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The reports contained in this Bulletin are as presented at the August Board meeting or an abridged version by the individual named as author at foot of each article. The only change made from the original submissions is change of type face to conform to the overall Bulletin format.

The next Federation Board meeting is scheduled for November 2010.

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New President Takes Over

Mr Roy Reid has taken over as President following the resignation of Mr Les Howard at the August Board meeting.

Mr Terry King has been elected as Vice President by the Board.

President Les Howard's Report

Shortly after the last Board Meeting a function was held in Tauranga by Zone 3 to present Ian Anderson with his Life Membership. I was joined by Vice President Roy Reid, Violet McCowatt, Sharron McCowatt, Janice Harding and at Ian's invitation, Terry King. The Function was held at the Mills Reef Winery and although the weather was very wet a warm atmosphere prevailed and everyone present had a very enjoyable afternoon. I spoke and made the presentation to Ian followed by Terry who spoke on behalf of the Board as did Violet. Roy presented a bouquet of flowers to Ian's Wife, Sybil. At the time, Ian appeared to be holding up quite well but since then has passed on after a short stay in the Hospice. The family held a private funeral service for Ian. He was a very good board member and will be sorely missed by all.

Publicity continues to be very good. The Home Care Survey being conducted in conjunction with the Labour and Green parties have been well reported and the meeting held in Invercargill, where over 200 people turned out was well reported in the Southland Times. Southland Grey Power President, Geof Piercy took the trouble to post me the reports from the newspaper and they make good reading. The meetings have been well attended in the main with the Christchurch meeting deserving of some mention. I received some emails and phone calls from members of the Christchurch Grey Power executive and the Treasurer threatened to resign from Grey Power if Christchurch were to host the meeting. Their last president, Colin Taylor appears to have not been in favour of the meetings because he was of the opinion that nationally, Grey Power was aligning itself with a political party and this was transmitted to the Christchurch committee and then on to me. My reply was that the meetings were not compulsory and that if they did not want to host the meeting then that was perfectly alright and a meeting was hosted by the Labour Party in Christchurch and was well attended with people from as far away as Timaru attending with a result that a further meeting will be held in Timaru hosted by Timaru Grey Power.

I am sorry that I find it is timely to remind members that the Board is the controlling body of the Federation when the AGM is not in session.

Associations are affiliated to the Federation through their constitution which is approved by the Board. (Clause 3.2). Having said that it is also important to remember that Associations value their autonomy and do not give up easily their independence.

At the invitation of Timaru Grey Power I attended their Annual General Meeting. This meeting was well attended and had no trouble at all in electing a full committee. Guest speaker was Hon Phil Goff accompanied by the local Labour Candidate, Julian Blanchard who is the grandson of the late Sir Basil Arthur.

I also received and acted upon an invitation to speak at a monthly meeting of Waimate Grey Power. The new President, Peter Haymann took over from the previous President and Zone 6 Director, David Holmes. The meeting was excellent and after I spoke about the Grey Power movement and its achievements, the portfolio committees and the way Grey Power works for its members I answered several questions mainly about the EST legislation imposed by this National Government and the effects it is having on our membership and more importantly the problems associated with the cuts and reductions in Home Help. A number of those present have been caught out in the telephone assessments carried out by the DHB.

My Press Release re the proposed increase in Health Insurance by Southern Cross also has attracted some very good feedback and it is interesting that Southern Cross has asked for a meeting and will actually talk to us at the Board Meeting on Monday 9 August. Also speaking during our meeting, will be Ryman Health Care after some criticism of Rest Homes by Grey Power recently. I am indebted to Tony Grant-Fargie, (Tony 2 Names) of Wanganui Grey Power for his email informing me that River City Press had published my Press Release completely word for word and also had it on their web page.

In conclusion I wish to thank all who have assisted with the work of Grey Power, and particularly Violet and the Office Staff for the duties they so willingly carry out. The hours they put in are far above the hours they are contracted to do and it should be appreciated by all. To run an office 12 months of the year so efficiently and well is a great achievement and is well worthy of recognition from the Board, Zones, Associations and indeed all Grey Power Members.

