



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

The Heartland Herald

HARTA's Newsletter

of Branch Events

The HARTA AGM Edition

Publisher: Ron Thompson

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A Branch of ARTA



Tentative Events for

September 2019 to June 2020

Wetaskiwin Wednesday, September 25th, 11:30 AM at O'Brian's Restaurant: Hearing Life Re: Hearing Aids. More information on Hearing Aids will be given at this time.

Drayton Valley Luncheon Thursday, October 17th, 11:30 AM at Best Western Plus. Jen Winters, a pharmacist from Drayton Valley will give a presentation on the services a pharmacist can provide. Check the poster at the end of this newsletter for complete details.

Leduc Wednesday, November 20th St. David's United Church Program to be announced.

Leduc Wednesday, February 12th at St. David's United Church. Musical Presentation and Devices Workshop. Luncheon at 11:30 AM

Wetaskiwin Wednesday, March 11th at O'Brian's Restaurant. 11:30 AM. Program: Canada's New Food Guide.

Drayton Valley Luncheon Thursday, April 16th

at Best Western Plus. 11:30 AM. More details to be announced.

Leduc Tuesday, May 5th, HARTA's Mini-Conference at St. David's United Church. 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Save the Date.

Leduc Friday, September 11th, 2020, 10:30 AM AGM, Election of Officers and Pancake Brunch at St. David's United Church in Leduc. ARTA Benefit Plans Updates. Confirmed

Member Welfare

Please let the editor know of anyone who would appreciate a get well note or a phone call from other HARTA members.

HARTA's AGM,

September 6th, 2019

HARTA's AGM took place on Friday, September 6 in Leduc at St. David's United Church. Elections were held with the following results:

President:	Ron Thompson
VP Drayton Valley:	Joan Henry
VP Leduc:	Elaine Merriman
VP Wetaskiwin:	Ron Holmlund
ATA Liaison:	Walley Porter
Secretary:	Erika Lefevre
Treasurer:	Alain Lefevre
Treasurer Associate D. V. :	Susan Schwindt

Gary Sawatzky gave an update on the ARTA Benefit Plans. First he outlined how to judge whether or not a plan would supply the protection needed. He compared a number of plans with the ARTA Plans and explained how benefits were calculated in each one. He went through the results of the ARTA Plans over the last year. He explained the features of ARTA's Travel Plan. He also answered questions from members. If HARTA members have concerns about their Benefit Plans Gary or other ARTA staff are there to answer their questions.

The membership passed next year's budget. The Proposed Schedule for September 2019 to September 2020 was also approved. The next event will be the Wetaskiwin Luncheon at O'Brian's Restaurant.

ARTA AGM Preview

The ARTA AGM will take place from Tuesday, October 1st to Wednesday, October 2nd. Our Branch is permitted to have two delegates to represent the Branch at the AGM. Lawrence Dublenko and Ron Thompson will be the delegates at the ARTA AGM.

Frequently Asked Questions

One of the outcomes of the HARTA AGM was the answers to some questions asked by a member at last year's AGM. The following are the questions with their answers:

1. Is a delegate of a Branch permitted to distribute ARTA's AGM Agenda to members of his/her branch who are not delegates to the Provincial ARTA AGM? **Agendas for the AGM are emailed to each Branch Delegate. If a Branch member who is not a delegate and wants a copy of the Agenda they must ask one of the Branch's delegates for the agenda or attend the AGM.**
2. Are the minutes of the AGM available to ARTA members other than delegates to ARTA's AGM? **Minutes from the last AGM are available at the current AGM. Branch members who are not delegates and would like the minutes without attending an AGM would need to attend the**

AGM.

3. How does a member of a branch bring his/her concerns to ARTA's AGM? **A Branch member would bring their concerns to the ARTA AGM by having one of the delegates from their Branch bring them up at ARTA AGM.**
4. Do our bylaws conform to the Provincial Bylaws re: ARTA Branches? **Yes. Section 4 number 6 of Bylaws on Branches says: "6. Branches may set out the criteria for categories of membership in accordance with their own bylaws."**
5. Is it legal for our Branch to have Teacher and Non-teacher membership in accordance with their own bylaws? **Yes, Section 4 number 6 of the ARTA Bylaws on Branches allows each Branch to set their own categories.**
6. Is our Branch covered by ARTA's blanket insurance liability policy? **No, at the request of the Board, our CEO looked into this question and found the policy only applied to the main Association. Currently we are looking to research having such insurance. Stay tuned for further information on this subject.**

