



DCRETIREES.ORG.UK

Q4 Minutes

Chairperson:
Vacancy Still Exists

Secretary:
Robert N. Wardle
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Treasurer:
Richard J. Thomas
Tel: 01446 737218
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Membership Secretary:
Val. T. Caple
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APOLOGIES:

Derek Butler, Steve Kraus, Christina Whitchurch, Bert & Brenda Dowdell, Mike Bullows, Linda Jones, Ruth Beasley, Gerry Goodman, Annie & Milton skins, Margaret McMillan, Tommy Lake, Muriel Longden, Brian Rich.

CHAIRPERSON:

We are still seeking a member to take on the role as a charismatic Chairperson, whose aim will be to get the most out of the association with promotion of the group being a key activity.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Do you know the answers to these questions?

Who manages your association?

Who sets policies and all fees?

Who decides the venues for outings and annual dinners?

The answer is **"You do!"** Or at least you could if you were a member of the management committee.

What would Joining the Committee Involve?

To be a committee member is not a demanding role, even as an officer such as the Chairperson we so desperately seek. All that is needed is your enthusiasm and a little of your time.

What do Members Actually Do?

Committee Member: Attends and votes at committee meetings.

Secretary: Same as committee member plus takes minutes of the meetings; organises the meetings and venues; signs occasional cheque's.

Treasurer: Same as committee member plus passes on financial report at meetings, arranges audits of accounts, signs cheque's; banking of membership fees and any payment made to the Association by Dow Corning.

Membership Secretary: Same as committee member plus responsible for annual renewal reminders. Keeping a spreadsheet of membership fees and contact details.

Friendship Coordinator: Same as committee member plus keeps track of members requesting transport for hospital appointments or visiting partner in hospital.

Chair: Chairs committee meetings; signs cheque's; issues a quarterly report to the members.

To Survive Your Association needs YOU!

Please consider joining the committee and becoming a little more involved in the life of your former friends and work colleagues. Please contact Rob, Richard or Val (numbers, email addresses shown above) if you are interested.

The Year so far

Dow Corning Corp. announced on 05/02 a 10 percent increase in net income in 2015, despite a 9 percent decrease in sales resulting from a strong U.S. dollar. For the year, Dow Corning reported \$5.65 billion of sales and \$563 million of net income. Dow Corning's fourth quarter net income was \$193 million on sales of \$1.47 billion.

Dow Corning's adjusted net income in 2015 was \$492 million, a decrease of 6 percent compared to 2014. Adjusted net income for 2015 excluded the impact of a derivative contract and gains resulting from the sale of property, long-term sales agreements and implant liability adjustment. Additional information about Dow Corning's financial results:

2015 Year-End Results

Dow Corning continued to increase sales volumes in its most profitable specialty silicones product lines with notable strength in the high performance building, packaging, electronics, and health and beauty care industries. Sales from Dow Corning's Polysilicon segment continued to decrease as the timing of customers taking product under long-term contracts resulted in fewer shipments.

	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	% Change	2015	2014	% Change
Sales (in billions)	\$1.47	\$1.68	-12%	\$5.65	\$6.22	-9%
Net income (in millions)	\$193	\$37	419%	\$563	\$513	10%
Adjusted net income* (in millions)	\$157	\$205	-23%	\$492	\$522	-6%

* Adjusted net income is a non-GAAP financial measure which excludes certain unusual items. The reconciliation between GAAP and non-GAAP measures is shown in the table following the news release.

Comments from Dow Corning's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer J. Donald Sheets :

"Dow Corning's efforts to increase the profitability of our Silicones business in 2015 enabled us to offset the currency headwinds we faced as well as the continued volatility in our Polysilicon business."

"Our ability to sustain volume growth in our most profitable specialty silicones product lines demonstrates Dow Corning's leadership in providing highly innovative and differentiated products to our customers."

"We continued to enhance the efficiency of our operations in 2015, enabling Dow Corning to provide unmatched global scale and services to our customers while continuing to invest in R&D and growth opportunities."

"We see a tremendous opportunity to accelerate growth in our Silicones business upon completion of the Dow Chemical and Corning Inc. transaction. The added power of Dow's brand, operational excellence, global scale and powerful innovation and R&D engine will provide our customers with even greater expertise and capabilities."



Norman Bailey recently asked if we could forward a photograph shown opposite to site management of how he has made one lapel badge from all his service lapel badges awarded over his 38.5 years service with the company. It is unique to say the least and no doubt the only one within the world.

