



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

The Heartland Herald HARTA's Newsletter of Branch Events **The HARTA AGM Issue**

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A Branch of ARTA



Approved Scheduled Events to June 30th 2018:

The events below have been approved at our AGM on Friday, September 8th.

Drayton Valley – Luncheon, Tuesday, October 17th, HARTA Luncheon at Lakeside Inn & Suites in Drayton Valley. Program: Card Making. Please bring \$2.00 for each card you would like to make. Follow-up Body Composition from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Leduc – HARTA Executive Meeting and Luncheon, Wednesday, November 15th, 2017 at St. David's United Church, program: TBA Executive Meeting 10:00 AM.

Leduc HARTA Executive Meeting and Devices Workshop, Wednesday, February 14th, Executive Meeting 10:00 AM, Workshop after the luncheon. Venue, St. David's United Church.

Wetaskiwin Wednesday, March 14th, 11:30 AM, O'Brien's Restaurant, 4103—56 St. Wetaskiwin.

Drayton Valley Tuesday, April 17th, 11:30 AM, Luncheon at Lakeside Inn & Suites in Drayton Valley.

Leduc Tuesday, May 8th, Mini-Conference & Body Composition Clinic, 9:30 AM to 3:00 at St. David's United Church in Leduc. More details to follow.

HARTA's AGM Highlights

The HARTA AGM was held at St. David's United Church in Leduc. The results of the Executive elections are as follows:

President: Ron Thompson, Vice President Leduc: Elaine Merriman; Vice President Drayton Valley: Sandy Hamilton; Vice President Wetaskiwin: Ron Holmlund; Secretary: Elaine Merriman; Treasurer: Darlene Broadbent; Liaison with ATA: Walley Porter; and ARTA Reps: Ron Thompson, Alvin Rurka. And Walley Porter.

Other issues decided were the adoption of the proposed schedule of events (shown in red at the beginning of this newsletter) and a bylaw change which changed the Directors of Drayton Valley, Leduc and Wetaskiwin to Vice Presidents. The membership year was clarified. All memberships will run until August 31st of the current year unless the member has purchased additional years. Members whose membership ran out as of June 31st, 2018 will get an extra two months so that their memberships will run out as of August 31st. Thus all renewals will extend to August 31st of the next or additional year depending on the number of years requested.

After our Pancake Brunch ably cooked up and served by Terry Merriman, Alvin Rurka, Robin Stuart and others, Juanita Knight brought greetings from ARTA and Dolaine Kosh gave a brief outline of the ARTA Benefits Plans and answered questions about the plans.

HARTA would like to thank Kosmos Restaurant and TW Insurance for their continued support of our functions.

Wetaskiwin Luncheon Highlights

The first luncheon after the HARTA AGM was in Wetaskiwin. Lillian Ross presented a short Writer's workshop in which she related some of her experiences and gave suggestions about the process of writing. At the end of her talk a number of her novels were available for purchase. Thanks Lillian.

ARTA Benefit Plan Changes as of November 2017

1. The maximum allowable benefit for repatriation expenses will increase from \$5,000 to \$7,500, effective November 1, 2017, with no change to rates for travel insurance with Allianz Global Assistance.
2. The list of paramedical practitioners will expand, effective with the renewal date, to include Registered Clinical Counsellors under the Psychologist coverage provision, similar to Masters of Social Work and Registered Social Workers currently covered.
3. Coverage for mobility scooters, combined with electric wheelchair coverage, with a five year maximum of \$5,000, will be added effective on the next renewal date.
4. Primary Care Providers, operating within a Primary Care Network, will be permitted to provide written orders for the medical services and medical aids and appliances below; effective with the upcoming renewal date, as long as the service or medical device is within the scope of practice of the practitioner. Please check with the plan provider for a complete list of the above appliances, aids and services.

ARTA Committees

In this issue I will give a brief overview of ARTA's committees. ARTA has ten committees.

Executive Committee:

- The Executive Committee is made up of the President, Vice President, Past President, Treasurer Chief Administrative Of-

ficer and Executive Secretary. This is a new committee and, as such, its terms of reference are still being worked out.

- The Executive members form two other committees, the Finance Committee and the Human Resources Committee.

Health Benefits Committee:

The Benefits Committee is responsible for the overseeing of ARTA's benefit plans. These roles include:

- Maintaining complete confidentiality unless there is agreement to do otherwise;
- Reviewing ARTA's benefit program from a financial underwriting and funding basis and consider any program modifications;
- Review and monitor claims experience on a regular basis;
- Review the design and implementation of communication material including brochures, benefit statements, etc;
- Review and recommend to the Board contract amendments as negotiated with the insurer;
- Be aware of provincial and federal legislation that may impact any of the plans;

Communications Committee:

The committee includes the editor and associate editor of the ARTA magazine and the vice-president as exofficio members. The committee is tasked with enhancing communication both internally and externally. To accomplish this, the committee performs the following:

- Reviews the communication and marketing plan created by ARTA
- Collaborates with the executive director to select a suitable candidate for the position of editor of ARTA Magazine
- Provides communication in-services for the Board of Directors as required.
- In the role of editorial Board, the committee oversees the publication of the ARTA magazine.

