthcoming.</p>	
13.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>PMC thanked everyone for participating.</p> <p>PMC asked for a motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Motioned: S1 Oulette Seconded: CWO Beaudoin</p> <p>Motioned passed by acclamation. Meeting adjourned at 1356.</p>	PMC
	<p>Post Meeting</p> <p>The following motions were sent to the membership by Mess email. Votes received by email reply shown below.</p> <p><u>Motion #1 (amended from original motion)</u> Motion that the Mess spend up to \$10,000 from the Mess Bank account to subsidize Mess member ticket price to RCAF Centennial 12 Wing Gala Dinner as follows: \$25 – Officers \$50 – Sgt/PO2 and above \$75 – MCpl/MS and below</p> <p>*Members must purchase ticket at full price and contact the Mess afterward for reimbursement in amount noted above. Only 12 Wing Mess members who purchase their ticket are eligible for reimbursement.</p> <p>Motioned: LCol Lawrence Seconded: LCol Malone</p> <p>APPROVE: 254 REJECT: 61 ABSTAIN: 17</p> <p>Motion Passed</p> <p><u>Motion to approve Mess Budget</u> Motion to approve proposed 12 Wing Mess budget FY 24-25</p> <p>Motion required annually by constitution.</p> <p><i>*Original email sent to the membership had incorrect budget values due to minor formatting errors in the excel sheet. Corrected and accurate values were redistributed to the membership and have been corrected on the attachments with these minutes. Some members requested to change their vote from reject to approve after corrected numbers, which had a negligible impact on the vote.</i></p>	Mess Executive

	APPROVE: 199 REJECT: 18 ABSTAIN: 20 Motion Passed – FY 24-25 budget accepted by membership.	
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K.E. Carter
 Capt
 12 Wing Mess PMC
 720-3043

C.J. Andrecyk
 (civilian)
 PSP Deputy Manager
 721-8709

Recommended / ~~Not Recommended~~

G.R. Stark
 LT(N)
 Mess Officer
 721-7883

Recommended / ~~Not Recommended~~

I recommend the mess minutes for signature with the exception of Item 8 - Improvements report. The Mess is not authorized to proceed with making changes to the smoking areas/cannabis areas without first discussing with the Base Chief.

C.G. Foley
 Cdr
 B Adm O
 721-8611

Approved / Not Approved

D.F.G. Holmes
Col
12 Wing Comd
720-1000

Approved / Not Approved

Dist List

Mess Manager
FPFAS
PSP Deputy Manager
Mess Officer/ACCN O
HSO
Mess Notice Board

Enclosures: 2 (attached)
- 12 Wing Mess Budget FY 24/25.pdf
- GMM 1 MAR 24 slides.pdf