
ELK ISLAND RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



President's Report

Our Executive Team works for our retired teacher members and associate members. We are proud to promote a sense of community, to help address seniors' issues and needs through organizing events and offering information sessions, to encourage members to take an active interest in the affairs of Elk Island Retired Teachers' Association and ARTA, and to maintain a history and archive of the branch. We have a great history and are working to provide for more opportunities to gather this year.

We hope you had a Thanksgiving celebration with family and friends and have had time to reflect on positive opportunities you've had this year. We have been busy as a Branch of ARTA for several months planning our offerings to provide great member gatherings.

My personal 'to do' list hasn't gotten any shorter. I'm betting yours isn't either. I heard the 's' word may happen on Monday. We should get the grass, the gutters, and the flower beds in shape this weekend.

We've had a few 'Walk In The Park' rendezvous and I'm looking forward to seeing you next week. Dressing in layers may be the prescription.



Did you know that our Association is benefitted with a grant each year from our parent group, ARTA? A portion of that grant enabled us to provide a great THWTB breakfast for members and invited guests for a reduced price. The gross cost for each meal was \$31.00 per plate. We charged members \$20.00 and guests \$28.00. What a bargain when our membership fee is only \$10.00 per year. Thank you, ARTA! Did you know our membership fee has been \$10.00 per year since before 1985?

Our plans have gelled for the Christmas luncheon. Keep your eyes open for details. We will be at Broadmoor Golf Club with bells on. We are busy making a good deal and looking to benefit our members even more this season.

Continued...

Fall Edition

October 2024

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Elk Island RTA website:

http://artabranches.net/elkisland_rta

ARTA
ALBERTA RETIRED
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Like ARTA, Elk Island RTA supports an engaged lifestyle after retirement through member-centered services, advocacy, communication, wellness and leadership.

...President's Report cont.

Our ATA Liaison, Denis Schell met with our Local #28 at the start of this school year, will attend a Catholic Local meeting October 30th. There has been no positive change in the way the provincial government is handling the whole education portfolio. We hope to be of help to active teachers in whatever way we can by consulting with them ahead of stepping on toes.

ARTA Rx is well on the way to making our Benefit Plan the best in Canada. Plans are continuing for a Calgary pharmacy to open next spring. Did you know that the profits from the operation go right back into the plan to keep your premium cost low and to continue to add supported benefits to enhance your health and wellbeing?

Are you getting any emails from ARTA Travel Newsletter? Some exciting offerings are making me look forward to learning more. ARTA updates us by emails regarding our Health Benefits Plans. I hope you've updated your member information with them.

I attended a Health Services Committee meeting for ACER-CART (Canadian Association of Retired Teachers) and can share that most other provinces are experiencing the same awful health care supports or lack thereof. Canadians can at least celebrate that the Senate has passed Bill-64 and look forward to provinces signing on to have Pharmacare benefits for diabetes and birth control. We should be lobbying our own MLAs here in Alberta to ensure all Albertans get to benefit from that too. You may be interested in this website where information regarding health and seniors is very helpful: <https://www.friendsofmedicare.org>

The ARTA Board of Directors meeting held September 11 gave us some timely information regarding our benefits premiums and what we can expect. You should see an email explaining any changes. We will see a change in premium and what's covered as of November 1st. A new member card will be issued soon as well. You can always get updates by signing in to <https://www.myarta.net/>

Did you know that there is a strong movement afoot by a group called 'Take Back Alberta' who are organizing to place their members into leadership positions in school communities? Their plans include ensuring that the curriculum in classrooms reflects their views of the world around them. Public Interest Alberta is hoping to encourage us to pay attention. See their website for very insightful information. If you feel encouraged to run for election, they are willing to support your nomination and your campaign. <https://www.pialberta.org/>

The ARTA Annual General Meeting was held October 1st and 2nd this year. We had the opportunity to have 4 delegates be there. Alain Levesque was successful in his bid to join the Pension and Financial Wellness Committee. I will continue to attend the Board of Directors meetings and report back. ARTA committees work to support us seniors in a lifestyle that is healthy and active. There are webinars, YouTube offerings, and much more available to ARTA members. At \$25 per year, a membership gets one so much more. Take advantage!

We are all in this together. Do you have a question, a suggestion, or an idea that you'd like to share? Do you know of someone who could use our help? Us seniors need to support each other. We hope our Elk Island RTA can be of help.

Elk Island RTA Executive

New Executive Elected June 2024

President

Dolaine Koch

Vice President

Kaye Schindeler

Treasurer

Dolaine Koch

Secretary

Elaine Whitford

ATA Liaison

Denis Schell

Compassion & Congratulations

Lorna Johnson

Communication (email, newsletter &

website)
Julie Ginther

Membership

Cathy Allen

Social Committee

Ruby Okamura

Members: Sheila Buxch

Sylvia Roes

Members at Large

Maj-Britt Bigotti

Carol Gilbertson

Dianna Millard

Karen Wilson

Alain Levesque

Membership has benefits!