Les Howard QSM

President Roy Reid's Report

I am sure that the Membership was saddened to hear that Les Howard resigned from his position of Federation President due to health reasons at the end of the last Board meeting, and we all wish Les and his wife Ann good health in the days ahead.

As we now face continuing difficult economic times I ask that the Zones, Associations and the Membership work collectively to improve the standard of living and welfare for all the elder sector of our population. We all face difficulty in meeting the cost of Food, Electricity, Fuels, Health costs, Rates and the many other costs that need to be met to live in a reasonable standard of living. The 2.5% increase of GST on 1 October maybe the start of another sharp increase

in the inflation rate and the effect on prices will need to be closely watched.

Now is the time that we must be united in our efforts to improve the welfare of all the elderly.

I look forward to the tasks ahead, it will not be easy but by working together as a collective group we can succeed.

Roy Reid President

Zone 1

Having just held out recent Zone meeting yesterday [Thursday 26th Aug] I can report that all Associations are in good shape and all are looking forward to 'Meet then Candidates' meetings for the local body elections that either they are arranging or others are. There seems to be a few contentious issues about but the main one is the privatisation of water sources etc. All can see what a cost this will be brought onto the ratepayers if it becomes reality.

There was genuine sorrow when I informed the meeting of Les Howards resignation and at the same time it was unanimous that the full support of the Far North Zone is extended to both Roy Reid, his replacement, and also Terry King who was elected into Roy's vacant position of Vice-President. Along with this they wished Les well in his retirement.

A range of business was discussed but again the hardy annual of the excessive amount of paperwork that is coming through which while it affects us all it is of little interest to some but as was said we must keep all members fully informed.

The Far North Association is very pleased that after a very long fight they are finally getting a dialysis machine in the local Kaitiā Hospital that will eliminate a 350 kilometre round trip 3 times a week for some patients who have to be treated at Whangarei Hospital. Believe me the road which they have to travel over is by no means a first class road.

Kerikeri Association is increasing membership by the odd one or two and in the near future are combining with Age Concern in an expo day and I have been asked to speak on Grey Power. A Christmas dinner is planned for December.

Kaipara Association in Dargaville is rolling along and surprised everyone when they said they average 45 to 50 people at their meetings when their membership is only around 60. Whangarei averages about the same amount out of a membership of approximately 400. What does Kaipara do?

Whangarei Association's new President Mr Ron Thompson presented his first Zone meeting report and assured all that following Whangarei's AGM a fairly full committee was elected along with a new Secretary, and Treasurer so it is full stream ahead for this Association.

Otamatea Association. at present a sub-branch of Whangarei also had members present at the meeting and they were welcomed by all. There is still a lot to be done to get them up and running and slowly but surely it is proceeding.

Our next Zone meeting while originally set for after the November Board meeting is now a week before the meeting thanks to the Board meeting date being shifted to the end of November.

This is about my lot so will keep a very watchful eye on the local body elections and will continue the fight for our elderly members to have a reasonable standard of living.

Jack Kerr Director Zone 1

Zone 2

No report submitted

Zone 3

It is with much regret that I must record the passing of our much respected Zone three Director, Ian Anderson on Tuesday 29th June 2010.

A special zone meeting was held in Tauranga to honour Ian's contribution to Grey Power both nationally and at zone level, and bestow his life membership. The occasion was well attended by representatives from 17 Associations. It was a fine and fitting tribute and the attendance of our President and Board members was much appreciated by all of Zone 3 associations.

Our Quarterly Zone meeting was held on June 18, attended by forty-five delegates and observers from 18 associations including Zone Director Ian Anderson. With much regret Zone Three has accepted the resignation of Ian Anderson as our Zone Director. A standing ovation was given to Ian by all present. None of us present were aware of how sick Ian was, the Zone as a whole feels very grateful that they were able to express their personal appreciation of his dedication to Grey Power while he was still with us. He is a man of honour who will be much missed.

All associations report good membership retention and increases in numbers.

Two of zone three associations hosted The Assisted Care Enquiry, Hamilton was well attended with over 200 people present. Dave Collins of Hamilton Grey Power did an excellent job in generating publicity for the hearing. Rotorua reports close to 100 attendees, to a well run meeting under Ash Peat's chairmanship.

