
ELK ISLAND RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

President's Report



Happy New Year Elk Island Retired Teachers! My New Year's resolution is to lose 10 pounds. I only have 15 more to go! We have made it past Christmas, New Year's Celebrations and quite a cold snap. Congratulations! I'm hearing lots of people are looking forward to a winter vacation. Safe travels to all of you!

It was awesome to see so many members at our Christmas luncheon on December 6th. Many were dressed in tacky sweaters and Santa's hats. Everyone enjoyed themselves meeting up with friends, sharing stories and songs.

Your executive has been busy this last while, too. Cathy and I attended sessions at ARTA headquarters that allow us to speak about ARTA knowledgably. At the same time, Dolaine attended a two-day training session, and she is now our resident expert on ARTA matters, including their Benefits Plans.

EIRTA is continuing to promote our presence with Elk Island teachers by attending and presenting at their monthly ATA Local Meetings held at Bev Facey. Many of our members are concerned with the educational system nowadays and have pledged their support. A number of us met with the ATA Local President, Deneen, their Political Engagement Chairperson, Dave and others. We talked about how EIRTA can be active by promoting teachers and Elk Island Public Schools. We have some plans in the making to help them out. You will find a report on that meeting in this newsletter.

Inge and a number of the executive have met and are continuing to revise and update EIRTA Policies and Procedures. They're doing a great job!

EIRTA executive members are also manning the ARTA booth and café at the North Central Teachers Convention in February.

In addition to all this, your executive is planning some exciting activities for our members this year. We have a lifestyle/fitness coach, Valentines Get Together, Casino trip and information on some local performances planned. Some of these are described in this newsletter, but be sure to check our website regularly and watch for email blasts from Julie to be informed and join in.

<https://artabranches.net/elkislandrta/>

Finally, remember to drive carefully on our treacherous roads and our winter conditions. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their makers!!

Respectfully submitted,

Denis

Winter Edition

January 2024

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Elk Island RTA website:

<http://artabranches.net/elkislandrta>

Elk Island RTA email:

EIRTA@Shaw.ca



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

Elk Island RTA Executive

Co-Presidents:

Denis Schell
Inge Coates

Vice President:

Kaye Schindeler

Treasurer:

Dolaine Koch

Secretary:

Elaine Whitford

Compassion & Congratulations:

Carol Gilbertson

Communication (email, newsletter & website):

Julie Ginther

Membership:

Thelma Baumgartner

Phoning Committee:

Dianna Millard, Chair

Phoning Committee Members

Lorna Johnson
Kaye Schindeler
Cheryl Moller

Social Committee Chair:

Ruby Okamura, Chair

Social Committee Members:

Sheila Busch
Sylvia Roes

Members-at-Large:

Cathy Allen
Cheryl Moller

EIRTA News: Please Keep Us Updated



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, contact Thelma Baumgartner at RetiredTeachersElkIsland@gmail.com

A Brilliant Idea

Many of us are looking for things to do and an economical option that is often forgotten is the excellent drama productions in EIPS high schools.

High School Drama Productions

Salisbury Composite High School

April 22 – 25 Peril on the High Seas, a melodrama from the Roaring 20's

May 13 – 16 Mean Girls, a musical

Bev Facey High School

April 29 – May 2 To be determined.

May 20 – 23 Grease

Strathcona Christian Academy – Little Mermaid

May 5 @ 3:00 pm

May 6 @ 6:30 pm

May 7 @ 11:00 am and 6:30 pm

May 8 @ 11:00 am and 6:30 pm

May 9 @ 6:30 pm

May 10 @ 6:30 pm



Premiums & Claims Statements 2023

Tax season is approaching, and it is almost time for ARTA Benefit Plan members to access their Premiums & Claims statements. As with previous years, in an effort to be more environmentally friendly, statements will be posted online on MyARTA no later than February 28, 2024. From there, they can be downloaded or printed on an individual basis, according to preference. Members who do not have a MyARTA account or have requested a print copy in 2023 will automatically have a print copy mailed to them. Printed copies will be mailed out by February 28, 2024.
<https://www.myarta.net>

Canadian Dental Care Plan Eligibility

Are you 77 or older? Did you receive a letter from the federal government indicating you may qualify for coverage under the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP)? Are you currently covered under an ARTA dental plan? If all three of those things are true for you, ARTA wants to hear from you! Details on eligibility qualifications for the program have not yet been clarified by the government, and ARTA wants to ensure you are getting the best quality of care available to you. If you have applied for the program, please contact ARTA at marketing@arta.net or 855-444-2782 to share your experience.

