

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES—THE NANOOSE BAY PROBUS CLUB
Friday, January 16th, 2026

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 November 21st, 2025 meeting minutes as posted on the website. Motion: Alison Westinghouse. Seconded by: Stan Wood. There were no questions or comments. President Brian Freestone called for the vote to approve. Approved by all. Carried

There were 65 members and guests in attendance.

Guest Introductions:

There were two guests introduced.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Vera Moore

Vera presented a name badge to new member: Martine (Marty) Sallenbach. The club has 191 active members and 3 honorary members. Vera reminded members that the deadline to pay membership dues is January 31st, 2026.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tim Westinghouse

Chequing/Community Partner Package:	\$8,082.81
Savings/GIC Community Cashable:	\$5,300.63
Total:	\$13,383.44

Sunshine: Leslie Horsman

Leslie reported that two members, Judith McGillivray and Vivian Turgeon, passed away in early January. We send our sincere condolences to their families.

Five sunshine cards were delivered in December and January.

SOCIAL: Wendy Hayes

December 10th: Christmas Party 2025 at Pacific Moon Rising was highly successful. 87 people attended and comments indicated that a good time was had by all. Thank you to Fiona Been for organizing a great event, to Carolyn Bouma for her creative expertise, and the team of helpers who gathered décor, donated door prizes, decorated and greeted guests. A big vote of appreciation to Pacific Moon Rising and to Louise and her staff for their excellent service and attention to detail. The venue looked beautiful and the food was delicious and plentiful. It has been discussed booking the same venue and DJ for next year's Christmas Party.

January 12th: Ann Lawson organized a trip to Victoria where 12 participants ate lunch in a private dining room at the Legislature, followed by a tour of the Royal BC Museum.

Ann announced that PRISMA, held in Powell River, is on June 27th, 2026. Tickets go on sale in March and she will have a sign up sheet next month.

Friday, February 27th: Wendy Hayes said that two rooms at EXIT Escape Room in Nanaimo have been booked. To date there are 15 people signed up. If you are interested please sign up on the sheet at the back table, adding your contact information. If you have signed up, but no longer want to go, please remove your name.

March: Wendy is looking into booking a jewelry making workshop with Angie from Evenflow Studio. Watch for details and sign up on the Probus Website and at the February meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: Jane Currie

Jane Currie reminded members that there is one master email list, so if you press on the Unsubscribe Button, you unsubscribe to everything.

SPEAKER COMMITTEE: Gail Marlow

Gail reported that Ross Peterson will be our February 20th speaker. The topic is **“Preparing for Emergencies”**. Our committee felt his presentation is timely considering the many environmental challenges that affect our lives that being prepared is crucial.

Ross is a retired Director of Emergency Management for the North Shore municipalities. He says, "No matter how good a job you do in your personal/household emergency preparedness, you can do a lot more by working with your neighbours, and taking advantage of all the skills and resources in your neighbourhood." Ross will outline how you can make this happen for you and help you build confidence that you can face any difficulty knowing what to do.

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

Brian encouraged members to get more involved in existing club activities or in creating new areas of interest. He asked that members check out the sign up sheets during the break and place their name and area of interest for follow-up by Pat Hill.

CHEMAINUS THEATRE: Garnet Hunt announced that there was a sign up sheet for the performance of "Godspell" on March 22nd in Chemainus. Price: \$58 per person. Dinner at the Fox and Hounds will follow.

CATERING: Brian Freestone thanked Kitchen Coordinator, Jenny Ransom, for organizing Kitchen Operations for the last few months. Brian thanked Wendy Hayes, Darrell Robertson, Alida and Pat Sali for organizing refreshments and snacks for today's meeting.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table for the months of February and March specifically. Brian said that the club needs a new Kitchen Coordinator to take over for Jenny.

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

Key Announcements:

President Brian Freestone spoke about the **Probus Speaker Network Committee (PSNC)**, which he created three years ago, for the purpose of bringing together the 10 Probus Clubs of the Mid-Island Region to share Speaker related resources. Our Nanoose Bay Club has played a major leadership role in the project which has been an overwhelming success. There has been a push to create a similar program for the benefit of Presidents and Vice Presidents of the same 10 Clubs. Brian announced that the inaugural

President Network (PPN) project will be launched on February 4th, again with all 10 Clubs enthusiastically supporting the venture. The sole purpose of the association will be to share Club operational information and to serve as a resource to assist Presidents and Vice Presidents in serving in their roles, in serving their Club and Executive Team. Brian said that the reason he raised this launch, and the importance of the association, is that one of the **most critical problems and challenges facing a good number of Clubs is in 'succession planning' and in encouraging members to step up and to volunteer for key positions on the Executive Team. Our club needs a Kitchen Coordinator and Vice President for the 2026 term.**

AGM Update: March 20th

A notice will be forwarded to all members by February 20th via email, including:

1. Agenda for the AGM
2. Minutes of the 2025 AGM, for approval
3. 2024 and 2025 Financial Report and the proposed 2026 Budget, for approval
4. Nominations slate of 2026 Executive Team.

Scrutineer: to conduct the election and oversee the introduction of the 2026 Executive Team the scrutineer will be Ethel Vincent Lambert, who did an excellent job last year.

COFFEE BREAK: 9:35 am – 10:00 am

GUEST SPEAKER:

Brian Freestone called on Gail Marlow to introduce our Guest Speaker, **Cosette Justo Valdes, Artistic and Music Director of the Vancouver Island Symphony.**

After Conductor Justo Valdes' presentation, Gail Marlow thanked her and presented her with a Probus bag.

President Brian Freestone asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 am. Moved by Tony Gural. Seconded by Anne Marie Webb-Hughes. All in favour. Carried.