Bob Thompson - Zone Three Deputy Director

Zone 4

The major recent activity in Zone 4 has resulted from the highly successful Aged Care tour, hosted in our case in six associations, the initiative of parliamentarians Hon Winnie Laban and Sue Kedgley. Very successful meetings of concerned seniors, their families and their caregivers took place in Kapiti, Porirua, Wainuiomata, Wellington, Hastings and Palmerston North.

These associations are in four DHBs, and the meetings made it clear that this is a problem to be sorted primarily at DHB level, as the application of the controversial InterRAI assessment system has been different in each DHB.

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The meetings produced an abundance of stories of unsatisfactory Care, some similar, some unique. Some of the stories showed that Rest Home Care varies considerably between units, and that some homes are still lacking in acceptable quality of delivery. Too many care workers are not adequately trained, and too many receive only a pittance for their efforts. Grey Power needs to get involved in demanding some consistency of operation, in deploring the huge gaps in training, and in striving to help care givers get appropriate pay for their admirable efforts. Across the meetings and the stories it was made very clear that the bulk of the workers give remarkably devoted service despite the sector inadequacies.

The assessment and reassessment methods used, and particularly how they are used, in allocating and reallocating home care hours, was the key topic discussed. In this day and age we are told about the dangers of divulging personal information on the internet and by phone. Why then are elderly people expected to field calls from people they don't know, and then answer dozens of questions prying into their personal information? Add in that they have to hear adequately, understand the questions, and avoid stoically replying that less than satisfactory situations are 'ok', and unsatisfactory results should not surprise. So a shared objective across associations and DHBs is to stop the telephone questioning.

Associations are working through discussions with DHBs. Progress is unnecessarily slow, but we will persist.

The zone is most grateful for the great effort put into the tour by Winnie and Sue. We believe that their input was selfless, professional and generous, and we have told them so in thanking them for their efforts.

The membership drive has assisted Zone 4 associations to retain their membership in a difficult year. The recent statistics of Paul Hobbs demonstrated the impressive efforts of zone 4 associations to build membership year by year. In fact, zone 4 membership has increased in almost every year in our existence, and even this year only fell 2%, the lowest figure across the seven zones.

Many associations are now active in organisation of election meetings. In a number of places the Grey Power-hosted meetings are definitely the highlight meetings in their districts, in some case the only ones.

Roger Booth Zone Director

Zone 5

We are extremely fortunate in our Zone in the fact all our Associations are proactive in the community.

We have very successful Aged Care Meetings around the Zone and feedback has been tremendous. All have had good write ups the local news papers. This type of activity keeps Grey Power's name out there in the community.

Paper by Age Concern "Keeping On" - what to say if you are phone is worth having as a handout.

Cost of Provincial air fares is of concern as is Telecom Line Charges outside main cities.

All AGMs are over and done with for another year. Generally speaking they all have committees.

Planning is underway for Local Body Elections and most are having a Meet the Candidates Night. Cancellation of "Safe With Age" driving courses are still an issue.

Pam Schouten Director Zone 5

Zone 6

Most associations (with the exception of Christchurch) report good attendances at their monthly meetings.

Christchurch (Mr Ian Brownie) and Waimate (Mr Peter Hayman) have new Presidents, and Christchurch also has a secretary, their first for two years.

Christchurch are also looking at boosting both membership and attendances at their monthly meetings.

Timaru with good speakers report that their meetings are well attended, it appears, that political speakers attract good attendances to most association meetings.

All associations busy trying to get their outstanding subs collected. It seems that most people that are outstanding are the same ones year on year.

The last Zone meeting held in Rangiora at the beginning of June, saw a good representation of both delegates and observers from all Associations. It was also pleasing to have our National President Mr Les Howard in attendance. Delegates discussed the pending ETS scheme, and also the government's intention to raise GST and also the old perennial of Electricity prices, plus the problems of Home help being cut. The next Zone meeting will be hosted by Temuka on October 4th 2010.

Miles Jackson Director. Zone 6

Zone 7

Zone 7 was hosted by South Otago Grey Power Association at Balclutha for its Zone Meeting on Wednesday June 9th 2010. Thirty people attended, but Queenstown delegates apologised as it would not be safe travelling due to icy road conditions.