Being a member of EIRTA does have benefits. Our membership dues are only \$10 per year and this rate has not increased since 1985. Members receive special rates on many of our events. You get the opportunity to receive our quarterly newsletter and important email notifications. Please register changes in your membership information if...

- You have turned 80 years of age. (Membership is free after this age if you have been a member for the previous 10 years.)
- You have moved. (We need your new contact information.)
- You are not certain if your membership has expired.

To register changes please contact Cathy Allen.



Introducing: We would like to introduce you to one of our new Member at Large.

Hello everyone! My name is Alain Levesque, and I'm excited to join the Elk Island RTA as a new member at large. I retired in February 2024 after 25 fulfilling years as a French immersion elementary teacher. In addition to my teaching career, I served as treasurer for ATA Local 28 for nine years and for PDK for 12 years. At the last ARTA annual meeting, I was elected to the ARTA Financial and Wellness Committee. Outside of my involvement in education, I enjoy swimming, going for walks and going for coffee at trendy spots. I look forward to contributing to our community and working together to support our fellow retired educators!

Upcoming Events for EIRTA

Mark your calendars and register as soon as possible



Christmas Luncheon

When: December 4, 2024,

Where: Broadmoor Golf and Country Club.

What: Turkey dinner served at noon

Cost: \$30.00 members

\$35.00 non-members

Actual cost is \$43.00/person. The meal is being subsidized by a grant from ARTA



**Look for more information and how to register in November through your email!
We hope you can join us!**

**How do I
prepare for
a funeral?**

Presentation of information regarding
funerals.

To be held in late January or early
February 2025

**Look for more information and how to
register in November through your email!
We hope you can join us!**

Political Engagement

ATA Liaison Fall Report

Now that I've indulged, OK, gorged, on turkey dinner and I see the days are getting noticeably shorter, I guess it's safe to assume that we've seen the last of summer. Let's hope the "white stuff" stays away for a while yet!

My goal this year as ATA liaison for EIRTA is to update our members with the concerns of both Elk Island public as well as separate schoolteachers. Unfortunately, I find they do not feel listened to, and they worry about the future of education in our province. Hopefully, by attending their monthly ATA representative meetings and reporting back in our newsletters, I can keep retired teachers informed and find out how we can best support our colleagues in these trying times.

On September 24, at Bev Facey, Adrian King from the "Now Group" spoke about how people who support education can effectively advocate for teachers by communicating with friends and family in a positive, non-confrontational manner. Adrian's presentation focused on these three strategies that might help to facilitate good interactions.

First, **Connect** with others by agreeing that children are important. There is a concern about the lack of resources and supports in schools for them. It is important to note that our schools are struggling to maintain standards as education in Alberta is the least funded in the country.

Second, **Contrast** that our students and teachers are feeling the impact due to this lack of funding. The classrooms are overcrowded. There are fewer supports available for students who are falling behind. Programs have had to be eliminated that challenge students or provide special programs for others. Teachers are leaving the profession due to feeling overwhelmed. Our provincial government seems to be encouraging an adversarial role between parents against teachers and deflecting from the real issues that education in Alberta is facing.

Finally, **Solving the Problem** can be accomplished by having smaller classes and having supports available for students with academic challenges. Also, teachers should be given a fair wage in compensation, so they thrive and stay in the profession. Increasing the funding for education is the answer.

The ATA and Elk Island teachers would also like to encourage retired teachers to join with them in support of education by joining their "**Red For Ed**" campaign. We can easily do this by wearing red on Fridays and talking to people we know about education in Alberta.

If you would like to become more involved by receiving updates on rallies or have suggestions on how Elk Island Retired Teachers can become more involved in supporting our fellow colleagues, drop me a line at djls@shaw.ca. I welcome your input.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denis Schell





To Hell with the Bells Breakfast



The beginning of the school year again started with the announcement,

“No more bells for us! We’re having breakfast”.

Retired teachers gathered at Broadmoor Golf and Country Club on August 29, to enjoy not starting another school year and welcoming new colleagues who were recently retired. A delicious breakfast was enjoyed and stories from colleagues reminded us of those days when we were in the classroom.

The cost of our breakfast was subsidized through ARTA and some members of ARTA’s marketing team joined us. They brought with them ARTA swag to purchase.

We also had Orbit insurance join us, and they provided some wonderful door prizes.



Our new retirees

Carol Gilbertson contributes to our newsletter with tips and ideas reflecting her passion for gardening. Carol has an amazing green thumb, and she enjoys spending time in her gorgeous garden



FALL "STUFF"

Well...here we are. My not so favourite time of year. Yes, I love the colours of autumn, but I really feel sad when I must put my flowers to bed. I have cut down all my daylilies, lilies, ferns, hostas, and lilies of the valley. I cut them to within an inch or two from the ground. I will pull up all the annuals once they freeze. I leave the rest of the perennials until spring...including the grasses, roses and hydrangeas. I like to leave the spent blooms and buds on these plants for show through the winter.