Confusing Abbreviations

After you retired from teaching you probably noticed a number of abbreviations re: retirement. **ASEBP (Alberta School Employee Benefits Plan)** refers to the health benefits provided by various school districts and which are also available to retired teachers until age 65. The **ARTA (Alberta Retired Teachers' Association) Plans**, are plans available to all ARTA members and Associate Members. The **ATRF (Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund)** is the fund that pays teachers' pensions to retired Alberta teachers. Retired teachers with concerns re: their pensions, should contact the ATRF re: these issues. **CPP (Canada Pension Plan)** refers to the Pension Plan provided by the Canadian Government. The **OAS (Old Age Security)** is a supplementary payment to every person over 65 years also created by the Canadian Government. As a review of these abbreviations, I have listed all these abbreviations with their websites where you can get more information on a given topic.

Abbreviations

ASEBP: Provider of Health Care Benefits before 65 years of age: www.asebp.ca

ARTA: Alberta Retired Teachers' Association Provider of many services and Benefits to Alberta Retired Teachers and other Professional Retirees: www.arta.net

Branches: www.artabranches.net

ATRF: Provider and Funder of Alberta Teachers' Pensions: www.atrf.com

CPP and OAS: Pensions provided by the Canadian Government Contact Service Canada at: www.Canada.ca

I hope the above information makes the retirement information world easier to navigate.

Membership Fees

Members who need to pay their fees can do so at HARTA Luncheons. Members may also send a cheque or money order to: HARTA, C/O Ron Thompson, 4020 – 37 Ave. in Leduc, Alberta. The Postal Code is T9E 6C9. Please send \$10.00 for each year you would like to renew. Membership for the first two years is \$10.00 (first year is free.) Our next HARTA event is at O'Brian's Restaurant in Wetaskiwin. See the details given earlier in this newsletter as well as the Poster at the end of this newsletter.

HARTA Volunteers Needed

At various times during the program year, HARTA needs members to help with various tasks. For the various luncheons, we can always use extra help in preparing the room for our programs. In Drayton Valley check with Joan, In Leduc, Ron T. or Elaine and in Wetaskiwin either Ron H or Ron T.

Ron Thompson, HARTA President

Leduc Mini-Conference

Preview

Leduc's Mini-Conference will be on Tuesday, May 5th at St. David's United Church. There will be five sessions. They will include a Brief Overview of the Charitable Foundation; Body Laughing Yoga; The History of the City of Leduc and Area; Food Rescue, a plan to "rescue" food that is not being used before it is thrown out and a session on Investment Fraud. All sessions have been tentatively confirmed. More information will become available when all presenters and the funding have been confirmed.

Other Branch Events

ARTA now has a new website which provides information on events in other Branches throughout Alberta and the Okanagan Branch in BC. If you would like to find other Branch events this website can help you. The website is: www.artabranches.net.

Executive and Contact

Info for the 2019-20

Program Year

Alvin Rurka: Past President

Ron Thompson: President & ARTA Rep

Joan Henry: Vice President D. V.

Elaine Merriman: Vice President Leduc

Ron Holmlund: Vice President Wetaskiwin

Walley Porter: ATA Liaison

Alain Lefevre: Treasurer

Erika Lefevre: Secretary

Susan Schwindt: Finance Committee Member—D.V

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.



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**You're Invited to
HARTA's
Wetaskiwin
Luncheon
@ O'Brian's
Restaurant
4103 - 56 St.
in Wetaskiwin
Program:
HearingLife**



email:
rnthompson@shaw.ca
(r n thompson)
phone:
(780) 986-8349

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

11:30 AM Luncheon as per menu

Membership \$10.00 Per Year

New retirees \$10.00 for the Two Years



HARTA

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**You're Invited
to HARTA's Drayton
Valley Luncheon
@ Best Western Hotel
2252 - 50 St.
in Drayton Valley
Program:
Conversation
with a
Pharmacist
(Jen Winters)**



email:
brijoHenry@gmail.com
phone:
(780) 542-3209
Joan Henry

Thursday October 17, 2019 11:30 AM
Soup, Sandwich, Coffee, Tea \$15.00
Membership \$10.00 Per Year
New retirees \$10.00 for the Two Years
Please RSVP by Oct. 10, 2019