Congratulations to National President Les on receiving the QSM.

Some topics discussed were:

Home Care *the usual concerns.*

Road Signs *decided to write to Transit NZ congratulating them on the initiative to introduce fixed speed signs and recommended that the numb be substantially increased.*

Emissions Trading *continued concern*

Foreshore and Seabed Legislation *Opposition to proposed new regulations*

Privatisation of water *Complete opposition*

Logo Change *Complete opposition*

Elections of Officers Plan *Executive Officers elected for a 2 year period Rotational*

Only one Vice President

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Remits Time Factor *Remits to be presented at the Oct. Zone Meeting*

Crafer Farm *Complete opposition to Chinese involvement*

Long Term Care *the cost of Long Term Age Care should be transferred from vote Health to vote Social Welfare..*

Terry King was thanked for the work he had done over the years as Convenor of Energy

A good meeting with good discussion.

Next Zone Meeting at Invercargill on 12th October 2010.

Dick Stark Zone 7 Director

Local Bodies Report

Since our last report in May, I am pleased to advise that both a Grey Power Election Strategy Policy, and a Grey Power Local Body Policy has been drafted, and is to go to associations for their comment, in the near future.

There is no doubt starting with the Super council in Auckland local bodies throughout the country are in for change. I believe within 10 years local government is likely to look and feel different. Its no doubt Rodney Hyde is going to settle councils "proper constitutional status". We are about to see Auckland's government will be far bigger than that of any other town in the country. It may prompt – some people in Waikato, Wellington and Canterbury to form competing super – councils. This means some, particularly in rural areas may lose their local government as they know it now. This is an area that will need to be watched.

Recently Grey Power made a media statement regarding the privatising of water; this has drawn a lot of comment favourable comment with everyone both within Grey Power and outside. It is obvious we have to make this an election issue, as we know what happened to Power prices when Electricity was privatised.

With the forthcoming local body elections most associations will have matters pertaining to their own area that they should raise with their candidates. Grey Power are concerned at Local bodies, spending outside of their core function which has serious implications for elderly peoples affordability of rates.

Miles Jackson, Chairman- Local Bodies.

Membership Report

Thanks to all members and their Associations who took part in our membership promotion to attract new members. Congratulations to Jan Bullen new member from Wanganui who won the travel vouchers and will soon be sunbathing on the Gold Coast. Special thanks to "Talley's" for their generous donation of the travel vouchers. I hope everyone has a "Talley's" product in their freezer!

What a scoop. Marlborough President Colin Murray has just secured a contract with the "Inter-islander" for Grey Power members to receive substantial discounts on inter-island ferry travel. Full details, conditions and the exclusive Grey Power Group Booking

reference number, required for all bookings, are available from all Association secretaries.

While we will not be repeating our membership promotion next year we will be putting ideas out for Associations and/or Zones to consider as local membership promotions. We are directing our energies into identifying why so many members let their membership lapse or are very late in renewing. We hope Associations are able to help identify this problem. With the Treasurer signalling a \$1.00 increase in capitation to cover GST, postage, etc, the 16,000 unpaid subscriptions at 31 July is also a major factor and it is only the Associations who can hopefully reduce that.

36 Associations have responded to our membership questionnaire with 18 from Associations with fewer than 400 members and likewise 18 from those above 400. The feedback contains many valuable comments and once we have collated the information we will release a summary to all Associations.

We need to look very closely at what the 50-65 age group is going through at present and include them much more in our lobbying and statements on the financial pressures our members are under. One in eight New Zealanders are on some form of benefit, many are over 50 and members of Grey Power. It is not only Superannuitants who are living on the 33% pittance, and we must speak for these others who are also forced to survive on low incomes that are below officially recognised minimum levels.

The big "Bang" has started with the Government signalling major changes to benefits. Superannuation is only protected until October 2011 and we have to be ready to mobilise if we are to ensure all age groups of members, from various income sources ,are strongly supported through what lies ahead.