Governance Committee: Roles & Responsibilities:

- Review and report every two years on all ARTA governance documents and make recommendations as required;
- Review the bylaws annually and recommend changes as necessary;
- Investigate, research and report on issues referred by the Board of Directors;
- Report regularly to the Board of Directors and at the AGM any matters worthy of attention;
- Determine the recipients of the scholarships;
- Approve or reject Branch Project Grant applications; and
- Monitor the compliance of ARTA with the Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures of the association and report to the Board as required.
- The Committee updates the Board of Directors quarterly on the status of each of their responsibilities.

Nominations Committee:

The Nominations Committee is made up of the Past President. His duties are:

- Sending nomination notice letters and forms to all branch presidents and board members along with the minutes of the May board meeting and again with the mail-out distribution of AGM materials prior to the AGM,
- Including appropriate nomination information on ARTA website,
- Nominations are sent to the past president through the ARTA office.

Pension and Financial Wellness Committee

The committee shall:

- Advocate that ARTA be granted a voice with the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) in regard to teachers' pension matters;

- Have the chair serve as a member on the ATA Pension Committee and that ARTA continue to advocate for full membership;
- Advocate on behalf of retiring teachers and retired teachers concerning pension issues;
- Continue its program of communication regarding ATRA Policy on Pension with retired Alberta teachers, teachers currently practising, the public and the ALBERTA Government;+Offer educational programs to familiarize both the retired and practicing teachers matters related to retirement
- Advocate that there be annual pension discussions with representatives from retired teachers (ARTA), practicing teachers (ATA) and government officials;
- Advocate that an index be used that is more in line with the real cost of living increases;
- Continue to make Government aware of the conditions that reduce pensions including salary roll backs imposed by the government of that time;
- And maintain the position that the Alberta government in consultations with the ATA, is solely responsible for ensuring the full and equitable funding of teachers' pension plans and their Improvements.

Strategic Planning and Advocacy Committee:

The committee shall:

- Facilitate the annual ARTA business planning process and monitor its progress;
- Request and receive from each year, committee business plans for the coming year;
- Develop an annual comprehensive ARTA Business Plan derived from committee business plans in collaboration with committee chairs to be presented to the Board of Directors at the May board meeting;
- Request from each standing committee a Business Plan Progress,
- Develop the ARTA strategic plan, goals and outcomes In support of the ARTA Board of Directors;

- At the request of the Board of Directors, plan a retreat to fulfil the mandate identified by the Board of Directors;
- Plan an orientation for new branch presidents, vice-presidents, committee chairs and members as requested and ensure the Orientation Handbook remains current; and
- Develop and recommend to the Board, advocacy policies and protocols that establish ARTA's identity, clarify ARTA's response to issues in the community at large and recommend an appropriate action.

Wellness Committee Report:

The committee shall:

- Establish and maintain a current inclusive definition of wellness for ARTA usage;
- Promote and encourage a balanced healthy lifestyle by providing resources and support for all dimensions of wellness;
- Promote and support all the dimensions of wellness: social, physical, emotional, economic, intellectual and spiritual for ARTA members;
- Collaborate with Branches to establish wellness initiatives.
- Support branch and ARTA wellness initiatives;
- Create and support initiatives for ARTA members based on current wellness research;
- Engage in professional development activities in the field of wellness research.
- Access the expertise of a health practitioner as a regular resource.;
- And work collaboratively with other ARTA committees to achieve objectives.

ARTA Election Results

Officers:

President: Marilyn Bossert (CERTA)

Vice President: Lorna McIlroy (NWARTA)

Treasurer: Dolaine Koch (EIRTA)

Committees:

Health Benefits: Karen Atkinson (EIRTA)

Wellness: Bill Fraser (PARTA)

Communications: Ron Thompson (HARTA)

Pension and Financial Wellness: Blair Lowry (SWARTA)

Governance: Carol Francis (OKARTA)
(one position vacant)

Strategic Planning: Carl McCall (OKARTA)

Other ARTA Events in Oct.

Anyone who is elected to one of ARTA's standing committees is required to attend the New Committee Member Orientation on Wednesday, October 18 at the ARTA office in Edmonton.

The ARTA Reps will meet Monday and Tuesday October 23 & 24 for their yearly In-service. Information on the various ARTA services will be reviewed at this time as well as presentations by other organizations..

Member Welfare

If you know of anyone of our members who is in poor health please let us and other members know so they can give what support is required.

Membership Fees

Members who need to pay their fees can do so at HARTA Luncheons. Tuesday, October 17th in Drayton Valley is our next HARTA event, this year's events schedule is at the front of this newsletter.

Executive and Contact Info for the 2017-18 Program Year

Alvin Rurka: Past President & ARTA Rep

Ron Thompson: President & ARTA Rep (alternate

Elaine Merriman: Vice President Leduc

Sandy Hamilton: Vice President Drayton Valley

Ron Holmlund: Vice President Wetaskiwin

Walley Porter: ATA Liaison & ARTA Rep.

Darleen Broadbent: Treasurer (

The Goals of HARTA

- **To carry on social activities, enabling our members to maintain contact with their colleagues.**
- **To provide information to our members about the resources available through the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) and other sources.**

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