ARTCF Golf Tournament 2024

The Alberta Retired Teachers Charitable Foundation is hosting a charity golf tournament this July in Edmonton. Registration will be available in March 2024, but until then...

Save the Date!

ARTCF Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, July 8, 2024

Shotgun start at 10 a.m.

The Quarry

945-167 Avenue NE T5Y 0P6



Upcoming Events for EIRTA

Mark your calendars and register as soon as possible

Valentine's Party

Our executive is introducing something new for a unique February social and luncheon, followed by a GAME afternoon at the **Broadmoor Golf Course Clubhouse**.

Wednesday, February 14th.

Time: registration begins at 11:00 and lunch will be served at 12:00.

Luncheon: Salads, Sandwich bar, Chips, Squares, Coffee & Tea
(squares, coffee, & tea will be available throughout the afternoon as well)

Games time: approximately 1-1:15 - 2:30-3:00

We will have Scrabble, Cribbage, Monopoly, Risk, Hearts (quite appropriate for Valentine's Day, don't you think?), Checkers, Chess and even Old Maid. We will also have puzzles to put together. If you have another game you'd like to play, please bring it along.

Here is the information you need to know:

Cost: **\$25** for both members and guests

Payment: e transfer or cash at the door

Contact to register: Ruby Okamura

Email: RetiredTeachersElkIsland@gmail.com



Don't miss out on the fun! We are hoping to see you there. Who knows? You may become a games champion!



'The Luck of the Irish' River Cree Casino Trip

March 14, 2024

There is no cost to attend, and a complimentary bus will be available. The bus will leave from the southwest corner (facing Home Hardware) of the Walmart on Wye Road parking lot at **9:30 sharp** and return around 2:00 - 2:30 pm.

\$5.00 Lunch and free play vouchers will be provided for each attendee.

Register with Sylvia Roes at RetiredTeachersElkIsland@gmail.com

Reminder: If you're driving yourself to River Cree, you **must** still register with Sylvia for the vouchers.

Political Engagement

Meeting with ATA Local 28 -- Elk Island Public Schools

On January 5, an email was sent out to EIRTA members who signed up for EIRTAs Bulletin Board*, asking interested members to attend a meeting on January 11 at the ATA Local's office in Sherwood Park. This meeting was requested by ATA Local 28 in order to gauge the support EIRTA might be able to offer them.

Seven of our members responded that they would attend this meeting while another seven responded that they were out of province or already committed elsewhere on that date, but would have been willing to attend as well.

The executives of the ATA local described the direction they would like to take in future actions. They plan to join in with the EIPSB Trustees, emphasis on excellence in our schools. This emphasis would hopefully counterbalance some of the negativity generated from organizations like TBA (Take Back Alberta) that are undermining public opinion of the work being done in our schools.

The local's executive briefly outlined three ways they hoped our organization would be able to help them.

- The first request is to help find volunteers to man their booth at the April trade show.

They promised that details regarding shifts, talking points, duties, and more would come soon. When I get them, I will pass them on to those who signed up for the bulletin board.

- The second request was for a volunteer from our membership who would have the time to gather school information sent to him/her and organize it for regular submissions to the local newspaper. Please email me at eirtaPE@shaw.ca if this is something you can help with.

- The third request is one that every one of us and our families can participate in. They request that we write letters reporting excellence in our schools, letters to newspapers, your MLA, the minister of Education, the opposition...you get the idea. Start with one. Even one will help to change the narrative to a positive view of public education.

Thanks to all who are still willing and able to support our education system.

*Register for bulletin board emails at eirtaPE@shaw.ca



As an organization, we are so fortunate to have members share important information with us. I believe this is our greatest gift of membership. I hope you enjoy this information as much as I did.

VERIFICATION CODES

Something I received from my Credit Card Company.

A verification code is for your use only. **DO NOT SHARE IT WITH ANYONE.** No business will call you to request that code. ***It's a scam.***

What is a verification code?

If you are updating your information or completing an action, a business, bank, or merchant may text or email you a one-time code to verify your identity. This is for your use only, to complete the action you initiated. No one will call you to ask for this code.

What if I get a verification code I didn't request?

If you receive a code from a business but you aren't shopping, logging in, or phoning them right now, there is a chance someone else is trying to use your account.

Stay calm, as long as you don't share the code with anyone, your account cannot be accessed.