Errol Millar Chair Membership Committee

Increase In Capitation Fee

At last week's Board meeting I advised the effect that the up-coming increase in GST would have on revenue and said that, combined with the 20% increase in postal charges recently announced by NZ Post, the Federation was facing an overall cash deterioration of around \$40,000 annually.

I also informed the Board that the reduction in working capital which has occurred in recent years cannot continue and recommended an increase of \$1(one dollar) in capitation fee with effect 1 January 2011.

The Board approved the recommendation and Associations are now being advised in plenty of time to adjust their own subscription rates for 2011.

G Adams, Treasurer

Unpaid Subscriptions

At the figure of approximately 16,000 the level of unpaid subscriptions is far too high. With only 6 weeks to go before the GST increase takes effect it is imperative that Associations make every effort to collect out-standings. It is pointless for the Federation to claim a

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membership of 83,000 when the reality is that only just over 67,000 were financial as at 31 July - seven months into the Federation's financial year.

Graham Adams, Treasurer

Office Administration

Capitation is steadily flowing in with lots of Associations asking for promotional material for stalls and membership drives. Grey Power Pens are available for purchase from the office at \$1-00 each.

We receive numerous requests for us to send separate, pertinent Association information to Presidents, Secretaries, Membership personnel, newsletter publishers etc depending on the content, but due to the complexities of this and the costs associated with separate mail outs, we regret this is not possible. It is imperative that mail goes to the official Association address and how Associations handle it after that is entirely up to them.

The feedback from AIL Insurance is very positive with a further \$5,000-00 sponsorship donated by them.

I remind Associations that GST will raise the price of their paper and envelopes and it may be judicial to purchase some advance. We have a link on the website to WINZ.

Publicity

With our recent AGM, the lack of service at petrol stations and Meals on Wheels in the media (to name but a few), we continue to enjoy much publicity and have received many phone calls from people interested in joining after hearing various things about Grey Power on the air or in the papers.

Social Services

I have fielded a number of calls from members worried that the increase in October will affect any supplementary benefit they receive ie accommodation allowance, disability benefit etc and I am waiting for a reply from the MP, Paula Bennett. Regards the Meals on Wheels debacle, I am also waiting for further information on this matter and will advise Associations as information comes to hand.

Violet McCowatt

Health Report

The Grey Power Health Committee feels the time has arrived for it to become more vocal in its requests for improvements in Health Services.

It is time now to put pressure on our Electorate Members of Parliament and remind them of their responsibilities to their Electorates.

All Health decisions are Political decisions and no longer can we accept the messages from Politicians that services have been delegated to Health Boards and PHO's etc.

If a Policy is not fulfilling its intention then it is the duty of the Electorate Member of Parliament to convey this to the Health Minister for reviewing.

Much of the present crisis in Health Issues can be attributed to the lack of system monitoring and the need for Independent review committees.

The time is past that we accuse the Government of incompetence, and it is the time now that we as the voters, need to move away from the traditional hereditary vote we normally cast and demand that much more awareness and support is needed within our Communities than has previously been shown, if you wish us to vote in your favour.

So the message is quite simple and is that if you want "Common Sense" legislation use your vote wisely and in a meaningful way.

Dick Stark Health Convenor.

Greypower Magazine

Overall widespread feedback on the June publication has been very good, with solid coverage of the April AGM, particularly Remit outcome, general interest stories and photographs.

Editor Mike Blake and his team are maintaining a good standard of presentation and content in the Magazine. They are developing relationships with the Board, Associations and Members at large.

The Editor has indicated he would welcome from members input in the form of human interest stories, or general letters to the Editor. He would also welcome articles at any time from Board Committee Chair.

Terry King, Chairman

Report of the 50 Plus Committee

On 20 July Mrs. Jan Pentecost and I met with Lin Cousins and her research assistant from MSD. To be given an update on the difference between MSD and IRD as to what is considered income for abatement on Benefits and Unqualified Spouse Superannuation.

We discussed what is classed as Income and Depreciation where it affects those with small business while receiving a benefit or unqualified spouse superannuation as the main source of income.

MSD and IRD have a different interpretation of what is non taxable income. Depreciation does not equate to cash spent in the assessment year so the funds are available for living expenses. Our position is that the depreciation is not cash or income.