Do you still have yours or your partners lapel or other long service awards with stones inlaid such as key rings, necklaces etc. Please let us know if you still have yours and do you wear them with pride. Remember some were key rings and necklaces

From the bottom up:

10 years, 15 years Aqua Marine, 20 years Emerald, Carriage Clock for 25 years, 30 and 35 years Diamonds and then Barometer.

Rob Wardle(DCRA Secretary).

1. Financial status year to-date:

Current account balance:	1871.09
Unpresented Cheques:	
Welfare	-20.00
Manning DC Shop	-55.64
Friendship Group	-48.00
DC Shop Takings	-710.00
Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS)	-1.70
Tesco Vouchers (cheque in lieu of a Voucher from 2015)	-15.00
Savings account balance	1662.31
Float totals	302.68
	=====
Net Assets YTD =	<u>£ 2985.74</u>

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2016 (up to 3rd March) for a summary of 2016 accounts year to-date.

A further breakdown is available during the meeting for those members wishing to see it. Any further queries please contact the treasurer.

2. DCRA accounts for 2015:

The 2015 accounts are ready to be audited and the files will be sent on for audit following the meeting provided there are no concerns or errors identified by members.

We ended up with a surplus of £226.89 for the year.

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2015 for a summary of 2015 accounts.

A further breakdown is available during the meeting for those members wishing to see it. Any further queries please contact the treasurer.

3. Standing Order payment option for 2016 Membership Subs:

The option of paying subscription by Standing Order was taken up by several members and to-date we have taken subs via 60 Standing Orders/on-line payments with a further 11 pending (waiting for the money to hit the account).

We have some fine tuning to improve on this option but overall see it as a success and will continue to offer the option for future years.

Richard Thomas (DCRA Treasurer).

Dow Corning Retirees Association					
Income and Expenditure Account for 2016					
2016 Income YTD (3rd March)			2016 Expenditure YTD (3rd March)		
Welfare		0.00	Welfare		30.00
Members Subscriptions		421.00	Xmas cards/gifts		0.00
Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions		0.00	Tesco Vouchers		0.00
Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning)		0.00	Manning DC Shop		90.28
DC Shop Takings		710.00	DC Shop Takings		710.00
Admin		0.00	Admin		17.68
Coach Trips		0.00	Coach Trips		0.00
Annual Dinner/Lunch		0.00	Annual Dinner (2014)		0.00
Friendship Group		0.00	Friendship Group		48.00
Interest earned (end July 2014).		0.08	Nordic Walking Group		0.00
			Skittles Group Expenses		0.00
			Walking Group Expenses		0.00
			Secretary's Expenses		0.00
			Treasurers Expenses		0.00
	Total Income	1131.08		Total Expense	895.96
Surplus for 2016					235.12
Balances -End of Dec. 2015			Balances - 3rd Mar. 2016		
Current Account		1565.71	Current Account		1871.09
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2014		-780.00	Unpresented Cheques		-850.34
Savings Account		1662.23	Savings Account		1662.31
Treasurers Float		0.00	Treasurers Float		0.00
Secretary's Float		0.00	Secretary's Float		0.00
Skittles Float		4.18	Skittles Float		4.18
Walking Group Float		-1.50	Walking Group Float		-1.50
Coach Trips Float		0.00	Coach Trips Float		0.00
DC Shop Float		300.00	DC Shop Float		300.00
			Net Assets end of 2015		2985.74
			Minus surplus end of 2015		-235.12
		2750.62			2750.62

Dow Corning Retirees Association					
Income and Expenditure Account for 2015					
2015 Income			2015 Expenditure		
Welfare		20.00	Welfare		370.00
Members Subscriptions		605.00	Xmas cards/gifts		98.00
Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions		298.50	Tesco Vouchers		3010.00
Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning)		4487.68	Manning DC Shop		242.48
DC Shop Takings		4125.00	DC Shop Takings		4125.00
Admin		0.00	Admin		698.44
Coach Trips		1119.50	Coach Trips		1681.67
Annual Dinner/Lunch		1386.00	Annual Dinner (2014)		1323.82
Friendship Group		70.00	Friendship Group		64.80
Interest earned (end July 2014).		0.83	Nordic Walking Group		5.70
			Skittles Group Expenses		14.21
			Walking Group Expenses		251.50
			Secretary's Expenses		0.00
			Treasurers Expenses		0.00
	Total Income	12112.51		Total Expense	11885.62
Surplus for 2015					226.89
Balances -End of Dec. 2014			Balances - End of Dec. 2015		
Current Account		819.62	Current Account		1565.71
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2014		-275.68	Unpresented Cheques		-780.00
Savings Account		1661.40	Savings Account		1662.23
Treasurers Float		0.00	Treasurers Float		0.00
Secretary's Float		0.00	Secretary's Float		0.00
Skittles Float		18.39	Skittles Float		4.18
Walking Group Float		0.00	Walking Group Float		-1.50
Coach Trips Float		0.00	Coach Trips Float		0.00
DC Shop Float		300.00	DC Shop Float		300.00
			Net Assets end of 2015		2750.62
			Minus surplus end of 2015		-226.89
		2523.73			2523.73

Site Shop Report

The shop opening times are 11.30 a.m. To 1.30 p.m.