Immediately contact the Bank (using the number on the back of your card) or Business directly that sent you the code to let them know what has happened and follow their advice to secure your account.

If someone calls and asks you to tell them the verification code:

STOP. HANG UP THE PHONE.

It's a scam.

Eleventh Annual
SECOND WIND CONFERENCE
(A fabulous health & wellness conference for retirees)
being held in Edmonton on
September 12, 2024
at the lovely Chateau Louis Conference Centre

Organized by retired teacher volunteers from around Edmonton, this year's conference features comedian and retired teacher **Ken Valgardson** as the opening keynote. Attendees will also enjoy morning refreshments, a wide variety of speaker sessions, a delicious buffet lunch, coffee breaks, displays by artisans and senior-oriented businesses, and an end-of-conference 'Wine Down' with refreshments and door prizes.

Watch for a list of speakers and topics to be posted mid-April on the Second Wind website secondwindconference.ca

Plan to enjoy this informative and uplifting event with friends and former colleagues.

Mark the date, invite a friend and spread the word!



Our **MERRY CHRISTMAS** Luncheon

If you were not at the Broadmoor Clubhouse on December 6th, you truly missed out on a wonderful pre-Christmas celebration. Eighty members dressed in a sea of red and green, and wearing crazy Christmas sweaters, reunited with one another for fun, food, conversation, laughter, and festive fellowship.

Upon entering the door, members and guests displayed their generosity by donating gifts and money to the Strathcona Christmas Bureau. Besides the many gifts piled on the tables, \$460 in cash was also received. Thank you so much to all who blessed the needy this past Christmas! Tables were beautifully decorated with a Christmas theme. People found a place to sit and visit with old and new friends. Everyone came to dine. A delicious turkey dinner prepared by the clubhouse To-a-Tee Caterers did not leave anyone disappointed. Second helpings were even available, too.

Our president, Denis, welcomed all in attendance, and shared some amusing anecdotes.

A few of the executive members regaled us by reading a variety of Christmas stories and sharing some humorous memoirs.

Members joined their voices together for a great time of carol singing led by Bob Adamson and his niece, Melanie Schattle. Of course, Bob added a joke here and there, and got some members up to the front to entertain us. Jocularly, jocularly! A wonderful time was had by all. Many expressed how much they enjoyed the afternoon. Hugs and shouts of '**Merry Christmas**' filled the room upon departure.



Puzzle Page

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

PUZZLE 71

FIGURES FROM LEGEND

ACHILLES

AGLAIA

AJAX

BAUCIS

CIRCE

CREON

DAPHNE

DIDO

ECHO

ELECTRA

EUROPA

GALATEA

GLAUCE

HELEN

HERO

HESPERE

ICARUS

ISMENE

JOCASTA

LAIUS

LAOCOON

LEANDER

LEDA

MEDEA

MEGARA

NESTOR

NIOBE

OEDIPUS

PAPHOS

PELOPS

PENELOPE

PRIAM

PYRRHUS

TANTALUS

R	O	T	S	E	N	C	H	E	S	P	E	R	E
E	Q	U	B	G	A	L	R	U	A	Y	K	S	R
L	C	O	D	E	L	R	I	E	B	J	U	S	Z
E	I	H	D	N	T	A	T	A	O	R	E	H	S
N	N	E	O	N	L	A	U	C	A	N	C	E	U
H	M	E	A	D	L	C	A	C	E	R	L	E	H
P	C	A	M	A	I	S	I	L	E	L	P	T	R
A	L	I	G	S	T	D	E	D	I	S	E	A	R
D	S	A	R	A	I	H	N	H	P	A	N	N	Y
K	O	L	O	C	R	A	C	O	L	J	E	T	P
K	H	G	T	C	E	A	L	L	M	A	L	A	L
V	P	A	F	L	O	E	G	E	N	X	O	L	R
M	A	I	R	P	P	O	O	E	D	I	P	U	S
A	P	O	R	U	E	T	N	O	M	A	E	S	D

Notes of Compassion

It is with heavy hearts that we send our condolences:

*To our colleagues
Mas and Ruby Okamura
At the passing of Mas' sister,
Violet Morris
On November 28, 2023*

*To the family, friends, and colleagues at the passing of our colleague,
Joyce Maloney
March 28, 2021*

*To our colleague,
Joan Sturdy
At the passing of her daughter, **May***

**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.*



***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.***

Answer key for Puzzle