The differences between MSD and IRD are now stated as:

MSD Benefits and income tested NZS target payments to those most in need, compared to IRD Spread the burden of contributions to the provision of Govt. services across a wide range of taxpayers as fairly as possible.

We were told that MSD base their decision on a Court ruling Hendrickson v The Director General of Social Welfare (19 June 2000) where the Judge ruled

that depreciation is not a proper deduction for welfare payments despite being acceptable for IRD purposes

The Government has set up a Welfare working group to review the welfare system. The group has been asked to consider 3 questions

1. Is NZ doing the right things to reduce long term dependency?
2. Have we got the right welfare structure in place, and the right incentives to get people into work?
3. Are we getting the outcomes that taxpayers want from the system, looking at sustainability, fairness, access and improved social outcomes?

The Retirement Commissioner is preparing the 3 yearly review of Retirement income policies. One of the main concerns is the possibility of an extension to the age of eligibility for National Superannuation to age 67 or 68?

R Reid Chair 50 Plus Committee

Law and Order

Report of the Law, Order, Justice and Licensing Committee to Federation Board meeting, August 9-10-11 2010

Remit 14 2010. This remit has been sent to the Prime Minister asking that the Government hold a binding referendum on raising the drinking age to age 20.. Hon. S Power Minister of Justice has replied that he Government will address the purchasing age it a bill that will implement the recommendations of the Law Commissions Report on alcohol by the end of 2011.

I have also asked Hon. P Goff for his support to have this referendum.

Violent Crime

Another elderly man has been recently murdered by 3 young people aged 17, 15 and 14. Although the present Government has passed a raft of new laws designed to reduce crime the rate of violent crime appears to be still being reported on a regular basis.

The causes of crime have to be dealt with, that is the abuse of drugs and alcohol..

The use of firearms and weapons has again arisen and the debate as to the Police being armed is again a topic that needs to be urgently reviewed by Government.

Mental Patients

It is of concern to see mentally ill people being placed in Police cells and prisons as with the closing of Mental hospitals there is now no secure beds available in many areas. The prisons and police cells should not be used for anyone with a mental disorder.

R Reid Chair Law Order and Justice Committee.

Superannuation & Taxation

It is with regret I acknowledge the death of Ian Anderson who chaired this portfolio for Grey Power Federation. Ian was doing a very good job of this very

important portfolio and his untimely death leaves a very big gap which will be hard to fill.

National Super will be under a great strain this year with the advent of the Emission Trading Scheme introduced on 1 July. This form of taxation means that superannuitants will be hard pressed to meet the ever increasing costs of food, electricity, rates and the ACC levy on car registration. The Minister of Finance, Hon Bill English, stated earlier that there would be no adjustment to National Superannuation for the ETS because superannuitants had received an increase in their NS on 1 April 2010. What he neglected to state was that the increase mentioned was to cover the cost of living increase for the year December 2008 to December 2009 and paid out on April 2010. This means of course that we are required to meet the increased cost of electricity, motor fuel and ACC levy out of last years income. We have been told by the Prime Minister that when GST is increased to 15% in October there will be an immediate increase to National Superannuation of slightly above 2% and that we will be better off financially. The Consumer Price Index looks likely to rise by something like 6% and with the increases already mentioned for the ETS, people on low fixed incomes will be somewhat stretched to make ends meet.

The economist Gareth Morgan accused Grey Power of being a wheel that squeals loudly in order to get the most grease and is very successful in doing so. He believes we are greedy and that we get more than our share of the public purse in NS and in the health budget. He argued that if a 90 year old required an operation and a 10 year old required an operation the 10 year old should have it because of the longer life expectancy. Well Mr Morgan received a cut of 8% in his top rate of tax recently at a time when we are in recession still so just who is greedy. The Tax Cuts, GST increase and the ETS will be paid for by the people least able to afford it including superannuitants.

Les Howard For Superannuation Committee

Energy Committee Report

The Grey Power Federation has been well served in recent years by those on the Energy committee, both as members of the Board and as off-Board committee members. Reports available to the Board, associations and members have been comprehensive, on-track and informed. Objectives however have not always been easy for the lay person to comprehend, and it has been similarly difficult for the ordinary person to gauge what has been achieved.