If anyone find it difficult to make a Wednesday or the new times they can contact me and hopefully an alternative arrangement will be made.

As many of you know that has always been available to you.

Contact details are given at the end of this report.

The cost of purchasing sealants is £1.60.

The small sealants remain at £1.00

We have a comprehensive range of Pyrex goods, arguably the best in South Wales. There still have some promotional items at very competitive prices and we are always looking to purchase new lines.

I have introduced some new items namely; Sauce pans, Frying pans and Saute pans. We also have a new range of Ceramic Fry Pans at a special promotion and very competitive prices.

We have a stock of “Bolle” safety glasses in clear and dark lenses. Ideal for sporting activities e.g. cycling etc.

Sealants remain our best seller and are still a very good buy.

My thanks go to the Retirees committee for the support they are giving to the shop and hope to see many retired members in the near future.

Finally my thanks as always to Dianne and Ken Doble, and Gloria. My special thanks to Ruth Beasley who cannot manage the shop in my absence and has to look after Anthony.

Regards... Don Surridge.





Volunteer activity:

Volunteers are continuing to help members “in need” at a current request rate of 1 to 2 trips a month. The members being helped are a relatively small percentage of the total number of members highlighting that we need to continue to make members aware of the Friendship Group and encourage any member “in need” of transportation to a hospital appointment or to visit a spouse/partner in hospital, to get in touch and we will do our best to accommodate the request.

Unfortunately, no new volunteers have come forward this year, this is a concern as we need a supply of new volunteers to be able to sustain the service.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer or coordinator please contact me

(Richard Thomas) on 01446 737218, email rjthomas@maintop.co.uk.

Friendship Group Expenses:

Thanks to member donations and the majority of volunteers not claiming expenses, the net expense of the group for 2015 was -£5.20 (i.e. a surplus). So far this year the expense for the group is £48.00 which is related to taxi fares incurred by a member when unfortunately, a volunteer’s car developed a fault and was unable to be used for the member’s trip to a hospital appointment.

WCVA STOPPING SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEER CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS:

Due to funding cuts, WCVA no longer process Criminal Record Checks which they previously did free of charge. We now have to find another organization that will carry out this service for us. For volunteers the actual check is free of charge but the organization processing the documents etc. generally charge an administration fee, e.g. the Vale Council charge £24.00 for each check. We might be able to find an organization that has a cheaper admin. charge, but then identification checks could cause problems if they are not a local organization. I will continue to look into this. It’s not an urgent problem to us at present since we have no new volunteers.

Richard Thomas (Friendship Group Coordinator / Secretary).

Membership Administration:

By now some members have received several reminder letters about renewing their membership. It is still not too late to renew yours now because we don’t want to loose you. However we will not be sending out any further renewal notices to you so, if you wish to continue receiving the benefits enjoyed by our members please renew **NOW**.

Membership so far includes 130 doubles and 102 singles, 362 members in total. Our membership is slowly decreasing.

We welcome two new members, Jonathon Mead and Graham Pugh.



ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF
MEMBERSHIP

Val Caple - Membership Secretary

Out & About with our Groups

Day Trips / Short Tours

We have approached Edwards coaches who have provided several costs for the hire of a 49 seater coach. They (Edwards) have provided various locations and the cost of their coach.

Weston - £525.00

Gloucester - £545.00

Cotswolds - £585.00

Stratford Upon Avon - £595.00

St Davids, Pembroke - £605.00

Tenby - £550.00

Carmarthen - £510.00

Based on their costs versus distances as shown, Ken might be able to offer some suggestions soon.

[Rob Wardle](#)

Skittles

No update on any forthcoming skittle events.

[Rob Wardle](#)

Walking Group

The annual New Year's Day climb up onto Pen Y Fan was completed this year by 5 walkers, a smaller number than normal, but maybe in the light of the weather hardly surprising. A healthy SE gale was blowing which became fully apparent as we breasted the Col. Standing up was difficult but two hardy (maybe foolish) souls battled on to reach PYF summit. Whilst attempting to take a photo the leader dropped a glove only to see it rapidly disappear over the edge. It was retrieved from the snow covered slope some 50 foot down. The return was uneventful, but mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed by all on reaching the cars.

