

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES—THE NANOOSE BAY PROBUS CLUB
FRIDAY, November 21st, 2025

WELCOME:

President: Brian Freestone called the meeting to order at 9:15 am

President's Comments: Brian Freestone welcomed all in attendance with a special welcome to guests.

First Order of Business:

Call for approval of the October 17th, 2025 meeting minutes as posted on the website. Motion: Jenny Ransom. Seconded by: Jane Currie

There were no questions or comments. President Brian Freestone called for the vote to approve. Approved by all. Carried

There were 68 members and guests in attendance.

Guest Introductions: There were no guest introductions.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Vera Moore

Vera presented name badges to new members: Don and Marlene Bisson

The club has 197 active members and 3 honorary members.

Vera confirmed that the membership fee structure for the 2026 term will remain the same at: \$42.50 for one, or \$85.00 for a couple. Vera advised the membership dues are payable after January 1st, 2026 and due by January 31st, 2026. There will be an announcement about the membership renewal in both the Newsletter and on the Website in the first week of January.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tim Westinghouse

Chequing/Community Partner Package: \$9,185.02

Savings/GIC Community Cashable: \$7,300.63

Total: \$16,485.65

Tim explained that the Community Partner Package has a higher balance because it has funds for the Probus Christmas Dinner and the December 7th Chemainus production which will be dispersed in the next couple of weeks.

Sunshine: Leslie Horsman

Two sunshine cards were delivered this month.

SOCIAL: Wendy Hayes

October 19th Truffle Farm Tour was a success with 23 members attending and an enjoyable evening was had by all. Peter and Virginia are amazing hosts and have many ideas for social gatherings at their perfect venue.

November 13th: Vicki Beazley organized a tour of the Nanaimo Museum followed by lunch at the Old City Station Pub. 7 members attended. The Museum has several interesting displays with little known facts about the history of the area. The Pub was a short walk from the Museum and the food was very good.

Wednesday, December 10th: Christmas party at Pacific Moon Rising at 6:00 pm with Fiona Been taking the lead on this event. The Social Committee met to discuss decorating, door prizes, special food requirements, and the ordering of wine for the Christmas Party. The price is \$88.00 per person and so far 89 people have signed up. Fiona will email participants regarding details and will provide a wine list with prices, so people can order in advance and she will place the bottle on their table that evening. The deadline for sign up is December 1st.

Ann Lawson is in the process of organizing a trip to the Museum in Victoria for early January. An expression of interest sheet is on the table.

Wendy Hayes has contacted those who wanted to try the Escape Room experience in Nanaimo, which was postponed last year. Six of the ten who signed up have replied that they wish to go. Wendy put out an interest sheet at the meeting to see if others are interested. The date will be in late February.

President Brian Freestone thanked Wendy Hayes and all her team for doing such an excellent job in organizing activities for our club.

COMMUNICATIONS: Jane Currie

Jane Currie thanked Gary Haynes, Vicki Beazley, Ann Lawson, and Ron Windrim for all their help with Communications.

Jane asked members to please send her prospective banner photos for the January, February, and March Newsletters, preferably of winter scenes.

Jane reminded members to watch for the membership renewal notice in the Newsletter and on the Website in the first week of January.

SPEAKER COMMITTEE: Gail Marlow

Gail reported that the February 19th speaker will be Cosette Justo Valdes, the Artistic Director of the Vancouver Island Symphony in Nanaimo. More information will be in the Newsletter and on the Website.

Brian Freestone mentioned that the PSNC (Probus Speakers' Networking Committee) met recently and there are now 10 clubs represented.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: Pat Hill (presented by Brian Freestone)

*The First Edition Book Club is still seeking a new member.

*Mah Jongg has several new members and is reaching out to the club to purchase used tile sets. If you have one that you would like to part with, please see Vicki Beazley.

*The Men's Discussion Group has openings for 2 to 3 new members. If any member is interested, please contact Peter Milne.

Pat Hill created a chart, which is on the back table, listing a wide range of potential new activity groups. Please check it out and add a check mark beside any you might be interested in. There is no obligation.

CATERING: Brian Freestone thanked Kitchen Coordinator, Vivian Turgeon, for her contribution to Kitchen Operations for the term. Vivian is now stepping back from her role, with Jenny Ransom jumping in to cover for Vivian. Brian thanked Carolyn Bouma, Jeri McLeod, and Alison Westinghouse for providing coffee and snacks.

Brian asked Jenny Ransom to highlight the Sign-up Sheet on the table for the month of January and onward into 2026. Jenny urged members to sign up for kitchen duty, saying if everyone took a turn, they would only have to do it once in three years. Jenny also asked for a volunteer to become the new Kitchen Coordinator starting in January.

Special Recognition: Brian Freestone expressed thanks to Don Jackson and Sharon Jackson and the entire crew for set-up and to Bryan Beazley and other members for the take-down of chairs at the end of the meeting.

Brian Freestone urged members to consider volunteering for Vice-President as our club needs a new VP by March when Pat Hill becomes President.

COFFEE BREAK: 9:35 am – 9:50 am

GUEST SPEAKER:

Brian Freestone called on Gail Marlow to introduce our Guest Speaker, Heidi Stokes, who spoke about the Elderdog Program.

After Heidi's presentation, Gail Marlow thanked her and presented her with a Probus bag.

President Brian Freestone asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 am. Moved by Harry Broersma. Seconded by Wendy Hayes. All in favour. Carried.