The Energy Committee is in the process of setting policy and objectives at two levels.

Draft 'Grey Power New Zealand Policy on Essential Services' sets the policy and objectives for the wider committee, and will guide the work we need to continue to pursue in the more detailed and more generic ever-changing energy sector and its associated legislation and documentation.

The role we must play is the role of the energy consumer, which otherwise seems generally to be

neglected in the development and review processes. DEUN is another key voice for the consumer, and we must always be aware of the need to work together with DEUN and other groups in strategic efforts to moderate intended changes that are not in our best interests.

But the committee is also keen to identify a second layer of objectives, set at a key but simply expressed level that members can clearly understand and endorse.

Proposed Grey Power Objectives on Energy Hardships

1. Regulation

The industry big players need some form of external regulation. Any current regulation can only be described as self-regulation, and this plainly doesn't work in our interests. Without regulation there is no way to prevent abuse of price discrimination between domestic and large consumers. The small players are not big enough to bother about, and the small players are you and me.

2. Income Support

We need to pursue extra income support for winter energy bills where necessary in order to maintain health. Home Equity processes may assist this, but we want to look closely into ways to prevent the possible abuses in such arrangements taking advantage of the unwary.

3. Identification of Vulnerability

There are plenty of examples that show how vulnerable many of us are. We need to assist links with Age Concern, RSA, and the like to keep our people safe.

4. Energy Efficiency

There is a lot of material out there about how we can make modifications to our homes to create more energy efficiency. Many of us tap into this, and that's great. But there are a great many more of us who do not have internet or easy access to the information, can no longer really understand the detail, or who do not have the confidence or current ability to make the changes. How can we help more of us into energy savings? We are really keen to have ideas on this one. Yes – we do know that all the answers are out there. But no – those who really need the savings are missing out.

5. Zero Fixed Charges

It would be possible to alter the structure by which consumers pay for energy to build a payment structure regime above a base of zero fixed charges. Basically this would allow everyone to access some energy at very low costs. And it would make energy the more expensive the more you used. At least one political party will offer this towards the next election, and we are keen to see more political parties adopting this platform.

6. Grey Power consumer representation

Energy consumer groups come and go at the whim of government. More recently there has been a will in government to do away with consumer representation in favour of more (and in some cases only) industry representation. This is not good enough for us. Consumers are important. We want consumers to be in the discussions.

The committee is keen to get feedback from zones, associations and members on these objectives, and particularly ideas on strategies towards achieving some changes as a result of Grey Power efforts.

Roger Booth Committee Chair

Remits

Under clause 6. 8 [c] [i] of the Federation Constitution the last day for receiving of remits for the 2011 Conference from Associations is 4:00pm on Thursday 9th February 2011..

The last day for Zone endorsed remits under clause 6, 8, [c] [ii] to be received is no later than 4:00pm on Thursday 24th February 2011.

Jack Kerr, Remits and Rules Committee

General Business Items at AGM's

That the Board allocate specific time for General Business at future AGM's.

That with respect to general business for the AGM, any items of general business shall be processed after a Zone meeting, through the Zone Director for a final decision by the Federation Board.

Constitution Review at Zone Level

The proposal was put to the Board who have recommended that zones give this serious consideration.

The proposal is: That the present Grey Power Constitution be open for review by an elected committee of 7-9 people from across all Associations.

This committee be made up of one representative from each zone, and two people nominated by the Grey Power Federation Board. That those elected to this committee are not existing or past board members.

The objective of this committee is to produce a plain English draft constitution, which focuses on Grey Power core values. This draft will then be circulated to all Associations for comment and suggested changes or inclusions and that the final draft is presented at next year's AGM for approval.

Any changes to the draft constitution must be zone endorsed by a majority of 75% of associations within the zone.

That the proposal be put on the table to be considered by Zones and reported back to the next Board meeting.

Zone 4 Discussion Paper

The Zone 4 paper on Federation structure be passed to the appropriate sub-committee chaired by Roy Reid for on forwarding to Zones, and that the Zone 6 director replace the Zone 4 Director on this sub-committee.