The proper January walk was held at Kenfig Burrows in order to avoid muddy paths. We walked the Wales Coast Path to Porthcawl, had a picnic lunch in the sunshine sat on a grassy cliff overlooking the sparkling Bristol Channel. The 11 walkers returned by much the same route to the Visitor Centre having walked almost 8 miles.

February's walk was closer to home and at low altitude to avoid the vagaries of winter weather, especially on the Brecon Beacons. We started the 8 mile walk at Castell Coch and walked along part of the Taff Trail before descending and crossing the River Taff itself. We climbed up to Gwaelod y Garth and then up onto Garth Mountain before retreating from a cutting westerly wind into the warmth of the Gwaelod y Garth Inn for lunch. Back over the Taff and back to the cars before the gates closed at 1630 hours. A lovely walk in good company.

Always looking for new walks, we choose part of Coed Morganwyd and St Illtyds Way for our March walk. It was a 8 mile linear walk so we met at Dave and Julia Fulford's house at Margam Park Village, sent some cars to Bryn and then set off. The weather forecast was dire, cold, gales, sleet, snow and rain, but the Saints were with us as we experienced an enjoyable weather window. Eleven walkers turned out and we celebrated one couple's Golden Wedding Anniversary with Champagne and cake.

Anyone wishing to join, or wanting more information may contact Stuart McMillan
(Tel 029 2070 5234, or e-mail mcmillan42H@talktalk.net).

Come Walk With Us

We thank the Retiree's Association and the Executive for their continued support.

Upcoming walks are:

6 Apr	Wales Coast Path: Goldcliff to Newport (Linear Walk) Meet 1030 at Farmers Arms Inn at Goldcliff (NP18 2AU)	8.5	E
4 May	Fifteen Waterfalls Walk Meet 1030 at Angel Inn at Pontneddfechan off A465, on the B4242	9.5	C
1 June	Cray Reservoir, Fan Ghirych, Forests and Tramroads Meet 1030 roadside carpark (SN 887 212) on A4067 Abercraf to Cral	9.5	M

[Stuart McMillan](#)

[Nordic Walking](#)

Regulars continue to meet at 10:00 a.m. on Monday's at Cosmeston Lakes.

Mavis Crockett recently joined the regulars. If anyone wishes to join in, please contact Rob Wardle 07762 126533.

[Rob Wardle](#)

Come Nordic Walking With Us

[Cycling Group](#)

Nothing to report to our association members this quarter. Maybe Stuart McMillan could report back at the next meeting.

[Rob Wardle](#)

[AOB](#)

The chairman's role was discussed in depth as were other committee member roles.

It was suggested that we could run as other associations without a chairperson so long as a secretary and treasurer are in place.

The executive committee's response to this point was, we all have more than one role because of the reduced numbers of volunteers on committee. We (the executive committee) believe we could possibly run until the AGM in September when the association members would need to decide the future of the association if we fail to appoint a chairman.

Don Surridge volunteered to stand as chairman for this interim period and was thanked by those members present.

Several suggestions were made to try and find a chairman including asking Ryan Howell HR Manager if his department could look at employees who are on a reduced working week because they are in receipt of their pension and retiring soon whether they would like to become an active member of the association now. Rob Wardle will email Ryan requesting a meeting with him and the executive committee to discuss the proposed idea.

Sue Sugden mentioned that since Jim's passing, she cannot commit to organising skittles events as it was a partnership with Jim. If there are any members who would like the skittles matches to continue, then someone will need to step up as a volunteer. Rob Wardle will assist with organising and sending out the letters etc. if there is someone who is prepared to run the skittles nights.

It was heartening to hear a member mention the friendship she and her husband find by being members of the association especially the social side of day trips and short breaks.

The cost of Edwards coaches for day trips again seems much higher than some of their competitors therefore for day trips only we will continue to look around. For short breaks we believe Edwards do offer a better quality hotel.

Suggestions for day trips are:

Ludlow - Kaye Incledon

Sidmouth - Mavis Crockett and Nora Lindop

Lynton and Lymouth - Mavis Crockett

Exeter - Ken Doble has previously discussed this proposal with Rob Wardle

Please keep your ideas flowing by calling Ken on 01446 734679.

Passings:

Sadly three association members are no longer with us since our last quarterly meeting held in December namely Dilys Smith widow of the late Charlie Smith, more recently Joe Mulcock who continued to work as one of the Barry site postmen after retiring as a well respected process operator in the Fluids area. Joe was always humorous. Fred Saunders has also sadly passed away in a hospice on the Isle of Man.

The meeting closed at 15:30 hours

DONM
June 06 2016