Now is the time that I ask Layne to bring out my three large autumn bins which contain my collection of artificial flowers and leaves. I have collected these over several years from the Dollar Store and thrift stores.

Using the containers which held all my hanging plants and my table toppers during the summer, I design my fall arrangements. I love putting these arrangements together and they look so lovely when they are done. It's quite easy to make them by just stuffing these leaves and flowers into the containers and then fluffing them up until I am satisfied with how they look. The front of the house looks autumny and I am now happy again.



Puzzle Page

The answer is included at the end of the newsletter. *Hope you enjoy!*

Take-Along Crossword 23

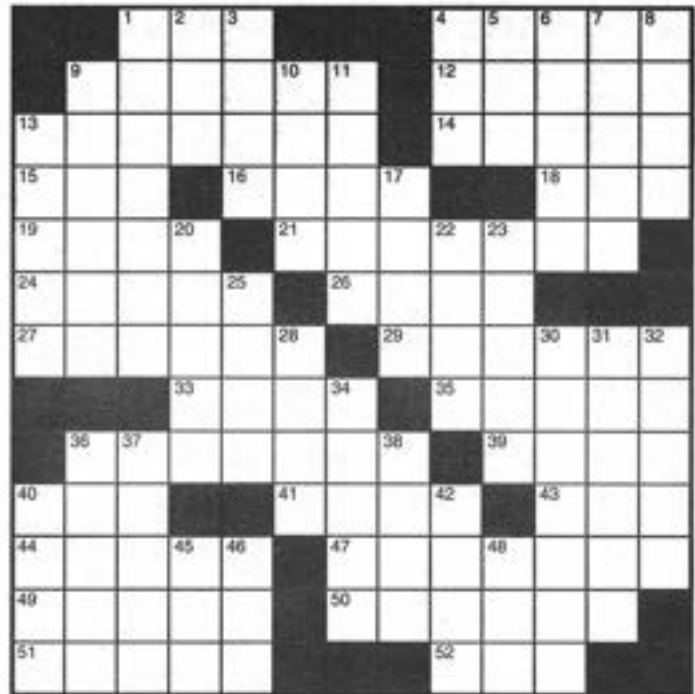
ACROSS

1. Brit. VIPs
4. Helps a hood
9. Guitarist Montoya
12. Spock portrayer
13. Period of combat
14. Glasgow natives
15. Light __ feather (2 wds.)
16. Bull or buck
18. Certain aircraft
19. Kisser's object
21. Give a ticket for your coat
24. Villainous look
26. "Little __ of Horrors"
27. Souped-up car (2 wds.)
29. Go against
33. Pigeon-__
35. Actress Burstyn
36. Wash the hair
39. Watched closely
40. Equal score
41. Shove
43. Mrs., in France

44. Stone and Watson
47. Did a censor's job
49. Shame
50. Scorching
51. Decaf brand
52. Computer's exit key

DOWN

1. Castle feature
2. "The A-Team" star (2 wds.)
3. Not stout
4. Response (abbr.)
5. See-through pen
6. Image in a text message
7. Carved family emblem
8. Method (abbr.)
9. Atlantic City feature
10. Sharif who played Zhivago
11. Tennis champ Monica
13. Kate of "Grey's Anatomy"



17. Sound rebound
20. Mattress brand
22. Stride easily
23. Eden fruit
25. Kitchen, e.g.
28. Actor Johnny __
30. National park in Washington
31. Looked to be
32. Over
34. Distrust
36. "Lion King" lion
37. Macho guy (hyph.)
38. Nordic capital
40. Lipton selection
42. Now's partner
45. Inquire
46. Red, e.g.
48. Sounds from a poor speaker



Notes of Compassion

It is with heavy hearts that we send our condolences:

*To our colleague
Lois Westerlund
At the passing of Lois' husband
Charles Kenneth Westerlund
On August 4, 2024*

*To the family, friends, and colleagues at the passing of our colleague,
Blair Denver Ching
August 6, 2024*

*To the family, friends and colleagues at the passing of our colleague
Eileen Zimmerman
August 6, 2024*

**NOTE; Please contact us at newseirta@gmail.com if you know of news that should be included in our Compassion and Congratulation section. We depend on our membership to keep us posted*

www.CreativeCertificates.com



***Are you aware of a member who is struggling?
Please let us know, and we will reach out with a
call or a card.
Sometimes, just a little touch of kindness makes
all the difference in the world.***



Please forward this newsletter to any colleagues, friends or interested parties who would enjoy reading about what is happening in Elk Island Retired Teachers Association.

Answer key for Puzzle.



Puzzle 23